

Funding for the Advanced Innovation Voucher

Support provided by



Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education



Interface
The knowledge connection for business



Scottish Enterprise



HIE
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Types of support

- Self-help guides
- Programmes
- Research and information
- Consultancy and advice

✓ Funding

- Training

Header: **Funding for the Advanced Innovation Voucher**

Sub header: **Funding**

Summary: **Is your business taking a new product, service or process to the next level? Apply for funding for the Advanced Innovation Voucher programme.**

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What does this involve?

The Advanced Innovation Voucher scheme is funded by the Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise and administered by Interface. This funding programme is designed to bridge the gap and make it more accessible for companies to work collaboratively with a University or further education college.

The purpose of an Advanced Innovation Voucher is to help build sustained relationships between small and medium sized companies (SMEs) and universities or Further Education colleges in Scotland who may have previously collaborated together or for those companies who are beginning their collaborative journey.

The value of an Advanced Innovation Voucher is up to £20,000 of grant funding. The company match is a mix of in-kind and cash contributions.

We welcome applications from all industry sectors and the proposed collaborative project should lead to new products, services and processes that will benefit the company, the university or college and the Scottish economy.

If you need support in finding a suitable academic partner, Interface can assist you to find the right expertise.

Who is this for?

Any organisation (SME, social enterprise and third sector) with main company operations in Scotland wishing to collaborate with a Scottish University or Further Education College to continue to build a sustained relationship.

Am I eligible?

Yes, if you:

- are a registered business operating in Scotland
- are a small to medium-sized enterprise (< 250 employees, turnover <€50m or a balance sheet <€43m) or social enterprise
- have an innovative project (a novel/pioneering idea) which will lead to new products, services or processes or develop the workforce that will benefit the company, the academic institution and the Scottish economy
- have a project which cannot be delivered commercially and require the technical expertise of an academic partner

How long does this take?

Applications must be submitted by the relevant academic institution and may take up to 3 weeks from submission to be approved by Scottish Funding Council. Projects should generally start within 4 weeks of the grant being approved and should be completed within 6-12 months depending on your project.

What does this cost?

- There is no cost to apply for the Advanced Innovation Voucher
- The company must provide a mix of in-kind (such as staff time, materials or equipment) and cash contributions
- Companies can only be awarded one Advanced Innovation voucher with a single Scottish university or college

Important information

- If you are collaborating with a university or College for the first time you may wish to consider applying for the Standard Innovation Voucher as a first step
- Sole traders and businesses not registered in Scotland will need to submit a pre-submission form to establish eligibility

Next steps

Please submit an enquiry and an adviser will be in touch.