

Eligibility criteria



Eligibility criteria

Project eligibility	To lead a project your organisation must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be a UK registered business of any size• collaborate with other UK registered organisations• be or involve at least one grant claiming micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)
Total project costs	between £100,000 and £250,000
Project length	between 6 and 12 months, start by 01 April 2024

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 <u>not</u> materially different from one you have submitted before (but it can be updated based on the assessors' feedback)	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ has been updated based on assessor feedback✓ <u>and</u> is materially different from the application submitted before✓ <u>and</u> fits with the scope of this competition

Compliance with the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022

The Subsidy Control Act represents a development of the UK subsidy control regime that came into effect at the end of 2020 as part of the implementation of the UK's commitments in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), this was officially recognised in April 2022. Please see the Subsidy Control Act Legislation : <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/23/enacted> and https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1117122/uk-subsidy-control-statutory-guidance.pdf .

The set rules (typically GBER) which we previously relied on for the limits of what we could award, have now been replaced by internal decisions based on the new Subsidy Control Act 2022, and on policy, which will in turn set out bespoke eligibility requirements for each funding opportunity.

Innovate UK is offering funding for this competition in line with the UK's obligations and commitments to the Subsidy Control Act 2022. To ensure that Innovate UK remains compliant with the UK's international Subsidy Control Act 2022 duties in respect of:

- the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement;
- Article 10 of the Northern Ireland Protocol (successful applicants which are affected by the Northern Ireland Protocol 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 Act 2022 - this will be reflected in the terms and conditions of any award.

Due diligence

Under the Subsidy Control Act 2022, we will carry out financial health checks and ongoing concern assurances on your organisation.

Certify you are eligible

When submitting an application, you must certify that you are eligible for funding. If you are unsure, please take independent legal advice before applying. Should you be successful, we will complete these financial checks and assurances before confirming the grant offer.

- For more information on company sizes, please refer to the [Company accounts guidance](#).
- Further information is available on our website in the general guidance.

Eligibility Criteria - EU State Aid Regulations – Northern Ireland Protocol

If you are an applicant who is conducting activities that will affect trade of goods and/or electricity between Northern Ireland and the EU as envisaged by [Article 10 of the Northern Ireland protocol](#), then you must apply under European Commission State aid rules.

Undertaking in Difficulty

For applicants subject to the European Commission State aid rules, you will be required to prove that they were not an “Undertaking in Difficulty” (UID). We will ask for evidence of this.

This test applies to:

- companies that are more than 3 years old
- companies where more than half of its subscribed share capital has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses.
- your parent or holding company

Certify you are eligible

When submitting an application, you must certify that you are eligible for State aid. If you are unsure, please take legal advice before applying. Should you be successful, we will apply this test as part of our viability checks before confirming the grant offer.

Further information is available on our website in the [general guidance under state aid](#).

If you are applying for an award funded under State aid Regulations, the definitions for company size are set out in the [European Commission Recommendation](#) of 6 May 2003.

Eligibility Criteria: Funding Opportunities

Funding for R&D projects split in to 1 category; industrial research.

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 30%.

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>

What is collaboration?

This competition is open to collaborations only

In all collaborative projects there must be:

- at least two organisations claiming grant within the application (including the lead)
- a business or RTO-led consortium, which may involve both business and the research base
- evidence of effective collaboration

We would expect to see the structure and rationale of the collaboration described in the application.

Making more than one application

- A [business](#) can apply as the lead for multiple applications in the competition, but only one successful project will be funded.
- Any organisation can collaborate in any number of applications.

Other Innovate UK projects

If you have an outstanding 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.

Key Dates

Timeline	Dates
Competition Opens	10 October 2023
Briefing Event	19 October 2023
Submission Deadline	22 November 2023, 11:00
Applicants informed	11 January 2024