**Call for Integrating Finance and Biodiversity (IFB) Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fellowships**

**Outline**

The [Integrating Finance and Biodiversity for a nature positive future (IFB)](https://infinbio.org/homepage) programme is seeking 8-10 Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fellows with experience in biodiversity and environmental analytics, and/or applying these within financial decision making.

IFB KE Fellowships are available on a part-time, direct costs basis (max. 0.2 FTE to a max of £12k and £1k travel costs) for minimum of 9 months and a maximum of 1 yearin the first instance, with a potential extension subject to evaluation of programme needs and circumstances. We welcome applications from candidates from all academic backgrounds regardless of expertise who are interested in working with the IFB programme, who can contribute and add value to at least one of the [Flagships or Themes](https://infinbio.org/ifb-flagships) and strengthen the planned programme of work. Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their potential contribution with the relevant lead or programme [Principal Investigator](https://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list_full.asp?pcode=NE%2FZ503368%2F1&classtype=). The role will be carried out at your normal place of work and include resources for travel to your IFB supervisors place of work or to end user organisations.

**Who can apply:**

This opportunity is open to UK applicants based at eligible research organisations only.

You can hold a position where you would be eligible to apply as a principal or co-investigator for a UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) grant. You are expected to apply for the IFB KE Fellowship for around 20% of your full-time equivalent only to a maximum cost of £12,000.

You can also be at an earlier career stage and not yet be eligible as a principal or co-investigator for UKRI grants.

You do not need a PhD. However, current PhD students are expected to have submitted their thesis before taking up the fellowship.

Co-investigators cannot be requested.

**What we’re looking for:**

The Fellowships are an opportunity to make a significant intellectual contribution to [Integrating Finance and Biodiversity for a nature positive future (IFB)](https://infinbio.org/homepage) programme. Fellows will help deliver translational academic research with direct applicability in real world contexts, support training, capacity building and knowledge exchange activities and overall support the mainstreaming of biodiversity research into financial decision-making. We expect applicants to show how they will add value to and enhance the current programme of research.

The successful applicants will work with the £7m NERC/Innovate UK funded IFB programme. IFB involves 17 world-leading natural science and interdisciplinary experts led by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology with Queen University Belfast, Queen Mary University of London, the University of Nottingham, the University of Oxford and the James Hutton Institute. The programme has a wider network of partners from policy, industry, civil society and academic sectors. Successful applicants will work directly with an IFB Flagship or Theme to champion the mainstreaming of biodiversity research into financial decision-making.

Generic tasks will include:

1. Delivery of an agreed programme of translational research with at least one Flagship or Theme
2. Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from research through appropriate external translational activities.
3. Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings.
4. Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events, including the IFB annual conference.
5. Support the outreach activities of the programme to share and further promote programme outputs.
6. Work as part of a wider Flagship or Theme team.

**Funding**

The Fellowships will cover up to 100% of your direct salary costs on a pro-rata basis (approx. 0.2 FTE to a maximum of £12,000) for a period of 9-12 months from 1 April 2025. Funded costs include:

* Salary
* Superannuation
* National Insurance
* Up to £1000 for travel and other associated work plan costs

The Fellowships cover direct costs only and do not include overheads. You can work anywhere for around 20% of your time on an IFB aligned work plan to generate impact from IFB research.

Although not essential, it would be desirable if Fellows can secure co-funding or commitment from financial institutions, either enabling or extending the scale of the Fellowship

**How to apply**

Complete the application form, and email this along with your [Resume for Researchers](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply/resume-for-research-and-innovation-r4ri-guidance/) and your host institution support letter to [Hub@infinbio.org](mailto:Hub@infinbio.org) by 28 February 2025 16:00 hrs.

An assessment panel will meet in March 2025 to evaluate the applications. Successful applicants should be available to start work on the Fellowships from 1 April 2025.

**Assessment criteria**

Proposals will be assessed equally on:

* the suitability of the IFB KE Fellow
* the potential impact of the proposal and alignment to the current programme of IFB research
* the approach to inclusive research

1. **Suitability of applicant**

The assessment will look for relevance of your experience to the proposal and your approach and include:

* your skills, capabilities, and ambitions relative to your career stage
* your broad understanding of the research and innovation landscape and the value of knowledge exchange and translation
* an ability to engage effectively, build partnerships, be a clear communicator, disseminator of knowledge and innovation, or both
* an ability to develop and mature new relationships and influence across multiple disciplines and sectors

1. **Potential impact**

The assessment will look for alignment of the proposal to the IFB programme and include:

* innovativeness of the programme of work and opportunity to add value to the current programme of research
* user engagement: demonstration of ongoing involvement and engagement of users in the programme of work
* management: outline of work plan exemplifying how the programme will deliver on objectives; justification of resources requested, including partner contributions of cash or in kind and leverage; and consideration of how the outcomes will be assessed and recorded

1. **Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)**

The assessment will look for evidence that you are able to bring a range of perspectives into your project and involve/engage with a diverse range of stakeholders appropriate to the research.

If you have any questions or require additional support to make an application, please contact Dr Joanne Chamberlain [j.chamberlain@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:j.chamberlain@qmul.ac.uk)

**Application process**

Applications will go through an assessment by a panel. The panel will be composed of members with relevant expertise from the IFB Coordination Hub, ensuring a balance of different perspectives, disciplines, expertise and affiliations, with diversity in mind. These panel members’ expertise can include:

* knowledge exchange and non-academic engagement
* environmental and economic science specialisms
* institutional and cross-disciplinary perspectives
* DEI

If you are unsuccessful, you will be given brief feedback from the panel, summarising the reasons why the proposal was not supported.

The IFB programme will use the recommendations of the assessment panel along with the overall funding opportunity requirements and the available budget in making the final funding decisions.

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**Contact details**

For further information, please contact the IFB Innovation and Capacity Building Theme Lead, Dr Joanne Chamberlain [j.chamberlain@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:j.chamberlain@qmul.ac.uk)

**Additional information**

[**The IFB Flagships and Themes**](https://infinbio.org/ifb-flagships)

[**IFB Phase 1 Projects**](https://infinbio.org/12-projects-ifb-phase-i)

[**Innovate UK-funded IFB Projects**](https://infinbio.org/news-and-media/news/ai-powered-projects-aimed-stimulating-nature-positive-investment)

[**Resume for researchers CV template (DOCX, 34KB)**](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/NERC-03042023-Resume-for-Research-and-Innovation-template-2022.docx)