Innovate UK

Previously Technology Strategy Board - the UK's innovation agency, accelerating economic growth by supporting and connecting innovative businesses. Innovate UK plans to help industry, research communities and other organisations to work together on R&D projects. This is primarily in science, engineering and technology and takes the form of a collaborative project.

Innovate UK’s Networking hub - https://connect.innovateuk.org/ - now defunct and replaced with Knowledge Transfer Networks https://www.ktn-uk.co.uk/ and LinkedIn groups.

Applying for Innovate Funding – Please follow these instructions carefully

Innovation Funding Service - https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/applicant/dashboard

The Innovation Funding Service is an online application service. You need to create an account in the service to start an application

- Register with your Heriot-Watt University email address

Heriot-Watt University, as a Higher Education Institute, will rarely lead an Innovate UK application therefore communication with the industry partner is vital. Please ensure the Lead is aware of the appropriate administrative contact(s) at HWU (if you’re not sure please ask your Research Office).

The Lead (Business applicant) is responsible for starting and submitting an application. As collaborators, we are able to receive an email invite to the application by the Lead.

As a collaborator we are responsible for:

- completing project costs and finance details for HWU
- inviting other collaborators from HWU (Research office/BDE/Finance)
- answering questions assigned to you by the lead applicant

Collaborators can see:

- all application questions and answers
- their own organisation’s finance details
- the application finance summary

Additional Je-S document

As an HEI, we must also submit a Je-S document to the Technology Strategy Board. The Je-S system can be accessed here https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/

Select TSB as the council – Standard Application

- You will need the correct TSB application number referenced on the Innovation Funding Service (Innovate UK portal).
- Additional documents required include: CV’s of named researchers, Justification of Resources & Pathways to Impact

Once this has been submitted via the Je-S system the Research Office will provide you with a version of the form “With Council” that must be uploaded to the Innovate UK application.

General Innovate UK Guidance - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/innovate-uk-funding-general-guidance-for-applicants
Assessment

Applications are assessed by up to 5 independent assessors. The assessors are experts from both business and academia. Decisions are usually made within 4 weeks of submission and scores and feedback are provided via the portal.

General Assessment Criteria

Assessors will look for

- Clear and concise answers (keep jargon to a minimum)
- Relevant information – not too much detail, no assumptions
- Quantification and Justification
- Applicants have provided a viable opportunity for growth, a level of innovation that necessitates public sector investment
- Relevant expertise and research skills within the group

Project Setup

If successful the Lead will be prompted through the Innovation Funding Service to provide further information:

Project details

- the target start date
- the project location
- the name of the project manager

Each organisation involved must provide the details of a Finance Contact. For HWU please use:

Researchgrants@hw.ac.uk

They will complete the necessary information and financial checks.

Hot tips!

- Ensure your project meets the scope and eligibility criteria for the specific competition
- Explain how the project is innovative an original
- Ensure there is a market opportunity for the idea
- Start early! Make sure all collaborators understand the commitment

Research Development Team

May 2018