

## BBSRC Institutes ICURE Discover - October 2026

### Key Dates & Expectations

<b>Programme Outline*</b>	
<b>Applications Open</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2026
<b>Applications Close</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2026, 23.59
<b>Welcome Call</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2026 (1.5 hrs)
<b>Bootcamp Day 1</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2026 (5.5 hrs)
<b>Bootcamp Day 2</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2026 (5.5 hrs)
<b>Coaching Calls</b>	Dates TBC (1.5 hrs)
<b>Pitch Training</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2026 (1.5 hrs)
<b>Practice Pitch</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2026
<b>Options Roundabout</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2026
*Exact timings and dates for sessions will be confirmed on your Welcome Call	
*The Entrepreneurial Lead will be expected to attend all sessions scheduled above and should hold these dates in their diary when applying.	
*Technology Transfer Representatives or equivalent (e.g. KEC team) are also welcome to attend all sessions, but it is not obligatory.	

### About BBSRC Institutes ICURE Discover

Innovate UK ICURE is partnering with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) to deliver BBSRC Institutes ICURE Discover in October 2026. Delivered under the UKRI council pathways in 2026/27, this cohort is designed specifically for research teams across BBSRC's strategically supported institutes.

The bioscience carried out across these institutes addresses major challenges in food security, health and sustainability. For much of that work, commercialisation is one of the routes through which it reaches the people and sectors who would benefit from it. BBSRC Institutes ICURE Discover gives research teams a clear way to test whether that route exists.

BBSRC Institutes ICURE Discover is an 8-week, part-time online market discovery programme. It aims to enhance market awareness and deepen understanding of the potential applications of your technology.

Based on the lean start-up methodology, it applies the scientific method to business ideas. Participants will learn how to use this approach to gauge their potential customers' opinions about their idea, product or service.

To find out more before applying, join our online info session at 12pm on 7 July. [Register for the info session.](#)

Please note it is a pre-requisite to attend ICURE Discover if you wish to apply for [ICURE Explore](#).

Full details are given below. If you have any further questions, please direct them to [stewart@icureprogramme.com](mailto:stewart@icureprogramme.com) or [ciaran@thehelixway.com](mailto:ciaran@thehelixway.com)

### Who can apply?

BBSRC Institutes ICURE Discover is open to bioscience researchers (including PhD students, research technical professionals (RTPs), postdoctoral research associates (PDRAs), fellowship and group leader positions) at BBSRC's eight [strategically supported institutes](#):

- [Babraham Institute](#)
- [Earlham Institute](#)
- [Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences](#)
- [John Innes Centre](#),
- [The Pirbright Institute](#)
- [Quadram Institute](#)
- [The Roslin Institute](#)
- [Rothamsted Research](#)

You do not require a full team to be able to participate in BBSRC Institutes ICURE Discover. However, we strongly recommend that you are aware of who your technology transfer officer (TTO) or equivalent (e.g. KEC team) is and inform your principal scientific advisor (PSA) or senior researcher. Please also note that your application must have been agreed with your research organisation prior to applying, including that you can commit to the programme.

Building on the Technician Commitment UKRI Action Plan and the UKRI people and teams action plan, we particularly encourage applications from research technical professionals (RTPs) as entrepreneurial lead.