



## RIPEN Innovation Hub – Progression Award (PA) Guidance for Applicants Year 2024/2025

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

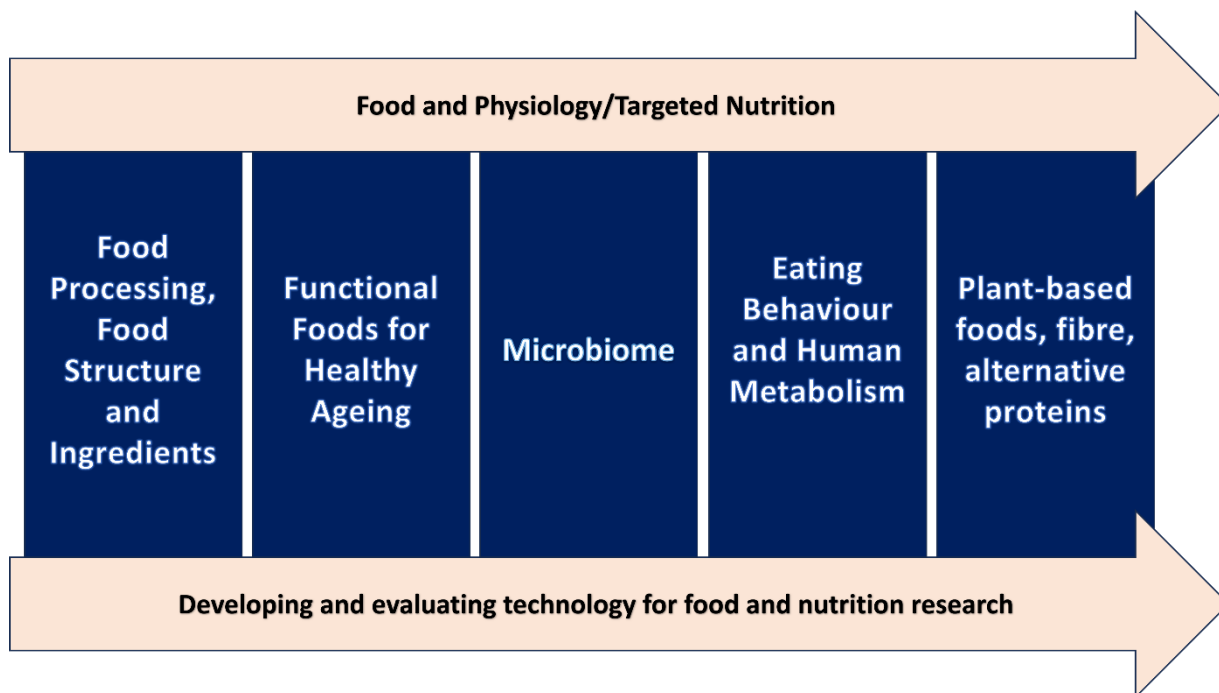
### 1. Purpose

The RIPEN Hub Progression Award (PA) supports the application of university research to the real world, benefiting society at large and helping to boost the economy. The aim will be to bring together academics and business partners together at pump priming partnerships, this will include meetings and small pieces of work that will strengthen the collaboration and develop a fundable project. We are inviting applications for projects to promote the benefits of RIPEN Hub remit research to a full range of end users across industry, the public sector and the third sector. This award is aiming to bring together academics and non-academic end users business partners in short (six-month) projects to develop:

- High quality applications that can be submitted for joint funding to UKRI (UK Research and Innovation).
- Lead new research technology transfer projects

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

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.

- Early-stage proof of concept/prototypes studies/Generating new experimental data.
- Networking and collaborations.

- Aid technology transfer.
- Work solving a technical problem for industrial partners.
- Adapt an existing technology for a new application.

Please note that end users are not limited to industry and may include policy organisations and third sector organisations.

We expect the projects to have a timeline of 6 months with a clear deliverable at 6 months. The earliest activities can start 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

The RIPEN 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. How to Apply

Applications should have a Principal Applicant and 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.

- A Progression Award cover sheet.
- A written case for support of up to two pages to include:
  - a) A description of the current/previously funded relevant research/training conducted by the group in recent years (please include grant numbers).
  - b) A description of the activities to be funded, described as in Point 1 above (Purpose) and further elucidated as in Point 2 above (Funding) including clear objectives and milestones.
  - c) An overview of the potential identified impact and route to uptake.
  - d) A statement of the expected deliverables.
  - e) A consideration of opportunities for follow-on funding and securing support from external partners.
- A justification of resources document ( max 1 page).
- For applications that involve end user teams, please provide a Letter of Support. Letters of support from end users should clearly indicate the potential value of the research outputs to their organisation and impacts that could be achieved as well as outlining any support that they will be contributing to the project. Letters from Enterprise should identify the market position for the potential technology.

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

### 4. Deadlines

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

### 5. 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.

## **6. Accessing Funds**

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

## **7. Reporting**

Projects will be reviewed as part of an active monitoring and stage-gating process. Applicants that are successful in receiving an award will be required to provide the following information at each review:

- What the funds have been used for.
- Outputs and outcomes obtained (including publications, conference presentations, products developed, patents filed, events held, collaborations established, additional funding/investment generated, media mentions).
- Envisaged future applications of the outputs and outcomes achieved, including the potential for further research and development.

## **8. Terms and conditions**

[UKRI 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.

RIPEN Hub, as part of Imperial College London, is a proud signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which means that in hiring, promotion, and 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/>.

## **9. 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.