Farming Futures R&D fund: Automation and Robotics Round 2

Applicant Briefing

Date: 6 August 2026

The webinar will start at 2pm

- Welcome, we are currently waiting for more people to join
- This briefing will be recorded. A copy of the slides and the recording link will be made available on IFS
- Please enter any questions that you may have into the Q&A Box
- For more information on the competition process, please view our YouTube channel

Welcome and Introductions

Yvette Willis
Competition Manager

Robert Crook
Innovation Lead

UKRI Innovate UK

Agenda

- Key Dates
- Competition Summary & Scope
- Eligibility Criteria
- Innovation Funding Service (IFS)
- Funding Rules
- Assessment
- Use of AI
- Additional Support
- Q&A

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Key Dates

Timeline	Date
Competition Opens	**3 August 2026**
Submission Deadline	**30 September 2026** at **11am**
Applicants informed	**1 December 2026** by **5pm**
Interview panel	**18 to 25 November 2026**
Project start and end dates	start by **1 March 2027** end by **28 February 2030**

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Competition Summary & Scope

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Summary

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) will invest up to £20 million in innovation projects.

This funding is part of Defra's Farming Innovation Programme which is delivered in partnership with Innovate UK.

The aim of this competition is to fund collaborative projects with ambitious solutions for robotics and automation in agriculture, horticulture and forestry to:

- address key issues affecting the sector, where automation and robotics can mitigate challenges such as productivity, resource use efficiency, food quality and traceability, waste, crop and animal health, animal welfare and sustainability
- reduce the reliance on seasonal labour in agriculture where automation and robotics are seen as the most viable solution
- support the specific recommendations for automation innovation funding from Defra reviews including the Automation in Horticulture review
- align with the Government's Modern Industrial Strategy that identifies Agri-Tech as a Frontier Industry within the Advanced Manufacturing sector plan

Your proposal must be able to demonstrate how the project will benefit farmers or growers in England.

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Farming Innovation Programme

Why are Defra supporting innovation?

Productivity: The UK has seen lower productivity growth than our neighbours over the last 30 years

Environment: Agriculture accounted for 10% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2018

Fragmentation: many fantastic researchers, innovative businesses and promising ideas, but players don't necessarily collaborate effectively

Coordination: failures in the current innovation system result in poor translation of public spending into real life impacts on productivity/sustainability

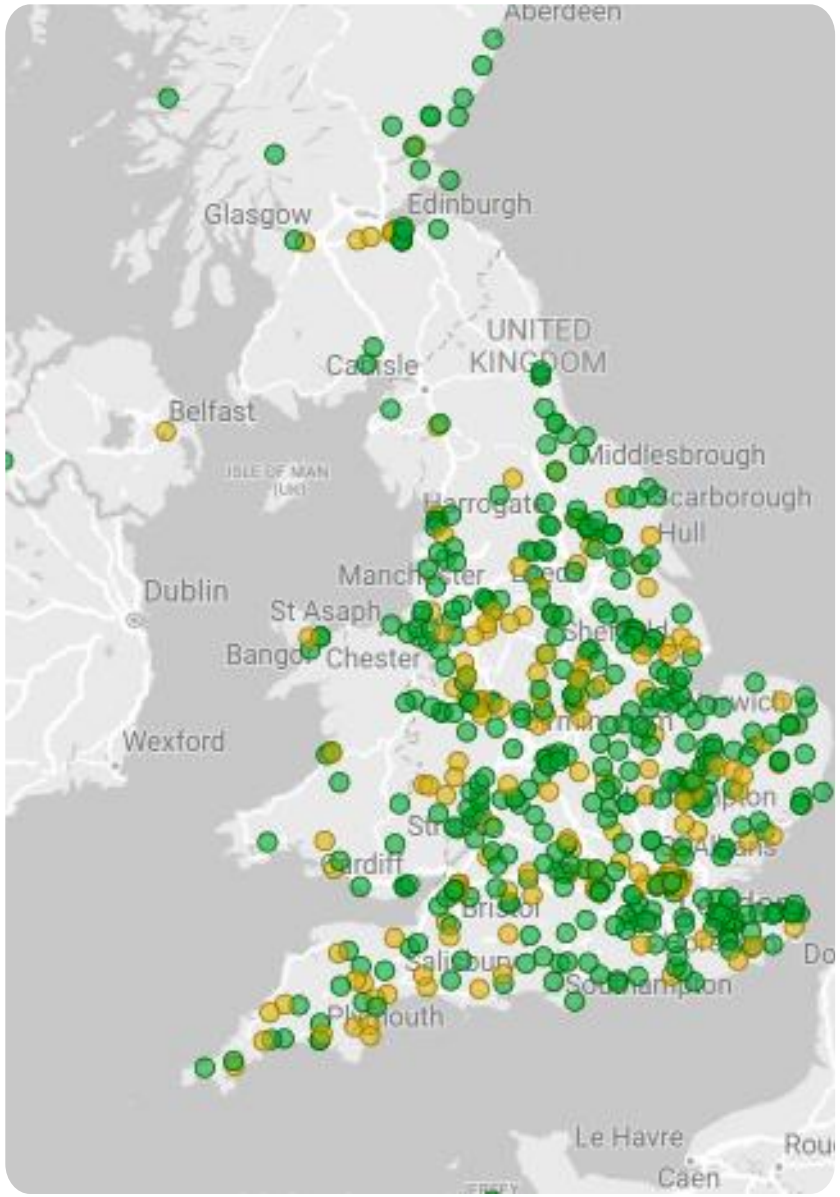
Adoption: Low levels of uptake of innovation by farmers, growers, businesses in large part due to capital risk & ineffective knowledge sharing

Previous Programmes

2013 - Agri-Tech Strategy
£70m Agri-tech Catalyst
£90m for 4 Agri-tech Centres

2018 - Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) £90m Transforming Food Production Challenge

2021 - £14.5m **Farming Innovation Pathways** fund



Farming Innovation Programme

- Since 2021, the **Farming Innovation Programme** (FIP) has been Defra's flagship for supporting research and innovation in farming and is one of the main vehicles for our innovation and research ambition.
- FIP aims to enhance productivity, environmental sustainability and resilience in England's farming sectors.
- Funding is awarded on a competitive basis to high quality, innovative projects.
- To date it has supported 294 projects involving 611organisations, enabling nascent technology development and creating a long-term pipeline of future businesses.
- FIP has committed over £150m of Defra funding and attracted over £54m of private investment.

The **Farming Innovation Programme** offers a range of opportunities for farmers, growers, businesses and researchers to collaborate on industry-led research and development:

Small **Research Starter Projects** where farmers, growers & foresters can explore a new idea

Feasibility projects where businesses can check if a research idea works in practice.

Small/Large Partnership Projects, where businesses can further develop a new farming product or service towards commercialisation.

Themed competitions (Farming Futures R&D Fund), where businesses and researchers can work on longer-term innovation focussing on issues like: Climate-Smart Farming, Sustainable farm-based Proteins, Robotics and Automation, Environmental resilience or Nutrient Management

ADOPT Fund where farmers can trial on-farm new innovations, practices or technologies

Farming Innovation Programme Website: https://farminginnovation.ukri.org/

FIP Timeline

October 2021
£1m - Research Starter Projects (round 1)
£8m - Feasibility Projects (round 1)
£11m - Small Partnership Projects (round 1)

March 2022
£8m - Large Partnership Projects (round 1)
£12.5m - Climate-smart farming

May 2022
£1m - Research Starter Projects (round 2)

July 2022
£12.5m - Sustainable farm-based Proteins

Autumn 2022
£5.5m Feasibility Projects (round 2)
£11m Small Partnership Projects (round 2)

January 2023
£12.5m - Automation and Robotics
£1m Research Starter Projects (round 3)

February 2023
£8m – Large Partnerships Projects (round 2)

May 2023
£12.5m On Farm Environmental Resilience

July 2023
£5m Investor Partnerships Projects

August 2023
£9.8m - Small R&D Partnership Projects (round 3)

September 2023
£4.5m - Feasibility Studies (round 3)

December 2023
£850k – Research Starter (round 4)

January 2024
£7.8m – Large Partnership Projects (round 3)

May 2024
£15m – Nutrient Management

April 2025
£20.6m – ADOPT (round 1)

May 2025
£12.5m - Precision Breeding

£12.5m – Low Emissions farming

June 2025
£5m Investor Partnerships Projects
ADOPT (round 2)

September 2025
£7.8m Small R&D Partnerships (round 4)
£4.8m Feasibility Studies (round 4)
Investor Partnerships

Automation and Robotics Round 2

Industrial Research Projects Only. Mid to Late-stage projects

Total budget

£20 Million

Total project costs

£500k - £2.5m

Duration

12 - 36 months

Must be Collaborative

Must be led by a **UK registered business**

If you have **primary producers** receiving grant funding, **a min of 50%** of those funds, **must** be **allocated to** primary producers **based in England**

Project Start Dates

1st March 2027

Competition opened
3rd August 2026

Competition Deadline
30th September 2026

Assessment and selection

If total costs are below £1m then written assessment only

If total costs are above £1m then written assessment plus panel interview

Scope – Competition Summary

The aim of this competition is to fund collaborative projects with ambitious solutions for automation and robotics and automation in agriculture, horticulture and forestry to address the key issues affecting the sector

- productivity and profitability
- resource use efficiency
- reduce waste
- food quality and traceability
- crop and animal health
- animal welfare
- environmental impact and progress to net zero
- sustainability

- reduce the reliance on seasonal labour in agriculture where automation and robotics are seen as the most viable solution

In Scope - Technologies

Your project must focus on one or more of the following and be applicable to agriculture, horticulture and forestry:

- robotic and intelligent automated machines and systems for static or mobile operation
- imaging, sensing, and monitoring devices and systems to collect and store data and associated intelligent systems to process data for management records and to drive management decisions and automated actions
- post harvest automation for on farm and immediate post farm gate operations only, including horticultural and field crop preparation, packing and supply chain systems
- intelligent systems for on farm food storage management and monitoring
- intelligent systems for on farm energy management and monitoring

In Scope – applications and sectors

Your project must focus on one or more of the following sectors:

Farmed animals

- Monogastric – poultry and pigs
- Ruminant – cattle, sheep, goats

Plant and Crop

- broadacre: cereals, root crops, grassland, forage crops
- horticulture: field based and specialist nursery growers
- fruit: top fruit, stone fruit and soft fruit
- orchard
- vineyard
- protected cropping: glass and polytunnel systems
- controlled environment and vertical farming systems
- ornamental plant propagation, growing and monitoring where technology can also be applied to food production
- forestry for tree nursery and planting operations, and for woodland monitoring and management. Heavy equipment and harvesting operations are excluded

Out of Scope

We are not funding projects that:

- are equine specific
- involve wild caught fisheries
- involve aquaculture for fish production or human consumption
- involve cellular expression of proteins for human consumption or cultivated meat
- involve acellular production systems, fermentation systems for bacteria, yeast or fungi for human consumption
- are for the production of crops or plants for medicinal or pharmaceutical use
- do not benefit farmers, growers or foresters in England
- are relevant to non-food or ornamental plants only
- involve forestry harvesting operations and associated heavy equipment
- involve food processing and manufacturing
- that are primarily to develop another product or technology that have automation only to support the key product or technology

Hints and Tips

Preparation is Key

- Do not leave until last minute

Eligibility and Scope

- Check carefully to avoid missing out before assessment

Build up your partnership

- Get the skills and capabilities you need
- Get to know and understand your partners
- Know who you are planning to work with before you commit and make sure all partners are aware of their role and responsibilities

Use available support

IUK Business Connect Agri-food Team

- Consortium Building Event – 13th August 10.00 – 11.30
- register here

- Blog - Exploring future opportunities for robotics and automation in UK agriculture
- Link to article

Innovate UK Customer Support

- support@iuk.ukri.org

Farming Innovation Programme website

- https://farminginnovation.ukri.org/

Eligibility criteria

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Eligibility Criteria – Your Project

Your project must:

- have total project costs of between **£500,000** and **£2.5 million**
- last between **12** and **36** months
- carry out all of its project work in the UK
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- start by **1 March 2027**
- end by **28 February 2030**

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Eligibility Criteria – Lead Organisation

Lead organisation:

To lead a project your organisation must:

- be a UK registered business of any size
- collaborate with other UK registered organisations

More information on the different types of organisation can be found in our Funding rules.

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Eligibility Criteria – Collaboration

For this competition your project must be collaborative.

In all collaborative projects there must be:

- at least two grant claiming partners
- evidence of an effective collaboration

(*This means one partner must not account for more than 70% of the eligible costs and you must include rationale for the collaboration and describe the structure in the application.)*

For example:

If the total project costs are **£1,000,000** the maximum costs that can be accounted for by **any** partner, including the lead, is **£700,000**

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Eligibility Criteria – Project Team

Project team

To collaborate with the lead, your organisation must be a UK based farmer, forester or grower, or a UK registered:

- business of any size
- academic institution
- charity
- not for profit
- public sector organisation
- research and technology organisation (RTO)

If you are not UK registered you must be able to evidence that you are an established commercial business, including sole traders and partnerships.

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Eligibility Criteria – Partners/Subcontractors

Non-funded partners
Your project can include partners that do not receive any of this competition's funding, for example, non-UK businesses. Their costs will count towards the total project costs.

Subcontractors
Subcontractors **are** allowed in this competition.

Subcontractors can be from anywhere in the UK and you must select them through your usual procurement process. You can use subcontractors from overseas but must make the case in your application as to why you cannot use suppliers from the UK.

You must provide a detailed rationale, evidence of the potential UK contractors you approached and the reasons why they were unable to work with you. We will not accept a cheaper cost as a sufficient reason to use an overseas subcontractor.

All subcontractor costs must be justified and appropriate to the total project costs.

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Eligibility Criteria – Number of applications

Number of applications

A registered business can only lead on one application. Any further applications by the same organisation as lead will be made ineligible.

A registered business that is leading an application can be included as a collaborator in a further two applications and if not leading, can collaborate in any number of applications.

Any other eligible organisations can collaborate on any number of applications.

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Previously submitted applications

This competition **does** allow you to submit a previously submitted application.

Previously submitted application	Not a Previously submitted application
A previously submitted application is an application Innovate UK judges as not materially different from one you have submitted before (but it can be updated based on the assessors' feedback). If you have previously submitted an application that reached our assessment stage, you can re-apply once more with the same proposal.	A brand-new application, project or idea that you have not previously submitted into an Innovate UK competition. or A previously submitted or ineligible application which: • has been updated based on assessor feedback • and is materially different from the application submitted before • and fits with the scope of this competition

Innovate UK

Innovation Funding Service (IFS)

Creating an account

Select the radio button that aligns with your organisation type to apply as the project lead or partner..

For pre-existing businesses and Research organisations

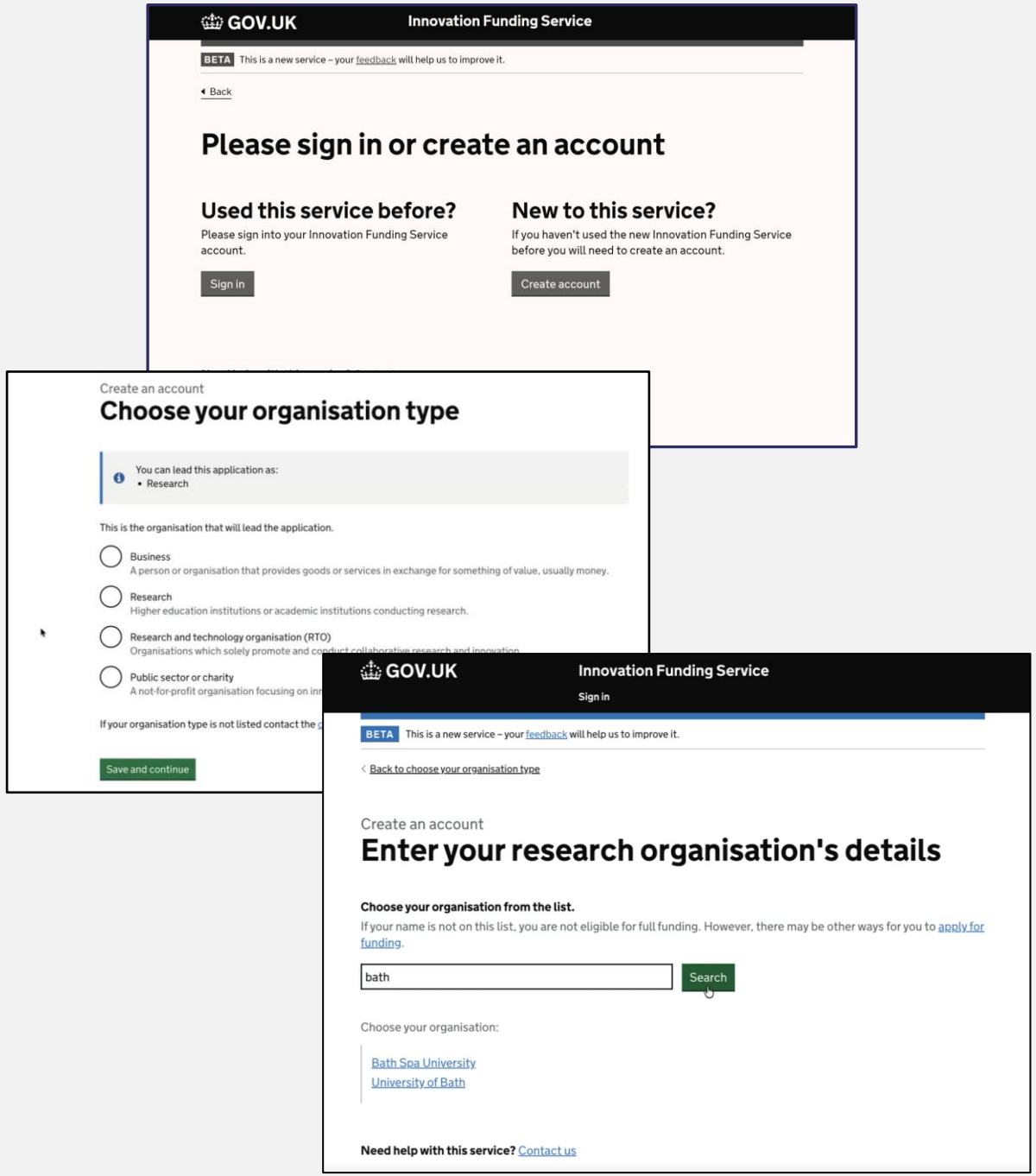
Use Companies House lookup using your company number. This facilitates our checks later if you are successful.

Academic Institutions

Are asked to enter their name and select from the list of organisations presented

If your organisation is yet to be formed

You will need to enter your information manually, should you be successful, you will need to be a registered organisation to receive funding.



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Application Questions - unscored

Application Form		Word Count	Appendix
Question 1	Applicant location (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 2	Farmers or Growers location (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 3	Animal testing (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 4	Permits and licences (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 5	International Collaboration (not scored)	400 words	No
Question 6	Export licence (not scored)	Multiple choice	No
Question 7	Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)	400 words	No

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Detailed question guidance available on IFS

Application Questions - scored

Application Form		Word Count	Appendix
Question 8	Need or challenge	400 words	No
Question 9	Approach and innovation	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 10	Team and resources	400 words	Yes – optional, 2 pages
Question 11	Market awareness	400 words	No
Question 12	Outcomes and route to market	400 words	No
Question 13	Wider impacts	400 words	No
Question 14	Project management	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 15	Risks	400 words	Yes – mandatory, 2 pages
Question 16	Added value	400 words	No
Question 17	Costs and value for money	400 words	No

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Detailed question guidance available on IFS

National Security and Investment Act - overview

Subject to certain criteria, UK applicants are legally required to tell the government about acquisitions of certain entities in 17 sensitive areas of the economy (called 'notifiable acquisitions').
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-security-and-investment-act-guidance-on-notifiable-acquisitions/national-security-and-investment-act-guidance-on-notifiable-acquisitions

These 17 areas are:

- Advanced Materials
- Advanced Robotics
- Artificial Intelligence
- Civil Nuclear
- Communications
- Computing Hardware
- Critical Suppliers to Government
- Cryptographic Authentication
- Data Infrastructure
- Defence
- Energy
- Military and Dual-Use
- Quantum Technologies
- Satellite and Space Technologies
- Suppliers to the Emergency Services
- Synthetic Biology
- Transport

If there is significant uncertainty about whether an acquisition is notifiable, you may contact the government on **investment.screening@cabinetoffice.gov.uk** to seek a view or get legal advice from your own sources.

UK Strategic Export Controls - overview

UK strategic export controls - GOV.UK

The UK government has put together this guidance for those who export or transfer goods, software or technology (including data, information and technical assistance) which might be subject to strategic export controls.

It explains what control lists are, as well as who they apply to and when, so that exporters can make sure they comply with the law.

Applicants should assess how these controls may impact the project and confirm if they will need a licence (see question 6).

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Q5 International Collaboration (not scored)

Does your proposed work involve any international collaboration or engagement?

You must provide details of any expected international collaboration or engagement. You must include a list of the names and the countries any international project co-leads, project partners, visiting researchers, or other collaborators are based in. You must also include details of any subcontractors or service providers.

If your proposed work does not involve international collaboration or engagement, your answer must confirm this.

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Q7 Trusted Research and Innovation (not scored)

You must explain if your proposed project work relates to UKRI's Trusted Research and Innovation Principles, including:

- a list of any dual-use (both military and non-military) applications to your research
- a list of the areas where your project is relevant to one or more of the 17 areas of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act)
- whether an export control license is required for this project under the *academic export control guidance* and the status of any applications
- a list of any items or substances on the UK Strategic Export Control List

We may ask you to provide additional TR&I information at a later date, in line with UKRI TR&I Principles and funding terms and conditions

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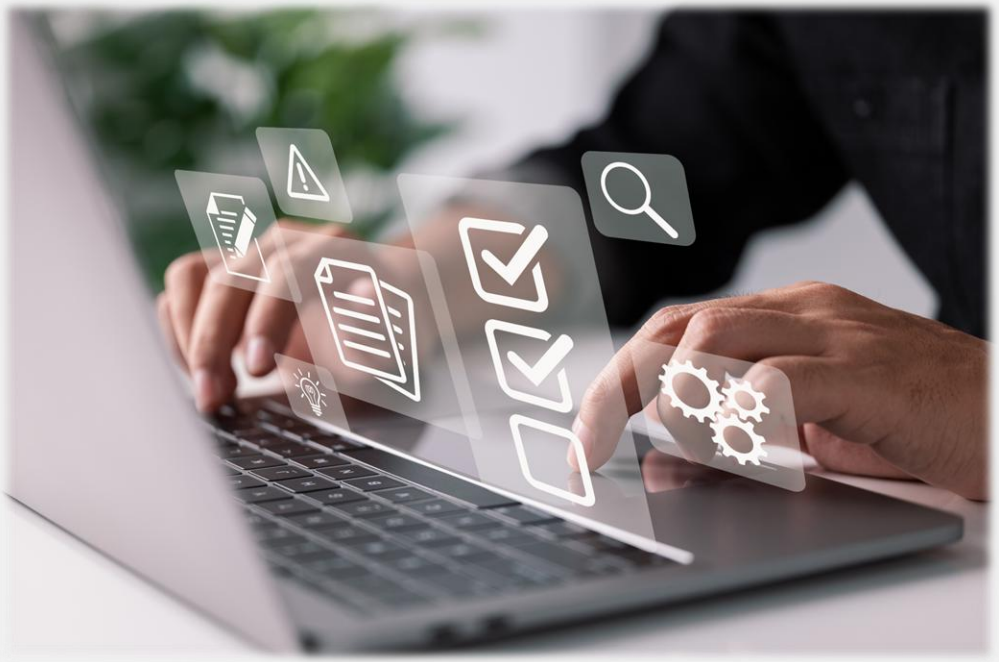
Project Impact questions

- Each organisation in your application will complete the Project Impact questions within the ‘Supporting information’ section
- The Project Impact questions ask for data about your business and innovation and its contribution to the UK economy, society, and the environment
- Visit the Project Impact guidance page for more information, the types of questions you will be asked and how to get further support
- By providing this data, you are enabling us to better understand the impact of our support. It will help us identify success stories and provide evidence to government and the public of the value of supporting innovative businesses



For more information:

- Watch Our Impact Management Framework video
- How is the Project Impact data collected? video

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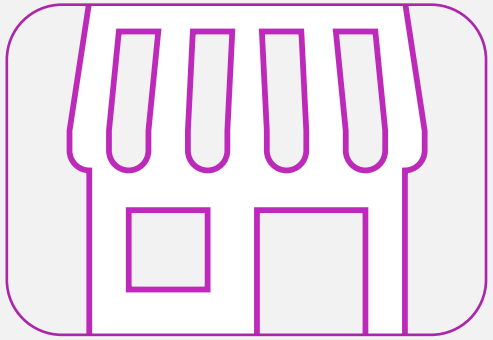
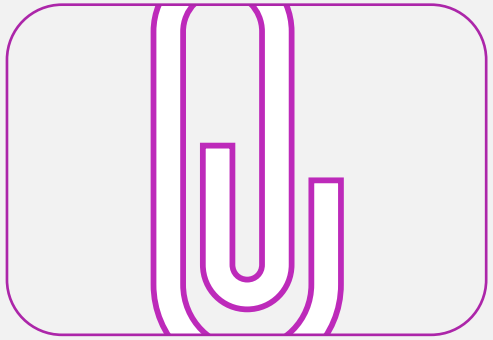
Your Project Cost Categories

View our Application Finances Instructional Video

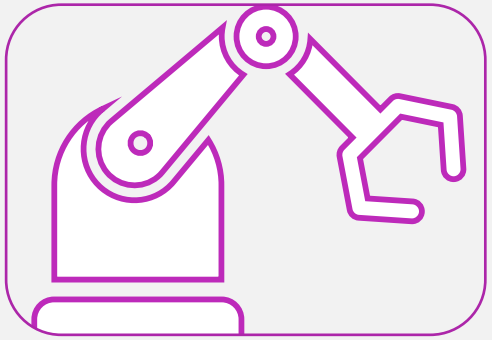
Labour



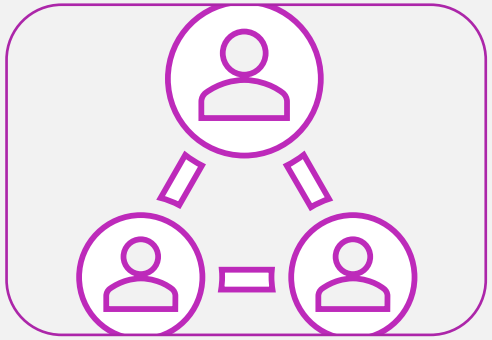
Overheads



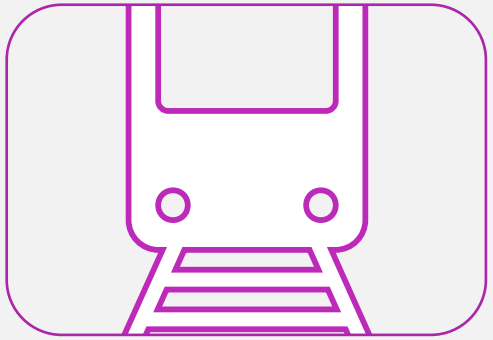
Materials



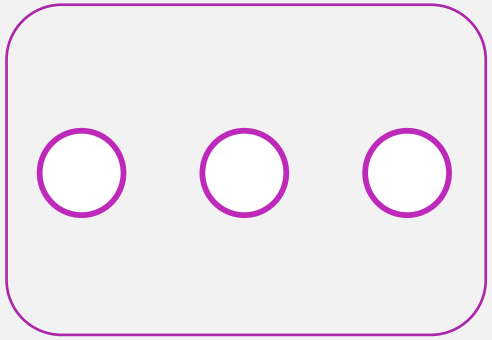
Capital Usage



Subcontractors



Travel & Subsistence



Other

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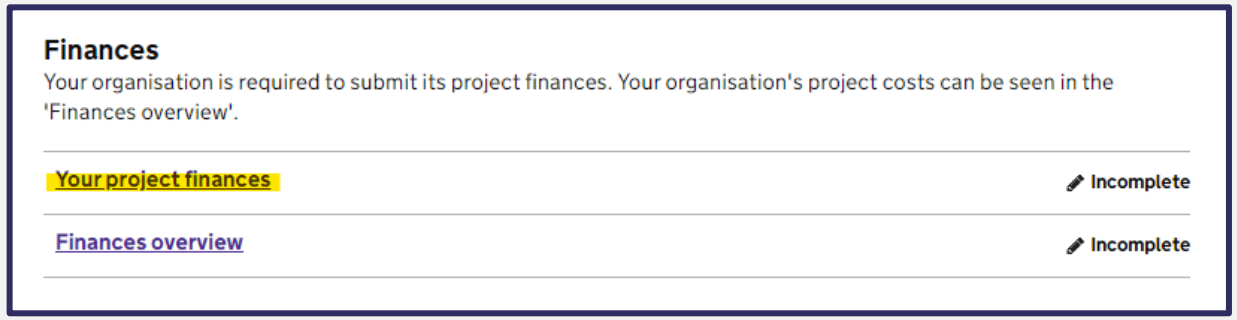
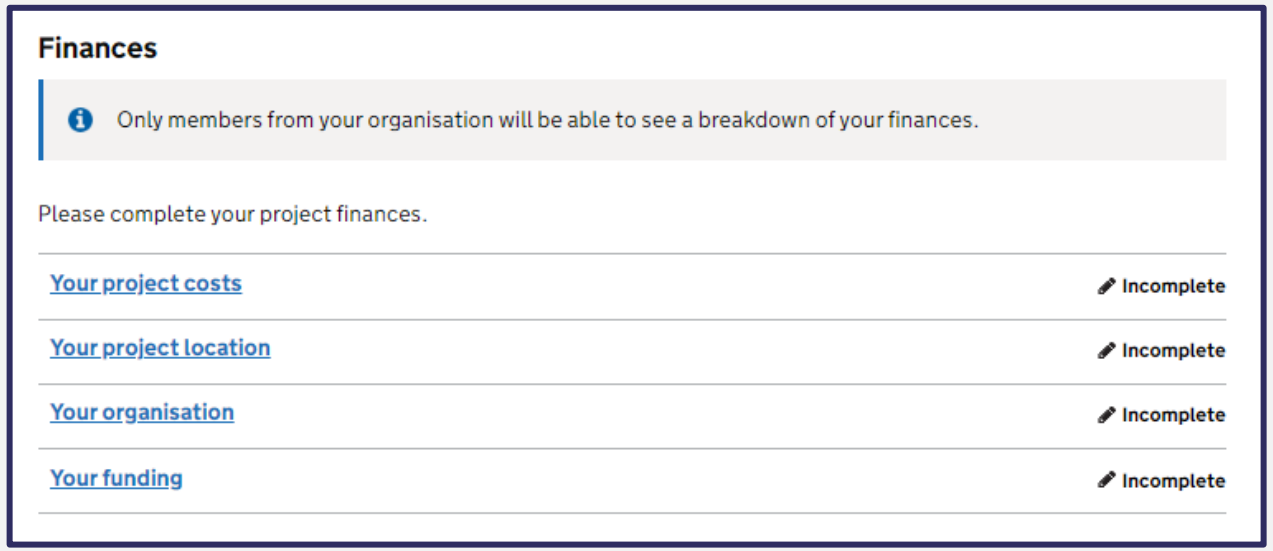
Your project finances





Innovate UK

Your project costs
Add your project costs by category – refer to previous slide for link to instructional video

Your project location
Enter postcode for where most of the project work will take place.

Your organisation
Add details of your organisation including size, turnover and number of employees

Your funding
Include your funding level percentage according to the competition's funding rules.

You can declare Other Public Sector Funding here if you have previously received public money for **exactly** the same activities

Checking your finances are complete

Finances summary

These organisations have not marked their finances as complete:

- Ludlow
- EGGS

This application cannot be submitted until all items in the finances section have been marked as complete by all partners.

		Total costs (£)	Funding level (%)	Funding sought (£)	Contribution to project (£)	Other public sector funding (£)
Empire Ltd Lead organisation	✔	**200,903**	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
Ludlow Partner	⚠	**200,903**	30.00	57,803	140,632	2,468
EGGS Partner	⚠	**990**	100.00	990	0	0
Total	⚠	**£402,796**		116,596	281,264	4,936

Check your finances have been correctly entered, with the correct costs, funding level % and funding sought figures, as per the eligibility criteria of the competition.

If collaborative, the lead must ensure that all partners have marked their finances as complete.

Research organisation participation must be no greater than **30%** of the total project costs.

IFS DOES NOT VALIDATE TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

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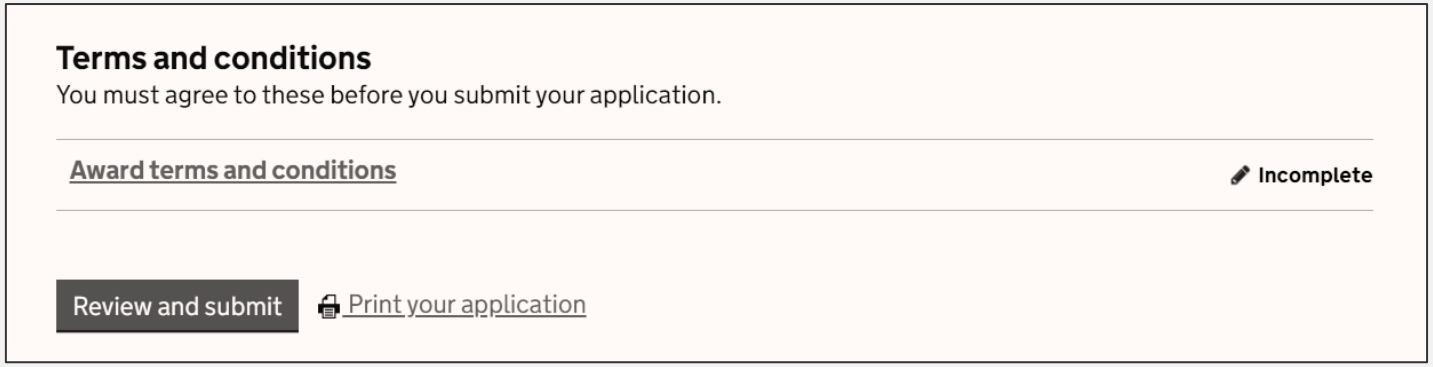
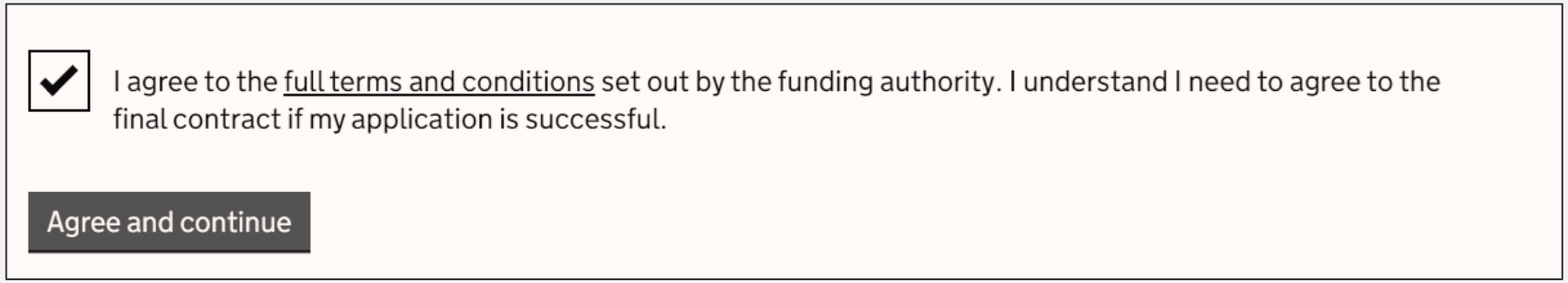
Terms and Conditions

Before you can submit your application, **all** organisations in an application must agree to the draft terms and conditions for this competition. Please ensure you share the T&Cs with your legal team at the earliest possible opportunity.



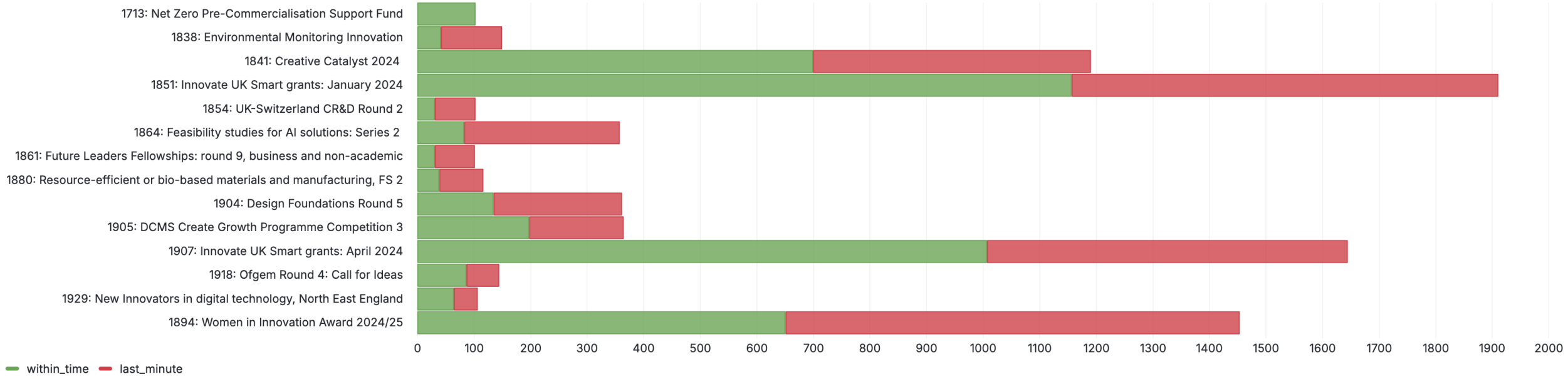


Innovate UK

Submitting your application

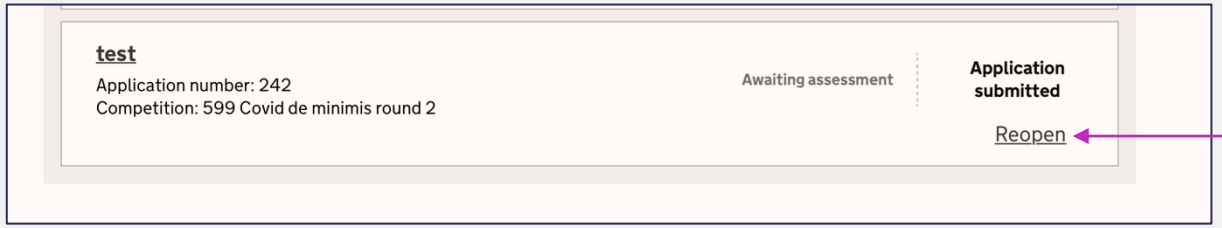
Customer Support can help resolve any issues you might have when submitting **but only if they are contacted before the deadline**.

Once the deadline has passed, your application cannot be submitted.

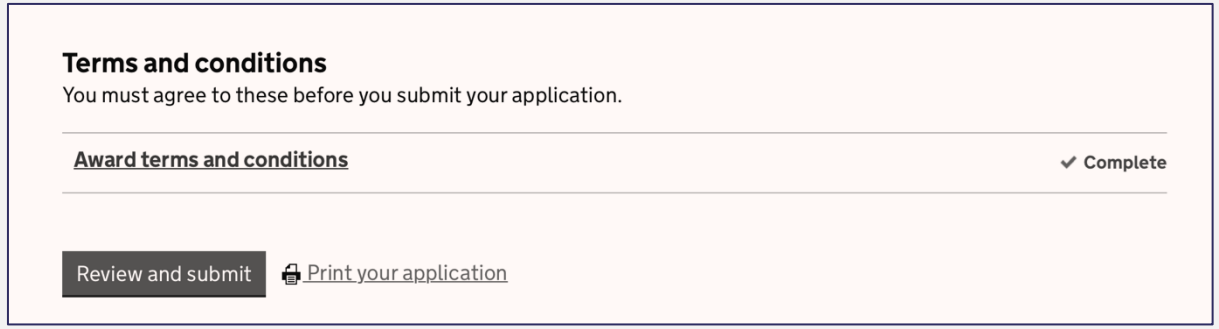


Innovate UK

Editing a submitted application



Reopen by clicking here



Remember to press ‘Submit application’

Innovate UK

Pros & Cons of using AI to support you

With the advances in AI technology, it is only natural to use technology to support you in applying to our competitions. Whilst we don't recommend or advise against it, we would like to make you aware of the following which could potentially impact your project.

Pros

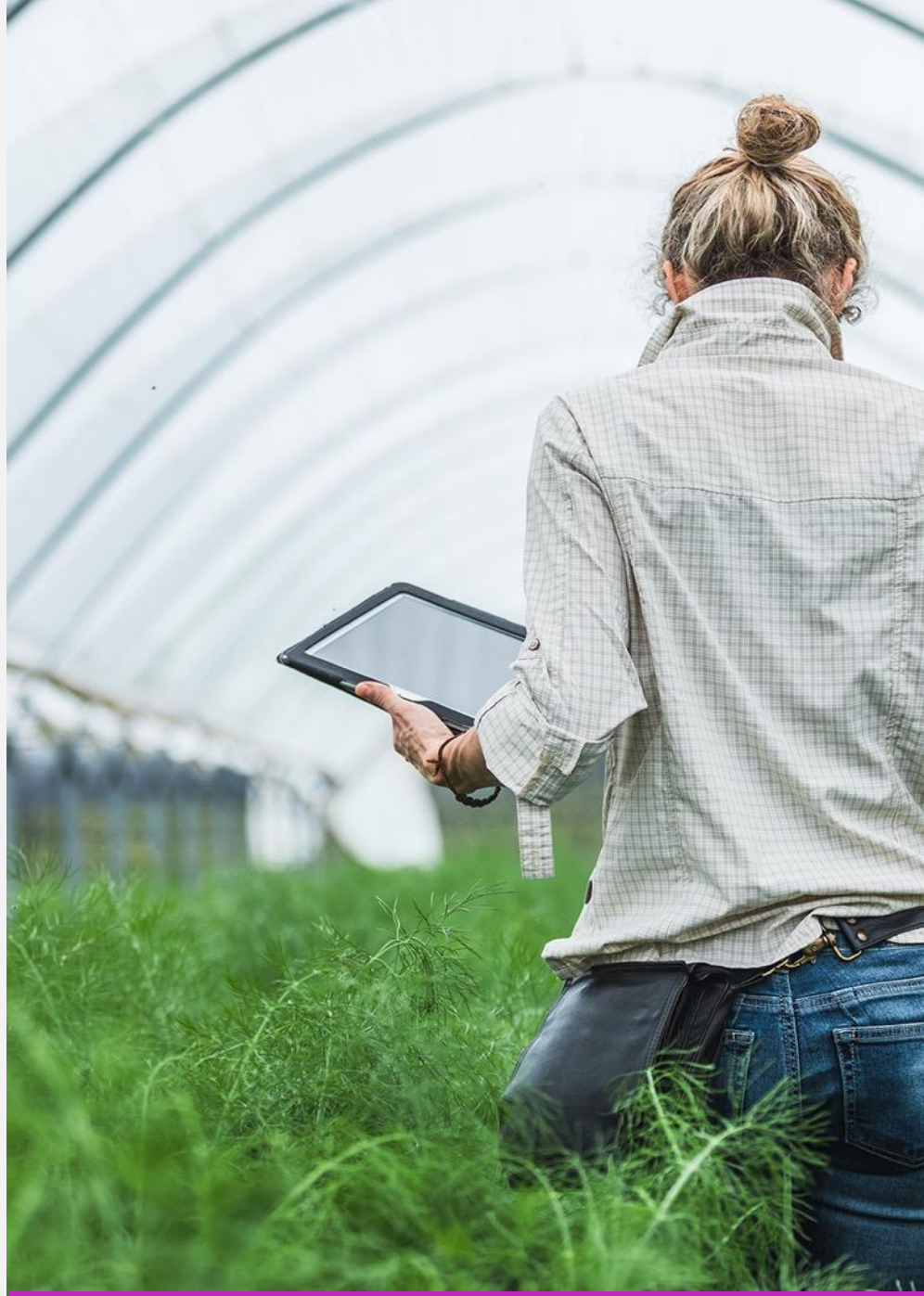
- Removes barriers for people with disabilities and non-English speakers
- Allows you to rephrase your content to meet the word count in a question
- Ensures all aspects of a question are answered
- Can aid a better understanding of:
  - intended/wider market
  - best practice in project management
  - complementary technologies and advances in the industry
  - expected project impacts

Cons

- It is not always accurate in its assumptions and can get things wrong
- AI learns from the information you give it as well as what it has already learnt
- May provide a generic response meaning your application could use similar phrasing to others
- AI can be detected as non-human as it lacks expression and insight because it relies on logic to summarise information based on the question asked

Innovate UK

Changes for Academics



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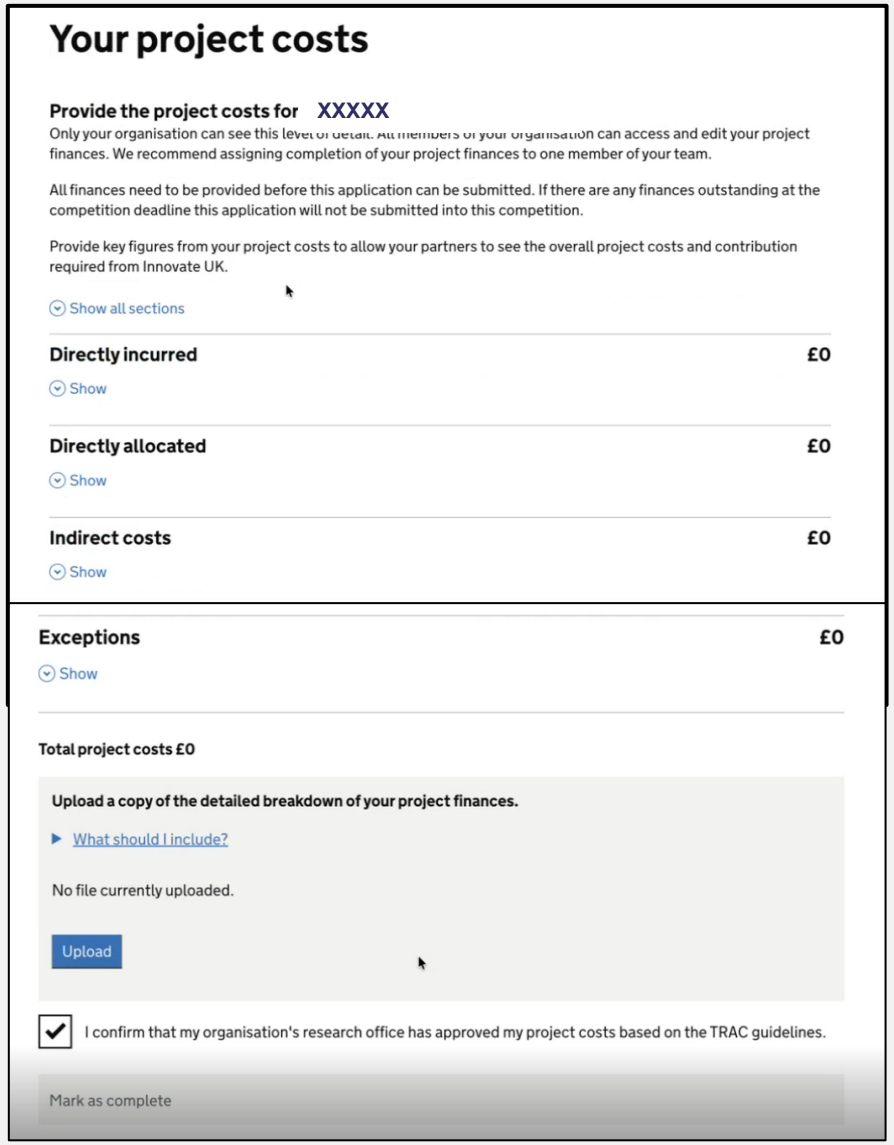
Academic cost categories



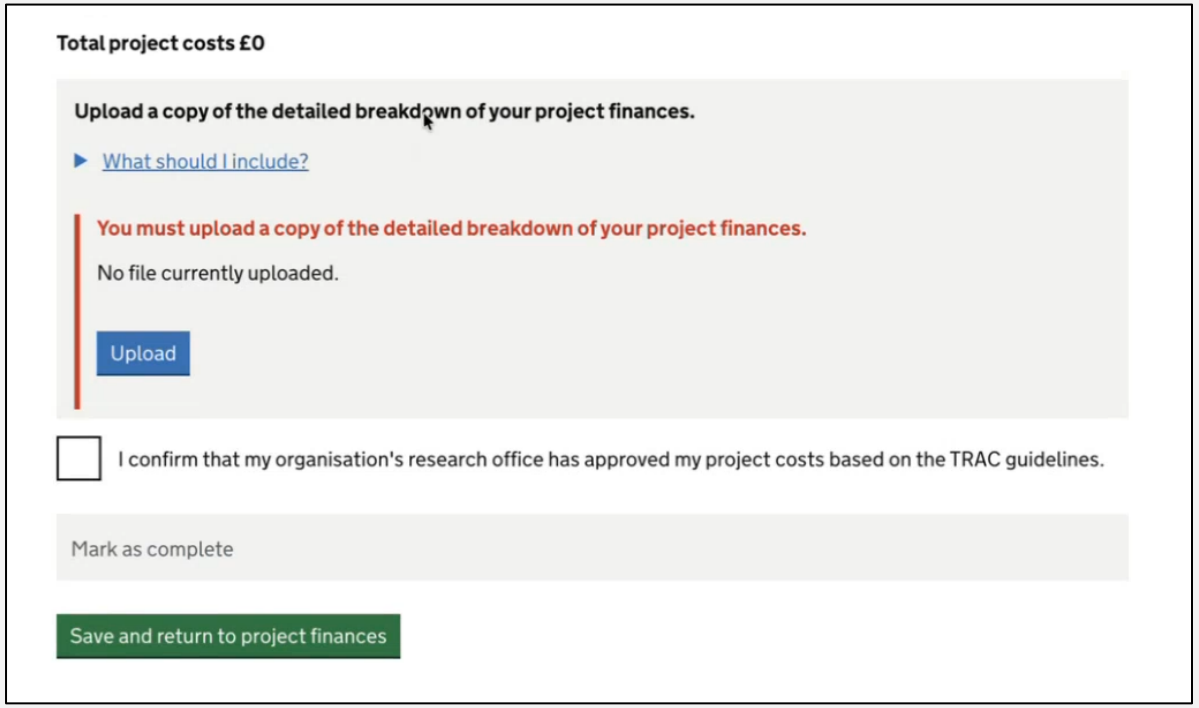
Following TRAC guidelines academic cost are captured under the following categories:

- Directly incurred
- Directly allocated
- Indirect costs

If your project is successful, Innovate UK will fund an academic partner at 80% of FEC. The remaining 20% is not counted as part of your contribution to your project and **must not** be included in the total project costs.

Please note: Costs of PhD students is not eligible for inclusion in research organisation project costs.

Academic cost categories



- A mandatory requirement to upload their detailed costs
- Must be a PDF format
- Approved by their research office

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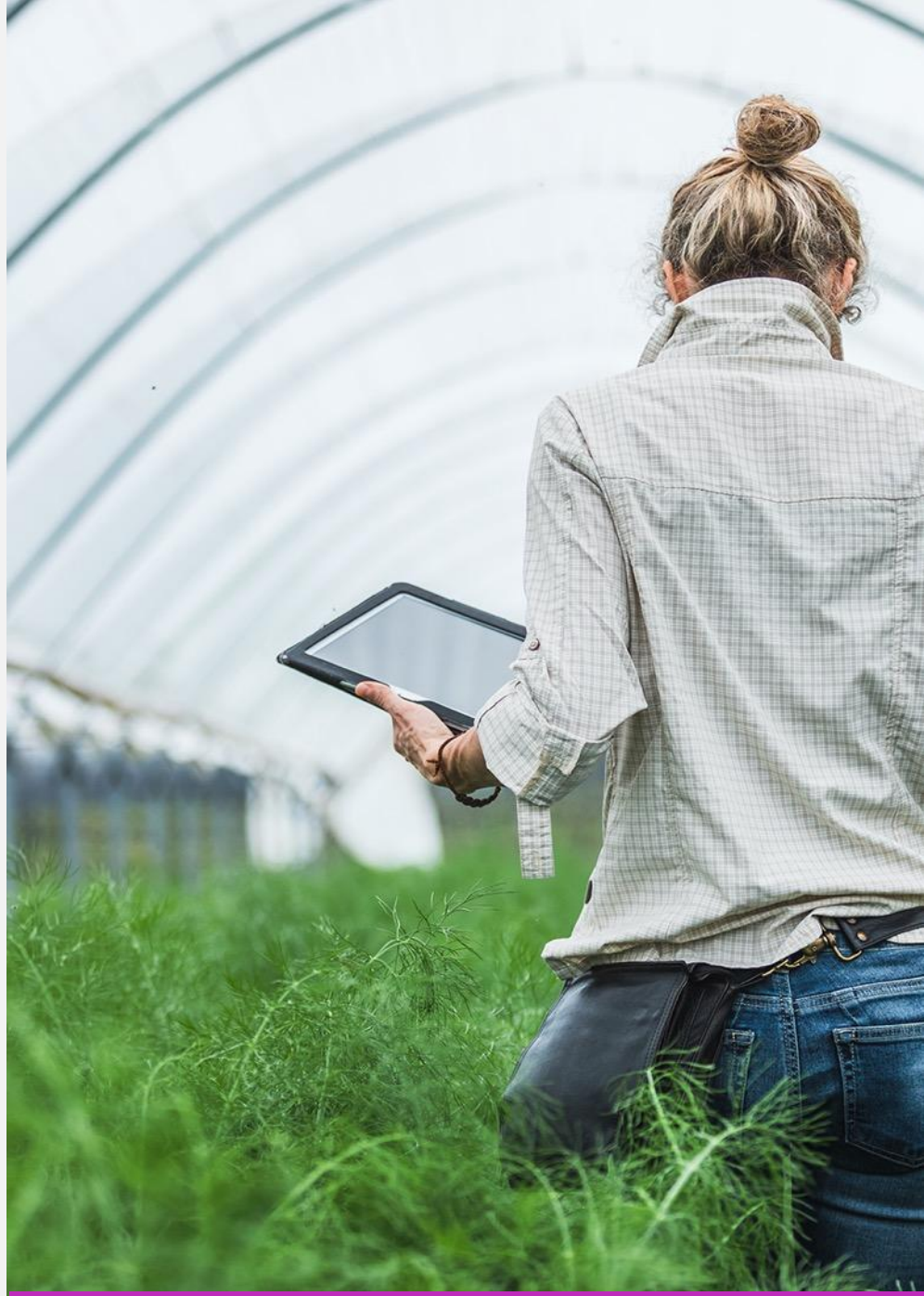
Funding Rules



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You are unable to claim funding if

- you are an **overseas organisation** - your company number begins with **FC**
- your organisation is **setup as a branch** - your company number begins with **BR**
- you are a **collaboration with no formal structure of ownership or control** - your company number begins with **ML**
- you are a **Crown Dependency**:
  - if your company is based in **Jersey** - your company number begins with **JE**
  - if your company is based in **Guernsey**
  - if your company is based in the **Isle of Man**

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Other Innovate UK projects

If you have an **overdue** final claim or Independent Accountant Report (IAR) on a live Innovate UK project, you will not be eligible to apply to this competition, as a lead or a partner organisation.

We will not award you any further funding if you:

- applied to a previous competition as the lead or sole company and were awarded funding by Innovate UK, but did not make a substantial effort to exploit that award
- applied to a previous competition as the lead or sole company and failed to comply with grant terms and conditions
- please note if you have a live project in progress this does not prohibit you from entering this competition

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Compliance with the UK Subsidy Control Regime

On 4th January 2023, the Subsidy Control Act 2022 came into effect.

This provides a framework for public authorities to design and award subsidies in a compliant way, whilst minimising any negative effects of subsidies both within the UK and Internationally.

Innovate UK offers funding in line with the UK's obligations and commitments to Subsidy Control. To ensure that Innovate UK remains compliant with the UK's international Subsidy Control duties in respect of:

- the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement;
- the subsidy control act 2022
- Article 10 of the Windsor Framework (successful applicants which are affected by the Windsor Framework will be funded in line with EU State aid regulations)
- Article 138 of the Withdrawal Agreement (some Union law applicable after 31 December 2020 in relation to the UK's participation in Union programmes and activities)
- the Subsidies and Countervailing measures within the WTO (ASCM)
- any other Free Trade Agreements active at the time of award

All awards will be conditional on compliance at all times with the UK's international obligations on Subsidy Control - this will be reflected in the terms and conditions of any award.

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Subsidy Control (and State aid where relevant)

The Subsidy Control Act 2022 definition of a ‘subsidy’ means financial assistance which:

1. is given by a public authority. This can be at any level: central, devolved, regional or local government or a public body.
2. makes a contribution (this could be a financial or an in-kind contribution) to an enterprise, conferring an economic advantage that is not available on market terms.
3. affects international trade.

For awards made from 4 January 2023, the majority are subject to Subsidy Control Act 2022. EU State aid rules now only apply in certain limited circumstances.

Financial viability and eligibility
Innovate UK is unable to award funding to organisations that are considered to be in financial difficulty. All applicant organisations are subjected to financial viability and eligibility checks to ensure they are suitable for public funding.

General guidance on Subsidy control (and State aid where relevant).

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Article 10 of the Windsor Framework

The EU and the UK formally adopted the Windsor Framework on 24 March 2023.

The Windsor Framework replaces the Northern Ireland Protocol, providing a new legal and UK constitutional framework.

Article 10 provides that European Union State aid rules will continue to apply to the UK in respect of measures which affect trade in goods or the electricity market between Northern Ireland and the EU.

Article 10 does not directly apply to subsidies for services and such subsidies will need to comply with the UK's subsidy control regime.

Undertakings in difficulty
In the unusual circumstance of an award having to be made under the EU GBER regulation (State aid), the applicant must pass **'undertaking in difficulty' checks as defined by GBER (2014)**.

Guidance on Article 10 of the Windsor Framework.

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Eligibility Criteria: Funding Opportunities

Funding for R&D projects split into **3** categories: feasibility studies, industrial research and experimental development.

For industrial research projects, you could get funding for your eligible project costs of:

- up to 70% if you are a micro or small organisation
- up to 60% if you are a medium-sized organisation
- up to 50% if you are a large organisation

For research organisations conducting fundamental research you could get funding for your eligible project costs of up to 100%.

For general guidance on what our research categories are please visit:
https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/categories-of-research-and-development/#contents-list

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Research Organisations

Research organisations should be non-profit distributing to qualify and not acting with economic interest in the project. They should explain how they will disseminate the output of their project research as outlined in the application.

Research organisations undertaking non-economic activity can be funded as follows:

- 80% of full economic costs (FEC) if you are an academic institution
- 100% of eligible costs for all other research organisations

Research organisations which are engaged in economic activity as part of the project will be treated as business enterprises for the purposes of funding.

For general guidance on the funding rules for all organisation types please visit:
https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/guidance-for-applicants/general-guidance/funding-rules/#contents-list

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Capital Costs Guidance

Capital costs are one-time expenses for buying, building, or improving important long-term items like land, buildings, or equipment that will be useful for more than a year.

It can be easy to spot costs for buying or building these items, but it can be harder to tell the difference between improvements (which count as capital costs) and regular running costs like repairs, maintenance, or replacements.

Very broadly, capital enhancements should either:

- Significantly lengthen the life of the asset
- Significantly increase the value of the asset
- Significantly increase usefulness of the asset
-

The capital cost of developments can include:

- Land or property acquisition
- Commissions
- Statutory fees
- Consultant fees directly associated with the development
- Materials, plant and equipment
- Labour
- Fixtures and fittings
- Project insurance
- Internal costs directly associated with the development

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Capital Costs Guidance

Capital Equipment Costs

- Specialist plant, lab/process kit, machinery, computers, furniture, etc.
- Covers all equipment needed to fit out the build project.
- Setup costs (e.g. technicians, calibration) can be capitalised.
- Avoid duplicating these under Capital Usage in CR&D costs.

Property Capital Costs

- Land/property acquisition (incl. SDLT, Land Registry fees)
- Construction (new build, refurbishment, fit-out)
- Equipment via works contractors (e.g. IT, AV, furniture)
- Professional fees (legal, PM/QS, design, insurance)

Capitalised Labour

- Labour directly tied to the capital build can be capitalised.
- Excludes day-to-day operational labour (CR&D).

Other Costs

For capital-related items not covered in the above categories.

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Assessment

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Assessment

[YouTube Playlist]

1

How do our assessors assess?

Innovate UK • 8.1K views • 2 years ago

2

How are successful applications selected for funding?

Innovate UK • 17K views • 2 years ago

3

What steps are there before a project starts?

Innovate UK • 7.7K views • 2 years ago

4

How are successful projects monitored?

Innovate UK • 4.1K views • 2 years ago

5

How successful applicants receive their funding.

Innovate UK • 4.6K views • 2 years ago

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Project setup

If you pass the technical assessment, you will have a further eight steps detailed in your notification to complete in Project Setup before being able to start your project.

These are:

- Project details
- Project team
- Documents
- You will be allocated a Monitoring Service Provider (MSP)
- Bank details
- Finance checks
- Spend profile
- Grant Offer Letter

Please share the T&Cs with your legal team at the earliest possible opportunity to avoid any delays.

You are expected to complete all the steps above within **60 calendar** days of receiving your notification. Failure to do so may result in funding being withdrawn.

Work can only commence on your project once you have received your Go Live email.

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How you get paid

- Grants are claimed and paid out following authorisation, **quarterly** in **arrears**
- Organisations being funded at less than 100% will need to provide evidence that they will have funding available to meet their share of costs
- You can only claim for costs incurred between your project's start and end date
- Grant can only be paid into an approved UK bank account

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Bank account – Guidance

Accepted business bank accounts – subject to change

- Advance Payment Solutions (Part of Cashplus Ltd)
- Allica Bank
- Allied Irish Banks
- Bank of Ireland (UK)
- Bank of Scotland
- Bank of America
- Barclays
- BNP Paribas
- C Hoare & Co
- CAF Bank
- Citi Bank UK
- Clear Bank
- Commerz Bank
- Coutts
- Danske Bank
- Deutsche Bank
- DNB Bank ASA
- Guaranty Trust Bank (UK) Limited
- Handelsbanken Plc
- HSBC
- J.P. Morgan UK
- Lloyds
- Metro Bank
- Mettle
- Mizuho Bank Ltd
- MUFG Bank Ltd
- Monzo
- NatWest
- Nordea
- Revolut
- Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)
- Santander
- Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken Ab (Publ) [SEB]
- Starling
- The Bank of East Asia
- The Co-operative Bank
- Tide Bank
- Triodos Bank
- TSB Bank
- Ulster Bank
- Unity Trust Bank
- Virgin Money
- Wells Fargo Bank N.A.

Additional Support

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Reasonable adjustments

We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and are committed to making our application process accessible to everyone. This includes making reasonable adjustments, for people who have a disability or a long-term condition and face barriers applying to us.

You can contact us at any time to ask for guidance. We recommend you contact us at least 15 working days before this competition's closing date to allow us to put the most suitable support in place. The support we can provide may be limited if you contact us close to the competition deadline.

You can contact Innovate UK by email or call 0300 321 4357. Our phone lines are open from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm UK time, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

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Reasonable adjustments – what we need from you

To apply for a reasonable adjustment we will need to collect some information from you, below is the list of what we need:

- Name
- Organisation
- Email address
- Phone number
- Competition you are applying to
- Application number if you've started an application
- Consent to pass info to Innovate UK Business Connect

This information must be given to Innovate UK Customer Support Services, Business Connect are unable to provide support without a referral from CSS

Further information on the process can be found here https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/how-we-help/reasonable-adjustments-service/

UKRI Innovate UK

Reasonable adjustments – what we can do

Below is a list of possible adjustments we can make, this list is not exhaustive and not every adjustment will be appropriate for you, adjustments will be made on a case-by-case basis:

- Proofreading
- Clarifying language
- Resources
- Introduction to experts
- Time management
- Note-taking

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Reasonable adjustments – what we can not do

The reasonable adjustments offered are designed to remove barriers to applying, they are not designed to make decisions for you or give you advice on an application. With that in mind, the support we offer does not include the below:

- Providing deadline extensions
- Choosing which competition to apply to
- Developing an idea
- Advising whether your idea is in scope for a competition
- Offering financial advice
- Helping with research

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97% of clients would recommend us

94% report that our service has had a positive impact on their growth

Innovate UK Business Growth

The indispensable partner for ambitious innovators

We equip innovation-focused businesses to **make the best strategic choices** and **harness the right resources** to accelerate their growth.

Thousands of innovators benefit from our **intensive and tailored advisory support** to achieve their ambitious goals every year.

We are in their corner – do you want us in yours? Visit iukbg.ukri.org to learn more.

"Innovate UK Business Growth gave us the tools to grow with confidence"
Natali Georgieva, Co-founder at ALIANAz

Who do we support?

- Ambitious, innovation-focused businesses that have won an Innovate UK competition, and are growing strongly or have high growth potential, may be contacted about support
- Registered at Companies House with up to 250 employees
- Management teams motivated to engage fully with us to help achieve growth milestones

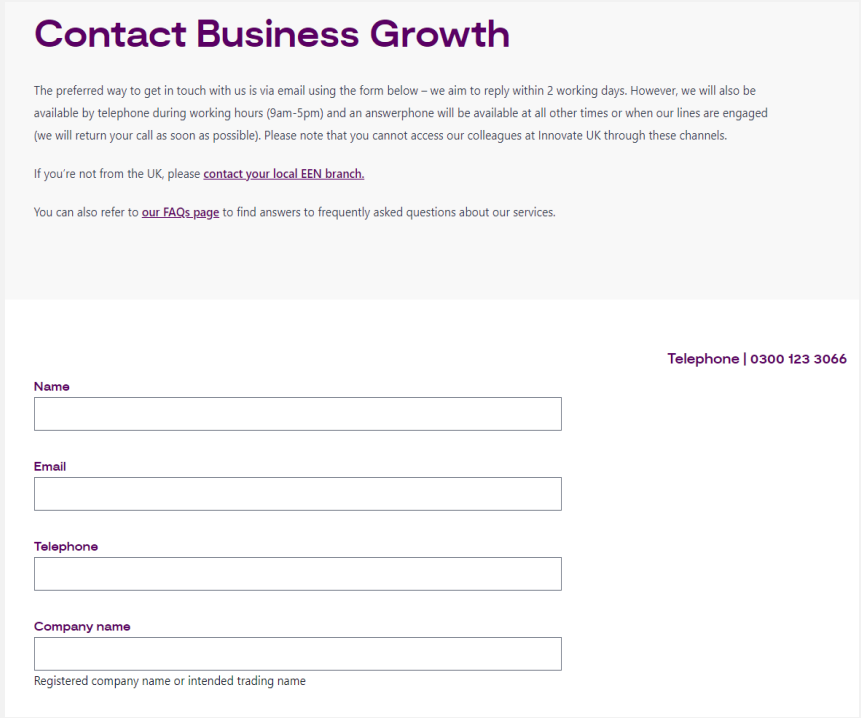
UKRI Innovate UK

Contact Us

Whether you need help to set a strategic direction or with progressing your innovation, financing your growth or unlocking the potential of international partnerships.

visit our website:
www.iukbg.ukri.org

or call us on:
0300 123 3066



Note: The service is offered to all Innovate UK competition winners but any suitable ambitious innovation-focused businesses with under 250 employees can be supported

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Cyber Action Toolkit

The NSCS has created a free Cyber Action Toolkit that gives clear bite-sized actions to protect small businesses, their money and reputation from cyber crime.

Search “NCSC cyber toolkit” or click here: https://cybertoolkit.service.ncsc.gov.uk/

UKRI Innovate UK

Useful Information

- UKRI's General Guidance
- Innovate UK Business Connect's Good Application Guide
- Who we fund
- Collaboration Agreement Guidance: Lambert Toolkit
- Innovate UK: Shaping the Future

Funding opportunities

To find out more about the competitions currently available you can visit either the **Innovation Funding Service (IFS)** or the **funding finder** on the UKRI website. Through these links, you can review the competitions available and decide which ones may be right for you.

You can **sign up to our newsletter** to receive all the latest information on our competitions straight to your inbox or **register for email alerts** to get page updates from Innovate UK.

The government also offers **other opportunities for businesses to get finance and support**.
Innovate UK reserves the rights to host competitions on a needs basis and will adjust each competition criteria and scope accordingly. We may occasionally run closed competitions that are for invited applicants only. These are run based on the challenge requirement or need.

UKRI Innovate UK

Q&A

Innovate UK

Contact

Customer Support Services

0300 321 4357 (Monday - Friday 9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm)

support@iuk.ukri.org

Innovate UK
ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk

Innovate UK Business Connect
https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/

Innovate UK Business Growth
www.iukbg.ukri.org

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Thank You

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