

Eligibility criteria



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

Eligibility criteria (EOI)

Project eligibility

Lead applicant must:

- Be an active farming, growing or forestry business of any size based in England
- Be able to evidence that you are an established business, including sole traders and partnerships
- not have been awarded Innovate UK funding as a project lead within the last 5 years before 22 May 2024
- Have a UK bank account

A farming, growing or forestry business can only lead on one EOI application

Eligibility criteria (Full Stage)

Project eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be an active farming, growing or forestry business of any size based in England• Be able to evidence that you are an established business, including sole traders and partnerships• not have been awarded Innovate UK funding as a project lead within the last 5 years before 14 February 2024• must carry out your project in the UK• exploit the results from or in the UK
Total grant	£850,000 (total competition funding)
Individual project costs	£28,000 to £56,000
Project length	between 6 and 18 months

Compliance with the UK Subsidy Control Regime

On 1 January 2021, the UK left the EU and is no longer subject to EU laws on State aid. We draw your attention to the guidance issued by BEIS: [Complying with the UK's international obligations on subsidy control: guidance for public authorities](#). Please be aware this is a living document and may be updated by BEIS as time progresses.

The set rules (typically GBER) which we previously relied on for the limits of what we could award, have now been replaced by internal decisions based on the new BEIS Subsidy Control Regime, and on policy, which will in turn set out bespoke eligibility requirements for each funding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 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;
- 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 - this will be reflected in the terms and conditions of any award.

Due diligence for UK Subsidy Control Regime

Under the Subsidy Control Regime, 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 categories; feasibility studies

For feasibility studies and 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 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>

Participation Funding Rules

- A minimum of 50% of the total grant amount requested by farmers, growers and foresters in the full stage application, must come from farmers or growers geographically based in England.

A maximum level of 60% of total eligible project costs can be shared by all research organisations collaborating on the project.

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	18 December 2023
Briefing Event	12 December 2023
Submission Deadline	14 February 2024 11:00am
Applicants informed	20 March 2024