



## RIPEN Innovation Hub - Mobility Award (MA) Guidance for Applicants Year 2024/2025

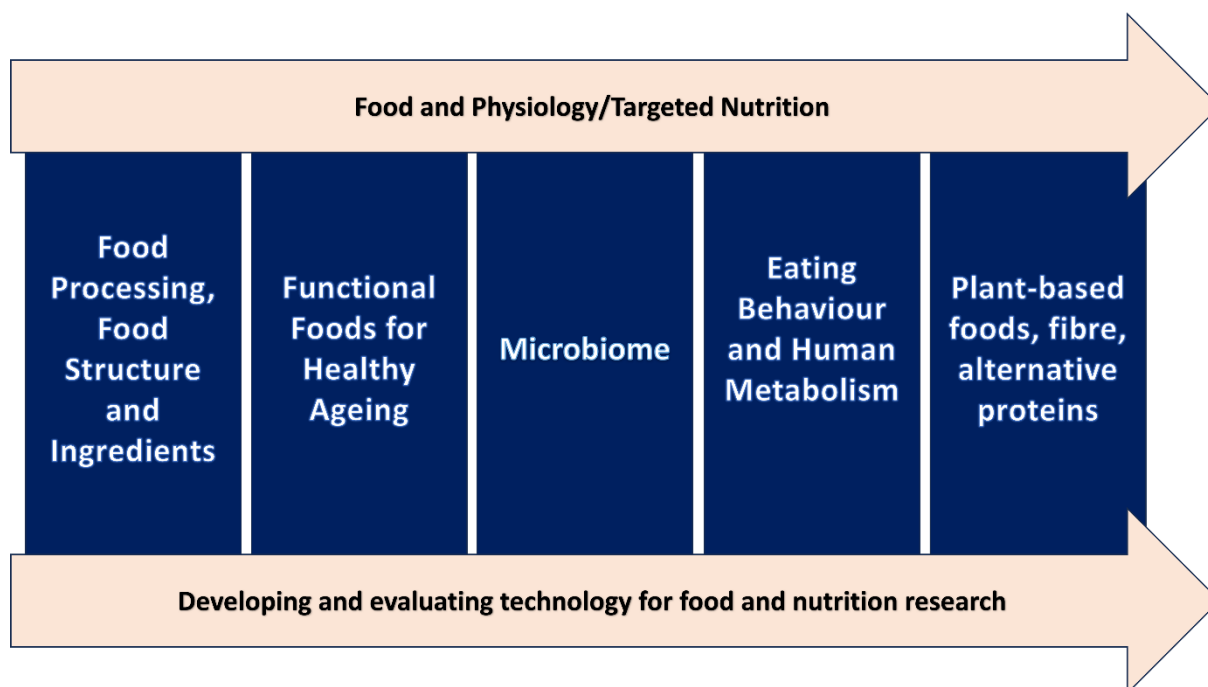
Contact: Dr Katerina Petropoulou, RIPEN Hub Manager, E: [ripenhub@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ripenhub@imperial.ac.uk)

### 1. Purpose

The RIPEN Hub Mobility Award (MA) supports the mobility and development of academic and industrialist early career researchers (ECRs) and technicians to new environments, with the intention of increasing porosity between sectors and institutions as well as providing a platform for training and skills development. The aim of the MA is to pump-prime the establishment of new academia-industry interactions and further develop existing ones. The MA will support the exchange of personnel, perspectives and knowledge, skills, and expertise between the academic and industrial sectors.

The RIPEN Hub will look to fund projects that align with the 2024/25 priority areas listed below.

For this year we have 2 cross cutting themes and 5 research areas



### 2. Funding and Activities

The RIPEN Hub will receive £250,000 per annum from the BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council) - Diet and Health Open Innovation Research Club to fund research across three streams. The three streams are: a) Progression Award, each with a maximum value of £50,000, b) Feasibility Award, each with a maximum value of £100,000 from RIPEN with match funding contributions from industrial partners (in cash or in kind) and c) Mobility Award, each with maximum value of £100,000. We want to support as much work as possible so please be mindful of the amount you request and the justification.

The range of activities specific to Mobility award include, but not limited to:

- Outward secondments for ECRs and technical staff to industry or another institution where activities have links to an industrial partner.
- Inward secondments for ECRs and technical staff from industry to Imperial, or from another institution to Imperial where activities have links to an industrial partner.
- Short exchanges for technical staff to develop knowledge and skills that could be applied to industry relevant research.

- Training and development activities to help ECRs and technicians engage with industry partners.

The RIPEN Hub will provide funding for a maximum of 9 months, however, projects can be extended with extra funding from the project partners. The earliest activities can start 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

The RIPEN Hub funding model follows the UKRI/BBSRC Impact Acceleration Account Framework and therefore we will aim to fund projects at 100% of eligible directly incurred costs and directly allocate costs for facilities and charge out costs (e.g., equipment time or CBS costs). Indirect costs or estate costs at the research organisation cannot be funded. More details can be found here: <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/UKRI-050721-FundingOpp-UKRI-IAA-Permitted-Activities-Costs-1.pdf>. Please contact us if you have any questions at least 15 days before the submission of your application.

### **3. Eligibility**

The MA can only be used to support employed researchers or technicians. Academics that have attained lecturer or equivalent status, or PhD students who have recently submitted their thesis, are not eligible to apply. The MA can be used to support non-UK nationals to undertake short-term secondments and research collaborations at the academic organization.

The activities undertaken must be within the RIPEN Hub remit as indicated above-point 1.

Eligible costs: Funds can be used for Directly Incurred including salary (and associated superannuation and NI contributions) and reasonable travel, subsistence, and consumables costs as necessary to support the activity. Staff must be eligible to work in the UK for the duration of the project.

Ineligible costs: Funds cannot be used for investigator time, estates, infrastructure technicians or indirect costs.

### **4. How to apply**

Each application should have a Principal Applicant, who must be academic staff acting as a supervisor/host, and where the activity will benefit an individual, a named ECR/Technical Staff applicant. We can accept Post Doctoral Researchers as Principal Applicants if a named supervisor, who holds an academic position (i.e., lecturer upwards) is also named on the application.

Additionally, applicants should be members of the RIPEN Hub.

Applicants should submit the following documents:

- MA cover sheet.
- A written case for support of up to two pages to include:
  - a) A description of the activities to be supported, including clear objectives and milestones.
  - b) A description of the partner institution where relevant (e.g., new/existing partner, relevance to the development needs of the ECR (Early Career Researchers) or technical staff member).
  - c) How the activities will work towards the aim of the MA of establishing new, or developing existing, interactions with industry.
  - d) How the proposed activities support the development needs of the ECR or technical staff member beyond the opportunities available in their role.
  - e) A consideration of opportunities for follow-on activities and maintaining the relationship with the industrial partner.
- A justification of resources document ( max 1 page).

- Partner Letter of Support, where applicable (mandatory for secondment/placement activities)

Applications should be submitted to Dr Katerina Petropoulou at [ripenhub@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ripenhub@imperial.ac.uk)

## 5. Deadlines

The deadline for this call is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## 6. Review of Applications

All eligible applications submitted will be considered for funding by the hub's Scientific Board. The Board will rank the proposals after considering the likelihood that the proposed activities would amplify bioscience engagement with industry or business. Successful proposals will be those assessed as having the highest likelihood of supporting the purpose of the scheme, rather than to any specific pre-selected challenge areas.

A formal letter confirming the outcomes will be sent to Principal Applicants. Feedback will be limited to a statement of success or otherwise unless the group decides that additional feedback is necessary or useful.

## 7. Accessing Funds

Information on how to access funds will be provided to successful applicants with their award letter.

## 8. Reporting

Applicants will be required to provide a final report after the completion of the funded activity:

- Whether the objectives were achieved and how the aims of the MA scheme were met.
- How the funds have supported the development of the ECR/technical staff member.
- Outputs and outcomes obtained.
- Envisaged future development.

## 9. Terms and Conditions

[UKRI \(UK Research and Innovation\) Standard Terms and Conditions](#) apply. In addition, funds must be spent in accordance with Points 1 & 2 of this document and reporting requirements met as described in Point 7.

As part of the Imperial College London, the RIPEN Hub, is a proud signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which means that in research funding decisions we will evaluate applicants on the quality of their work, not the impact factor of the journal where it is published. More information is available at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/researchevaluation/>.

## 10. Privacy notice

The applicant descriptive details will not be shared with the internal selection panels.

The RIPEN Hub team will monitor the demographic data of applicants for reporting to UKRI if needed. The responses to the questions will be collated across all applicants. Your personal information will not be shared, nor any identifiable data. For all questions, a 'not disclosed' option is available, should this response be the preferred option.

Lay summaries of successful projects might be used on a public-facing webpage and should be written accordingly.