

University of Glasgow

VIA VERITAS VITA

FOR THE WORLD SINCE 1451

Innovation Cluster Development Fund

Information Session · 2026–27 Funding Round

APPLICATION DEADLINE

2 November 2026

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Up to £30,000

What is the ICDF?

Early-stage support

For ideas with commercial or spin-out potential, at the concept or prototype stage.

Validate & mature

Evidence-gathering and market validation to close gaps before commercialisation.

Multiple routes

Support to become potential spin-out venture, licensing, or another commercialisation pathway.

Who can apply?

ELIGIBLE

- Academic staff, including post-doctoral researchers
- PhD students (with a UofG-employee Principal Investigator identified as budget holder)

NOT ELIGIBLE

- Honorary staff
- Affiliate staff

Also required of all applicants

Salary support in place until 31 July 2027, and a project idea aligned with the eligible clusters (see IS-8 sectors).

PhD students must assign any IP arising from the project to UofG. If fees or stipend are third-party funded, approval from that funder may be needed to take part.

Entry-level criteria

1 Commercialisation ambition

A clear ambition to commercialise an idea, product offering, or create a spin-out venture.

2 Customer-led focus

The project is grounded in real customer or user needs.

3 Unmet need or market gap

Some evidence the solution meets an unmet need — however early — with potential for competitive advantage.

4 Clear IP position*

Potential for intellectual property protection: unpublished data, know-how, or patent filing. *Discuss with IP&C

5 IS-8 sector alignment

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Clean Energy Industries
- Creative Industries
- Defence
- Digital & Technologies
- Financial Services
- Life Sciences
- Professional and Business Services

What funding is available?

MAXIMUM AWARD

£30,000

per project

Project duration

3 – 6 months

Budgets delivered in full by

5th July 2027

Wide-ranging support

Market validation, customer discovery, prototype design, clarify commercialisation route, proof of concept, regulatory prep.

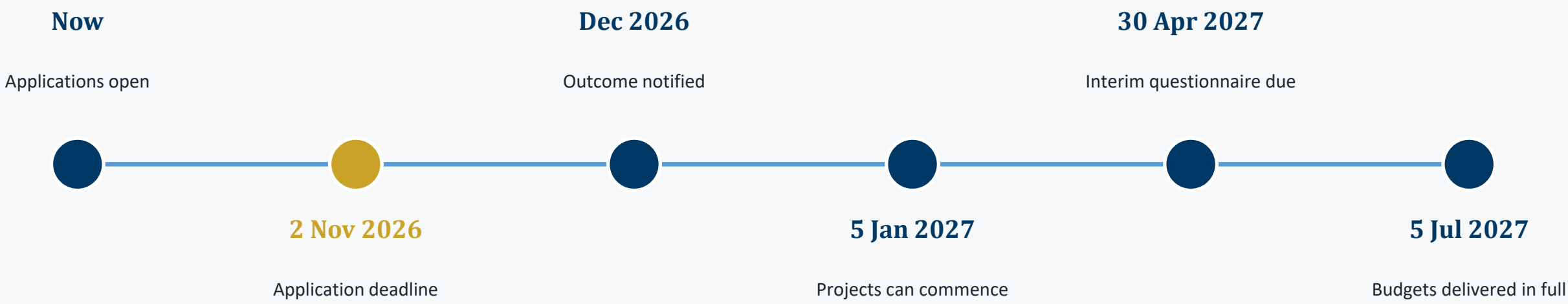
New staff salary

Up to 6 months for new temporary UofG staff (direct appointments only).
*Processes should be in place for project start.

Support of staff cost

To engage developers, investors, corporates & stakeholders — e.g. a product designer sub-contract.

Key dates


Now
Applications open
Dec 2026
Outcome notified
30 Apr 2027
Interim questionnaire due
2 Nov 2026
Application deadline
5 Jan 2027
Projects can commence
5 Jul 2027
Budgets delivered in full

How applications are assessed

An internal panel (assess on the core criteria, clarity on IP, deliverability, due diligence) and expert panel (industry, opportunity, market, scalability) reviews eligible applications.

1



Fund alignment

Overall alignment with the purpose of the ICDF. Prior engagement with the IP&C and College Innovation Team.

2



Development stage

Stage of concept/prototype development and IP status.

3



Industry endorsement

Evidence of any industry endorsement for the project.

4



Market opportunity

The market and impact opportunity.

5



Scalability

Potential for scalable spin-out venture creation.

Case studies

- **Kelvin Quantum** - Unlocking the commercial potential of cryogenic semiconductor systems. (COSE)
- **Design Otherwise CIC** - develop the Everyday Diversity app, an "inclusion solution in your pocket" for busy screen professionals. (COAH)
- **Coroview** - progress a health economics assessment and further cohort validation. (MVLS)
- **Nitrofix** - Developing nitrogenous fertiliser directly from air and water. (COSE)
- **Yusuf Sambo** - Scotland 5G Centre testbed at the University of Glasgow. (COSE)
- **Gilles Bailet** - 3D printing in space under conditions of microgravity. (COSE)
- **Gaelic Connect** - web app created to help develop Gaelic networks across the city. (COAH – Social Enterprise)
- **Project REAL** - Co-creating interventions to help young people spot misinformation and stay safe online. (COSS – Social Enterprise)

Application tips

1. Clear roadmap (funding roadmap)
   Clear scalability
2. Key commercial milestones. Focus on milestones you can deliver.
3. Realistic, simple and detailed
4. Take on board feedback from previous support
5. Be clear about IP status
6. Lead with the customer and the evidence, even if it's early

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Questions?

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