



The Bloomsbury SET

**Mapping the National  
Bioscience Incubator and  
Accelerator Ecosystem**



**THE BLOOMSBURY SET®**

Science | Economics | Technology

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# Introduction

This report was commissioned by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) the lead investigator of the £5-million Research England funded Bloomsbury SET Programme to Combat the Threat from Infectious Disease and Antimicrobial Resistance.

To progress ideas from bench to bedside, project partners may choose to explore the opportunities of forming their own spin-out company. This report includes an overview of some of the opportunities for commercialisation support in the UK for start-ups and spin outs in the biosciences space.

**A third of the UK's 858\* privately-owned life science companies have spun out from academic institutions – your research could be behind one of the next.**

*\* [beahurst.com/blog/uk-fast-growing-life-sciences-companies/](https://beahurst.com/blog/uk-fast-growing-life-sciences-companies/)*

Neither the Royal Veterinary College is recommending, nor endorsing, any of the opportunities described in this report. Summaries are presented as accurate as of June 2021.

# Thinking about a company?

If you think you might like to form a company around your research it might be useful to consider a few things:

**1**

Do you want to leave academia and join the company as a manager or lead scientist?

It is not a deal breaker if you don't want to be part of the new venture, but it is often easier to get funding if the team leading the R&D and business efforts have been involved from the start.

**2**

Is your research something which is possible to expand into a range of products, or is it a one-off item?

Companies need to expand and grow, normally through creating additional and new products, so if your idea is the start of something rather than a one off then investors will feel more confident and willing to support you.

Do you have the right skills to be able to make this happen?

Have you run a business before? Did you enjoy it? Do you like planning and making things happen? Do you enjoy talking to people about your achievements and plans? Even if you have no previous experience but think you might be interested it could

**3**

be worth taking your ideas forward.

# First Strides Forward

## STEP ONE

Talk to the college innovation team – they have access to training, they have support to help you get ideas out of your head and into action.

## STEP TWO

Pick a name. It might feel too early but getting the right name for your business is hard and can take time. Make sure that it is something that is available – look at Companies House to make sure there isn't a similar or same name company already operating. Check the internet, to find out if you can get the .com domain name and check the trademarks registrations to see if there are any exclusions you should be aware of there.

## STEP THREE

Think about funding. How much money might it take to get your company set up and operational? How many staff might it take? What things do you think you need to achieve first? – set yourself some milestones and goals that could break down into projects that could be funded by grants and investors.

## STEP FOUR

Think about Intellectual Property (IP). Most importantly check if you need a licensing agreement with the university to spin-out the research? Do you need to incorporate anyone else's research into your first products? Will there be anything patentable or protectable in the first products that you want to create. Developing patentable IP helps to increase the value of the company and that is often what investors want to see in early-stage plans.

## STEP FIVE

Where do you want to set the company up? Is there a particular location that gives you an advantage? A specialist incubator or science park? Are there supportive programmes that can help you make the transition from idea to investable business and get investors interested in you?

# Whilst you are preparing for start-up

## Pre-Accelerator Programmes

Sometimes a good starting point is a pre-accelerator course.

Pre-accelerators are short training programmes where business coaches work with entrepreneurs to develop their business idea and helping them to define their Minimum Viable Product (MVP).

The programmes generally provide sessions on product development, marketing, creating a sales or investor pitch and work on communication skills, getting you to a place where you can articulate your idea in a way that explains the business value behind it, not just the technical or scientific achievement. Alongside the teaching sessions you get access to a mentor or coach who will work with you to put the learning into action.

Often the final stage of a pre-accelerator is a presentation to potentially interested organisations with related accelerator schemes, which can be the next step on the route to funding and getting into operations.

For further info on Pre-Accelerators, including a presentation from StartUp Pirates:

[tech.eu/features/5650/what-is-a-pre-accelerator-white-paper](http://tech.eu/features/5650/what-is-a-pre-accelerator-white-paper)

## Accelerator Programmes

Often a middle stage of company development, Accelerators help entrepreneurs to shape their idea into a full business plan and get ready for achieving investor interest and securing funding for getting into operations.

## Incubators and Science Parks for Life Sciences

Across the UK there are many science parks, and business incubators. These allow companies to cluster together and as a result there can be business advantages of being in that particular location.

Having several companies doing similar work can attract employees to an area who might be able to move job without having to move to a new house as their careers develop. Having similar companies close-by means that other servicing companies will also be close-by and easier to work with. Of course, it also means that there is easier networking and opportunities for collaboration.

Some life science parks are based at previous pharma sites and have advantages of already having a lot of the infrastructure facilities that young companies need, but would find it hard to pay for in a start-up budget. They also often have options for mentoring and support to guide you as your company gets going and can have links to investment groups that want to specifically support bio-sector companies.

# Pre-Accelerators

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## Focus On Pre-Accelerator:

Fast Forward (FFWD)	7
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## Some of the best Pre-accelerators for Life Sciences ideas are:

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[ffwdlondon.com](http://ffwdlondon.com)

Often the first step on the entrepreneurial journey is a stage of working out what your idea actually is in business terms. Wrapping your head around how to define your scientific plans into business language and marketing speak can be daunting.

A pre-accelerator is a programme focused on early-stage start-ups, taking them from concept to MVP (Minimum Viable Product). A big part of the programme is mentorship. Experienced mentors give the team guidance with product and customer validation, marketing, product development, pitch, and anything else needed to build the product to a place in which it can attract investment and attention. These programmes can also prepare early-stage start-ups to access accelerator programmes where a more rigorous process of work will result in a business plan and a pitch-deck to interest investors.

The world's first pre-accelerator programme, Fast Forward<sup>1</sup> is run by City University in London in partnership with the Accelerator Network<sup>2</sup>. The programme prepares start-ups to take their first seed or venture investment round or gain access to a world-class accelerator programme.

The Fast Forward programme was first launched in 2014. It is designed for entrepreneurs building high growth potential tech start-ups, who are at the launch / pre-launch phase. There is no equity, i.e., they do not take any percentage of your shares, and they provide all of the support, workspace, coaching and industry introductions for the selected teams, on a small contribution basis (£600+VAT per team).

The programme is run twice a year with a Spring and a Summer/Autumn semester. Competition for a place at FastForward UK is fierce, and they only support the most ambitious entrepreneurs.

FFWD Pre-Accelerator is 1 of 3 programmes in the start-up life cycle support for growth and investment readiness by The Accelerator Network ([theacceleratornetwork.com](http://theacceleratornetwork.com)) for UK tech start-up:

- Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage (FFWD);
- Seed stage - Accelerator Academy ([acceleratoracademy.com](http://acceleratoracademy.com));
- Series A - The ScaleUp Accelerator ([thescaleupaccelerator.com](http://thescaleupaccelerator.com)).

<sup>1</sup> [fastforward.org.uk](http://fastforward.org.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [theacceleratornetwork.com](http://theacceleratornetwork.com)

## IMPACT

13

Delivered 13 semesters in the past 6 years

300

Supported 300+ entrepreneurs to date

£6M

£6 Million + of funding raised to date





[ffwdlondon.com](http://ffwdlondon.com)

## How FFWD help and support Entrepreneurs

The programme is delivered in one-day sprints, over a 6-week period. It is interactive, hands-on programme covering key topics such as Value Proposition, Marketing, Operations, Finance, and much more, using a blend of expert speakers and professional industry mentors.

## What do you get?

A six-week course that helps you validate your Minimum Viable Product (MVP) via practical assessments and weekly mentoring sessions with industry experts, investors and programme managers of the best accelerators in UK.

- A six-week course
- Virtual attendance
- Receive weekly 1:1 weekly mentoring sessions with excited entrepreneurs, investors and programme managers of the best accelerators in UK.
- Strong investment readiness focus - The Accelerator Network successfully raised £130M+ in seed stage and £350M+ in Series A/B
- Access to a network of 100+ investors and 150+ industry experts
- Part time (requires 1 day per week effort during 6 weeks) + assignments assigned every week to work on
- Opportunity to network with other companies undergoing similar challenges

## Eligibility criteria

To apply you must be an entrepreneur with an existing UK based business concept that intends to work full time on their start-up within 3-6 months, who are preparing for the next stage of growth via an accelerator, initial seed funding or non-equity based finance.

Any high-tech market sector is eligible. They are looking for ideas with potential of £0-5k Monthly Recurring Revenue (MRR), who needs support in validating their Minimum Viable Product (MVP).

## Sprint Timeline over 6 Weeks



# SeedReady Pre-Accelerator



[seedready.org](http://seedready.org)

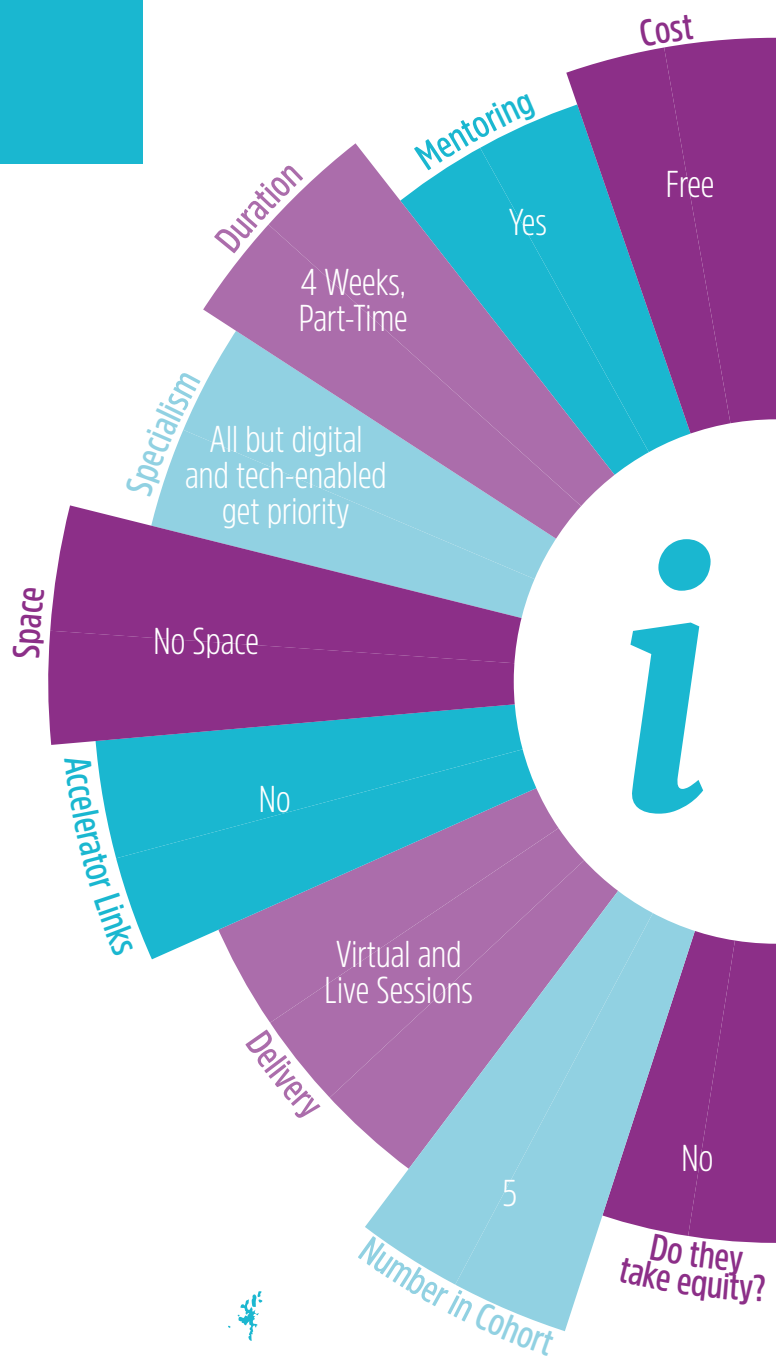
SeedReady provides entrepreneurs with access to trusted experts, applied knowledge, and actionable insights to help their startups succeed. They are a London-based team led by JP Luchetti and Darren Ball. Together, they have +15 years of experience in venture building in a wide range of different industries for startups and corporates and have distilled what they have learned into a programme to help early-stage startup founders make their vision a reality.

They have a strong community focus between the entrepreneurs themselves and with and alongside their mentors and alumni. They aim to make business skills and the network freely available to all entrepreneurs, whatever their background, and wherever they may be.

Open to entrepreneurs from all backgrounds, anywhere in the world. However the best fit is for founders and companies who are based in the UK, or who plan to locate their business in the UK.

There are both a pre-accelerator (4 weeks) and a bootcamp (5 intense days). SeedReady teaches you the key principles to developing your idea, gathering evidence for market viability, and building a solid pitch.

A 4 weeks programme covering Product-Market Fit, Product Channel Fit, Channel-Model Fit and Market-Model Fit, which also includes a Pre-Programme Event such as an introductory session with SeedReady team and fellow cohort members. The Post-Programme Events includes the possibility to pitch to the SeedReady team, Founder Friends and selected experts from their network to get valuable feedback as well as a lifetime access to the SeedReady community and your private Cohort Alumni Group.



## Open to

Companies based in the UK, or who plan to locate their business in the UK.

## Organisation Partners/Owners

SeedReady team



## Contact info

SeedReady Ltd.

71-75 Shelton Street,  
Covent Garden, London

[hello@seedready.org](mailto:hello@seedready.org)

[seedready.org](http://seedready.org)

# Ignite NI Propel



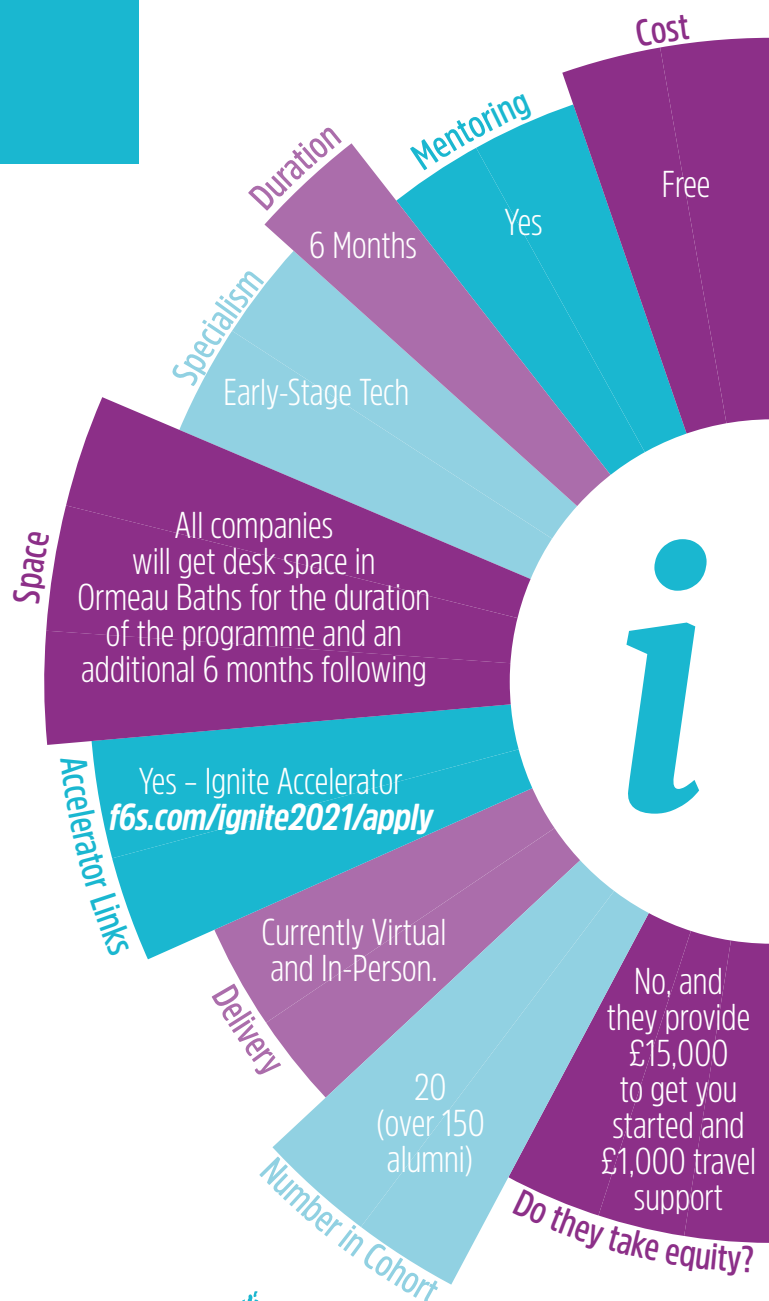
[igniteNI.com](http://igniteNI.com)

Open to all companies intending to locate in Northern Ireland, Propel is a pre-accelerator that helps companies launch their business. Every year they support 20 early-stage technology companies that are in development, or have only just launched. The programme lasts 6 months (January - June).

The programme is run as a weekly workshop and mentoring session lasting 6 months starting in January each year. Companies that are accepted onto the pre-accelerator receive £15k grant and £1k travel support as well as a free hot desk in central Belfast location.

Participating tech companies also value the £250,000 credits to use with providers such as Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud Platform, Digital Ocean, GitHub, SendGrid, Nexmo, Autopilot, Pipedrive, Stripe.

Successful alumni from healthcare area include [medall.org](http://medall.org)



## Open to

Northern Ireland start-ups

## Organisation Partners/Owners

Ignite NI



## Contact info

The Ormeau Baths,  
18 Ormeau Avenue,  
Belfast, County Antrim

[igniteNI.com](http://igniteNI.com)

# IMAGINE IF!



[inno-forum.org/accelerator](http://inno-forum.org/accelerator)

IMAGINE IF! provides early-stage science startups with extensive opportunities: tailored mentorship, the potential to secure non-dilutive capital, free advice from leading professional service companies and rapid networking across the Innovation Forum's platform.

A Team is composed of between two and seven members that have together raised less than \$300,000 USD (or the equivalent in local currency) within the last 18 months to fund the progress of the idea that is submitted to the IMAGINE IF! Accelerator.

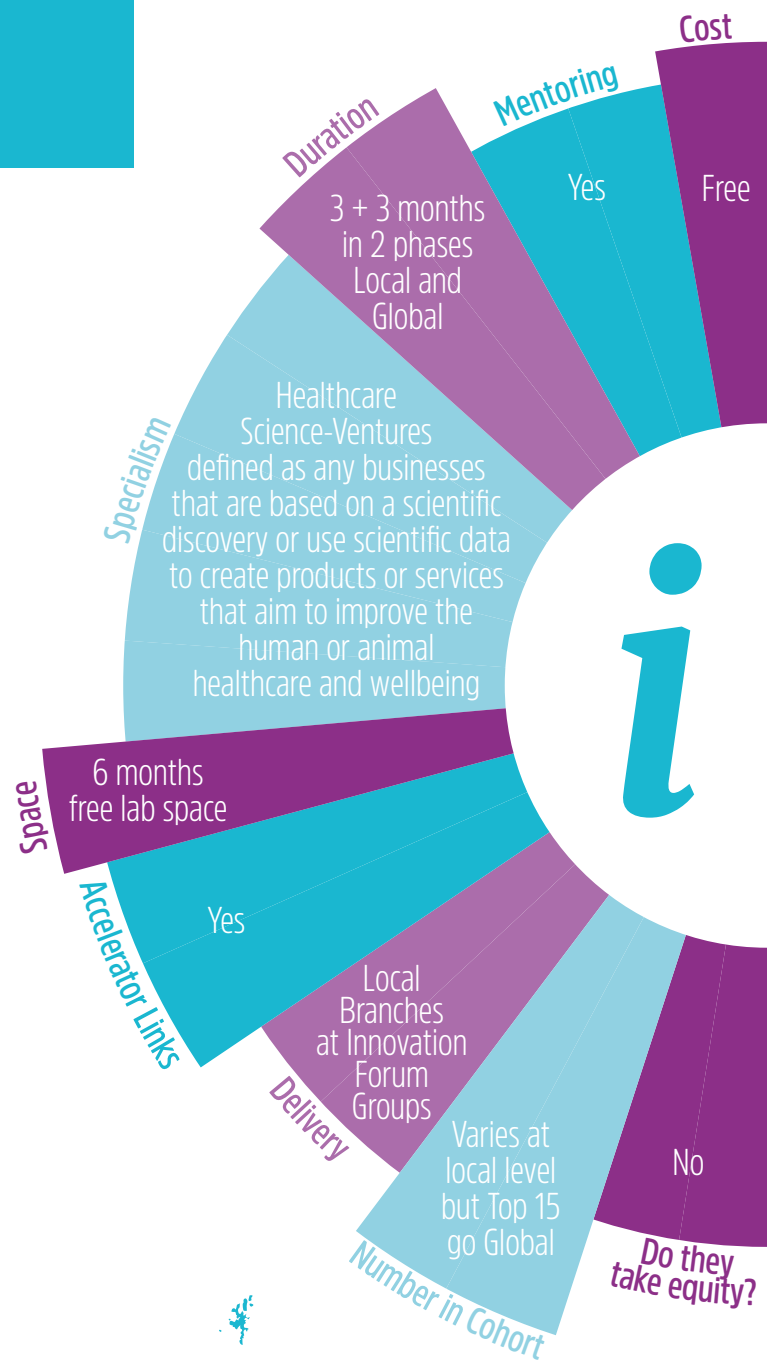
The programme is in two phases. The first is working at local level, improving and revising your pitch and plan. The top 10 from each local area progress to the finals and successful healthcare companies progress to the Global phase. Here the top 15 companies compete for cash prize to further their R&D.

## Open to

Teams of 2-7 people who have raised less than \$300k in the past 18 months.

## Organisation Partners/Owners

Global Innovation Forum Limited



## Contact info

Global Innovation Forum Limited, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson among others. Locations: Cambridge, London, Oxford and Stevenage  
 Future Business Centre, Kings Hedges Rd, Cambridge CB4 2HY  
 United Kingdom

[inno-forum.org/accelerator](http://inno-forum.org/accelerator)

# We Are Pioneer Group Pre-Accelerator

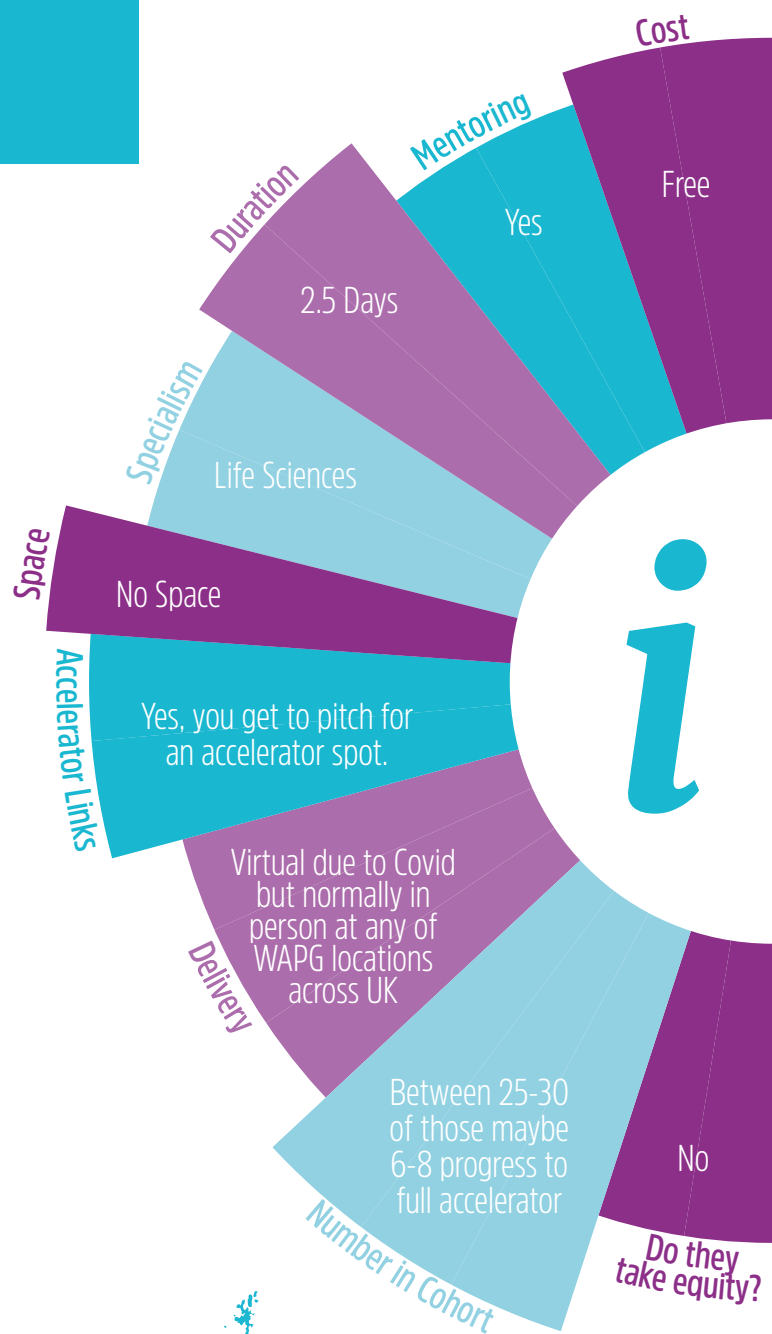
**WAPG**  
We Are Pioneer Group

[biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes](http://biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes)

The We Are Pioneer Group is the result of the recent merger between BioCity, Harrison Street Real Estate Capital and Trinity Investment Management to create the UK's largest network of science and tech-focused business providing a complete innovation eco-system.

Applicants start with a 2.5 day Pre-Accelerator Workshop, during which coaches introduce the key entrepreneurial techniques needed to scrutinise and develop new businesses. Entrepreneurs then have four weeks to use the tools, techniques and methods learnt, to undertake rigorous customer discovery to work on their idea and shape their business model.

If successful then companies will be invited to join the follow-on 8 week Accelerator programme.



## Open to

UK Entrepreneurs

## Organisation Partners/Owners

We are Pioneer Group



PHOTO CREDITS:  
We Are Pioneer Group



## Contact info

Nottingham Biocity  
Pennyfoot Street,  
Nottingham NG1 1GF

[biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes](http://biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes)

# Accelerators

This is often a middle stage of company start-up development. Accelerators help entrepreneurs to shape their idea into a full business plan and get ready for achieving investor interest and securing funding for getting into operations.

## Case Study:

Accelerator Case Study: NHS Innovation	14
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## Some of the best for Life Sciences in the UK are:

NHS Innovation Accelerator	14
We Are Pioneer Group Business Accelerator Programme (run at 10 We are Pioneer sites)	17
CARB-X Accelerator	18
Entrepreneur First	19
IGNITE NI	20
P4 Precision Medicine Accelerator Programme	21
Start Codon: The Life Sciences Accelerator	22
Accelerate@Babraham	23
Pathfinder	24

## Other interesting sites:

Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst	25
The Antibiotic Discovery Accelerator Network (ABX)	25

FOCUS ON ACCELERATORS:

# NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA)

PAGE 1

When you are setting out on the journey of creating a company, especially one in the Life Sciences area, getting off to a solid, speedy start can make the difference between success and failure.

Start-up accelerators support early-stage, growth-driven companies through education, mentorship, and financing. Start-ups enter accelerators, often hot-desking in a specific location so they can work together with mentors and fellow cohort participants, for a fixed-period of time.

Generally, the accelerator experience is a process of intense, rapid, and immersive education aimed at accelerating the life cycle of young innovative companies, compressing years' worth of learning-by-doing into just a few months. Programme lengths can vary from several weeks up-to 12 months. The We Are Pioneer Group led programme or Accelerate@Babraham are great examples of this, but healthcare can be a different market and sometimes a different approach is required.

## NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA)

Established in 2015 by UCL Partners in partnership with NHS England, Network of Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs), the NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA) is an accelerator for well-established young companies involved in the wellbeing and health sector.

It supports exceptional individuals ('Fellows') with a passion for and commitment to scaling their innovations for greater patient and population benefit, and for sharing their learning, insight and expertise widely. It is focused on medical product and service companies.

An international call is launched annually. Each cohort is 25 in size, and companies show how their innovations, products or services can be valuable to the NHS (National Health Service) as a health service and are ready to scale. The next call will open in late Summer 2021.

Participants, referred to as 'Fellows' can be clinicians, academics, from industry (SMEs or large corporates), or from charitable and not-for-profit organisations. They are looking for the best from the widest range of sources.

NHS Innovation Accelerator

[nhsaccelerator.com](https://nhsaccelerator.com)

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**ACCELERATORS**

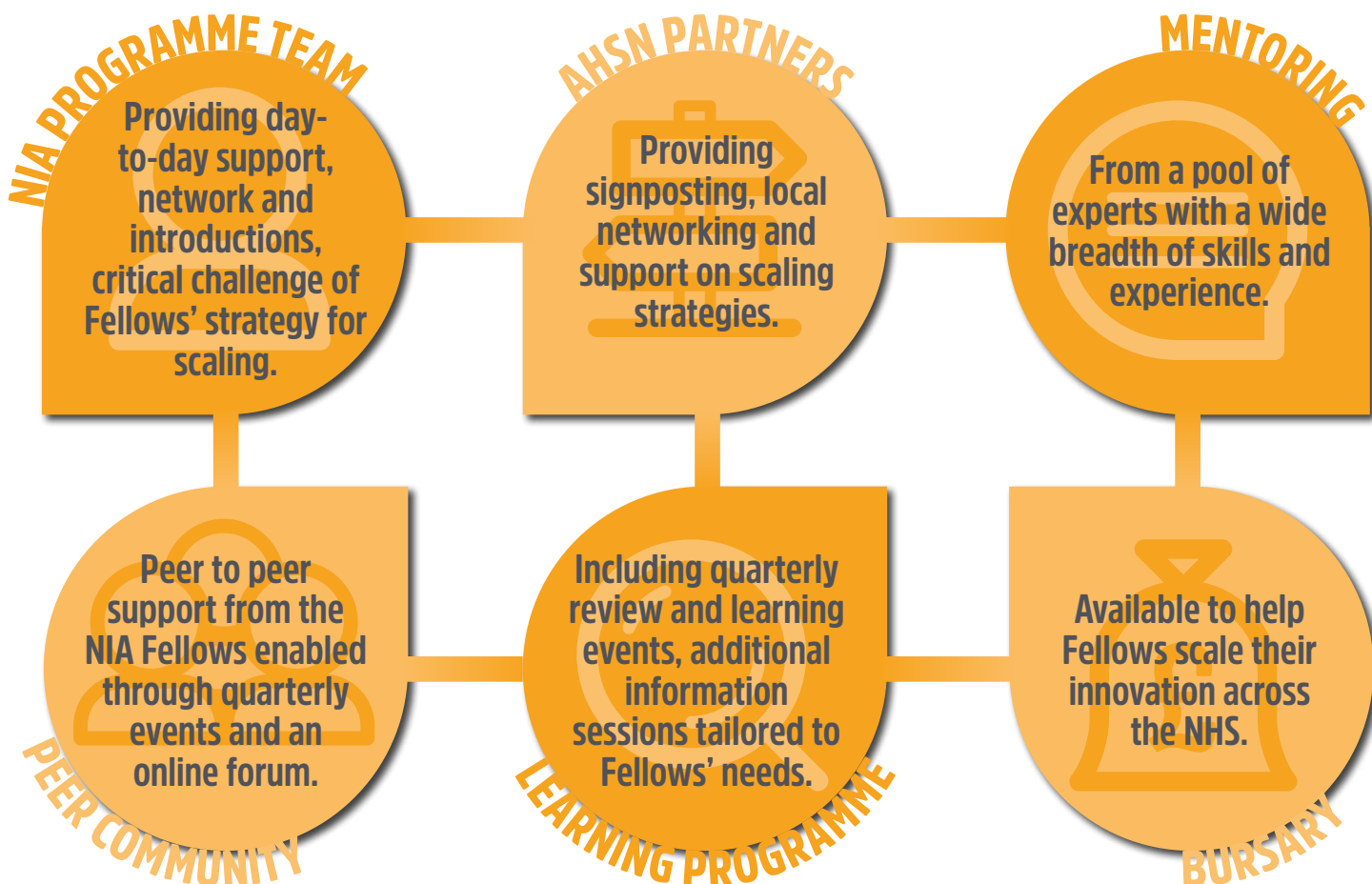
## Support for Fellows and Innovations

The support offer includes access to mentorship from a range of experts and high-profile mentors ([nhsaccelerator.com/accelerator/what-the-nia-offers/mentors](http://nhsaccelerator.com/accelerator/what-the-nia-offers/mentors)), links with AHSNs ([nhsaccelerator.com/accelerator/partners](http://nhsaccelerator.com/accelerator/partners)), peer-to-peer learning and support, a dedicated learning programme, presentation and networking opportunities, and access to a bursary.

Each Fellow is provided with a tailor-made learning programme, to enable their innovation to be able to scale within the NHS. The process can take up to 3 years requiring a 2 day per week commitment. For some Fellows, this will be part of their normal day jobs – where scaling their innovation is their everyday business. For others, particularly those who are based in clinical roles, it might mean setting aside time for the completion of a different set of tasks. This could range from building a compelling business case for intended purchasers, developing and executing a stakeholder engagement and marketing plan, building a network, developing a health economic case, presenting to target purchasers, and so on.

Currently 35 innovations are being supported ranging across diagnosis, patient care, data and wellness.

NIA Fellows receive support through the following mechanisms:





## NIA Selection process

Innovations selected for the NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA) undergo a robust, competitive and multi-stage assessment process before joining the programme.

They are required to:

- Have demonstrated in practice significantly greater quality outcomes for significantly lower cost;
- Have reached a specific phase of maturity; i.e. demonstrates that it has been developed with the extensive involvement of users, is supported by a robust evidence base and is ready to be diffused widely across the NHS;
- Have satisfied all necessary regulatory, intellectual property and ethical frameworks.

This selection process involves an expert group of over 100 assessors – including patients, clinicians, commercial directors, improvement directors, information governance leads, etc. from a wide range of organisations including:

- NHS England and NHS Improvement: [england.nhs.uk](http://england.nhs.uk)
- NHS Digital: [digital.nhs.uk](http://digital.nhs.uk)
- AHSNs (Academic Health Science Networks): [ahsnnetwork.com/](http://ahsnnetwork.com/)
- NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence): [nice.org.uk](http://nice.org.uk)
- The Health Foundation: [health.org.uk](http://health.org.uk)

The Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs) are uniquely placed to identify and spread health innovation at pace and scale; driving the adoption and spread of innovative ideas and technologies across large populations. There are 15 across the country: [ahsnnetwork.com](http://ahsnnetwork.com)

**“The NIA is providing bespoke support to some of the most exciting health innovators in the UK; this is why we’re so proud of the work the NIA has been doing.”**

BARONESS NICOLA BLACKWOOD,  
FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE, HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



### Application Screening and Assessment

All applications are reviewed by at least 5 assessors across a range of perspectives. These are scored based on the individual, the innovation and the scaling strategy.



### Nice Review

Applications shortlisted by an expert panel for interview are informally reviewed by NICE, and also by NHS England and NHS Improvement.



### Interview

Interview panels comprise a range of expertise, including clinical, commercial and patient. The panel recommends whether an applicant should be invited to join the NIA.



### Selection

Recommendations are presented to a final decision-making group made up of the NIA Programme Board chaired by Professor Stephen Powis, and again to NHSE/I.



### Due Diligence

Successful applicants are offered a conditional place on the NIA subject to a due diligence process, which includes regulatory compliance and information governance.

# The We Are Pioneer Group Business Accelerator Programme

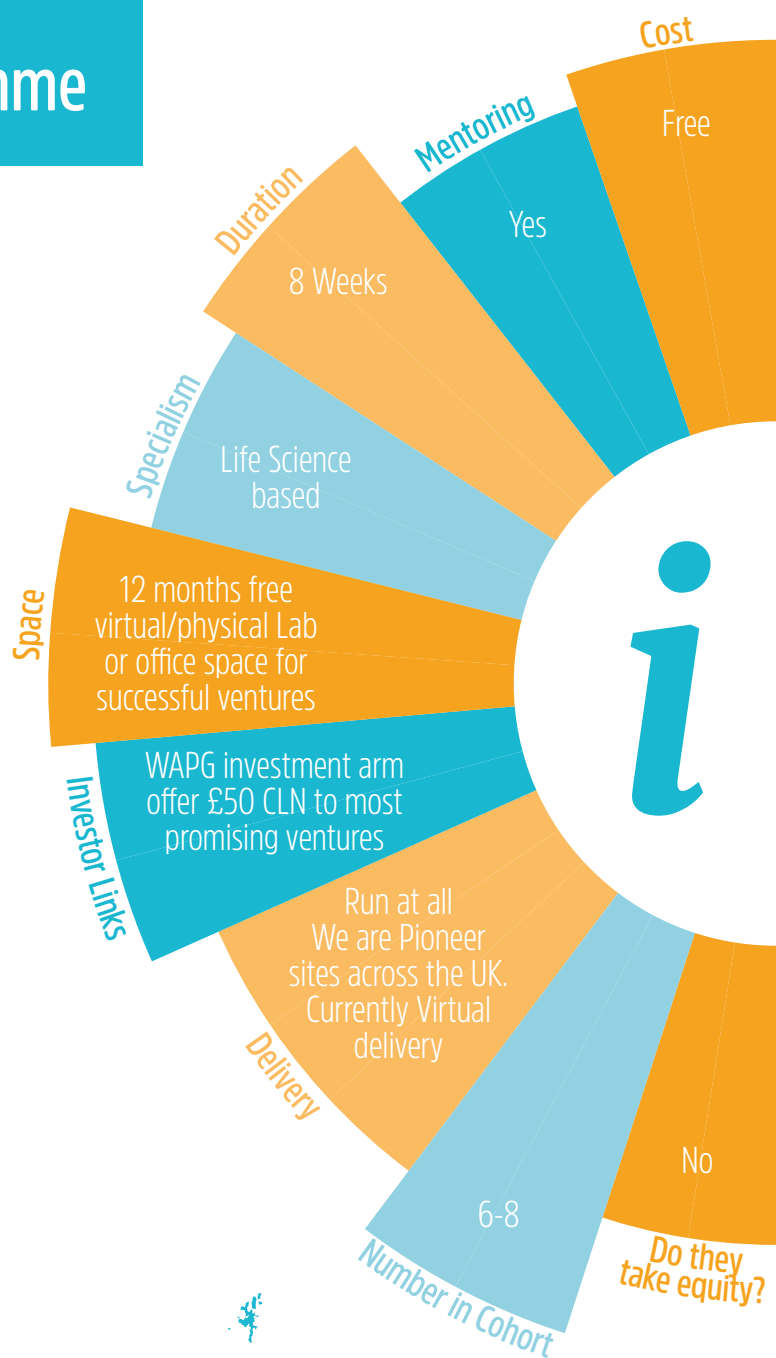
**WAPG**  
We Are Pioneer Group

[biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes](http://biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes)

An 8 week business accelerator programme specifically for life science entrepreneurs, based upon the 'Lean Start-Up' methodology and evidence-based entrepreneurship. There are weekly half-day sessions, complemented by activities and mentoring from coaches assigned to each participating company.

Not just for start-ups and spin-outs, the We Are Pioneer Group Business Accelerator Programme works with entrepreneurs at every stage from idea to exit to help businesses launch, grow and scale.

The We Are Pioneer Group Accelerator gives you will have a direct route to investment, pitching to investors on our expert panels, with the opportunity for the most promising ventures to go live on the WAPG co-investment platform.



## Open to

UK based life sciences companies successful at their pre-accelerator screening and assessment.

## Organisation Partners/Owners

We are Pioneer Group



PHOTOS:  
WE ARE PIONEER GROUP



## Contact info

Nottingham Biocity  
Pennyfoot Street,  
Nottingham NG1 1GF

[biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes](http://biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes)

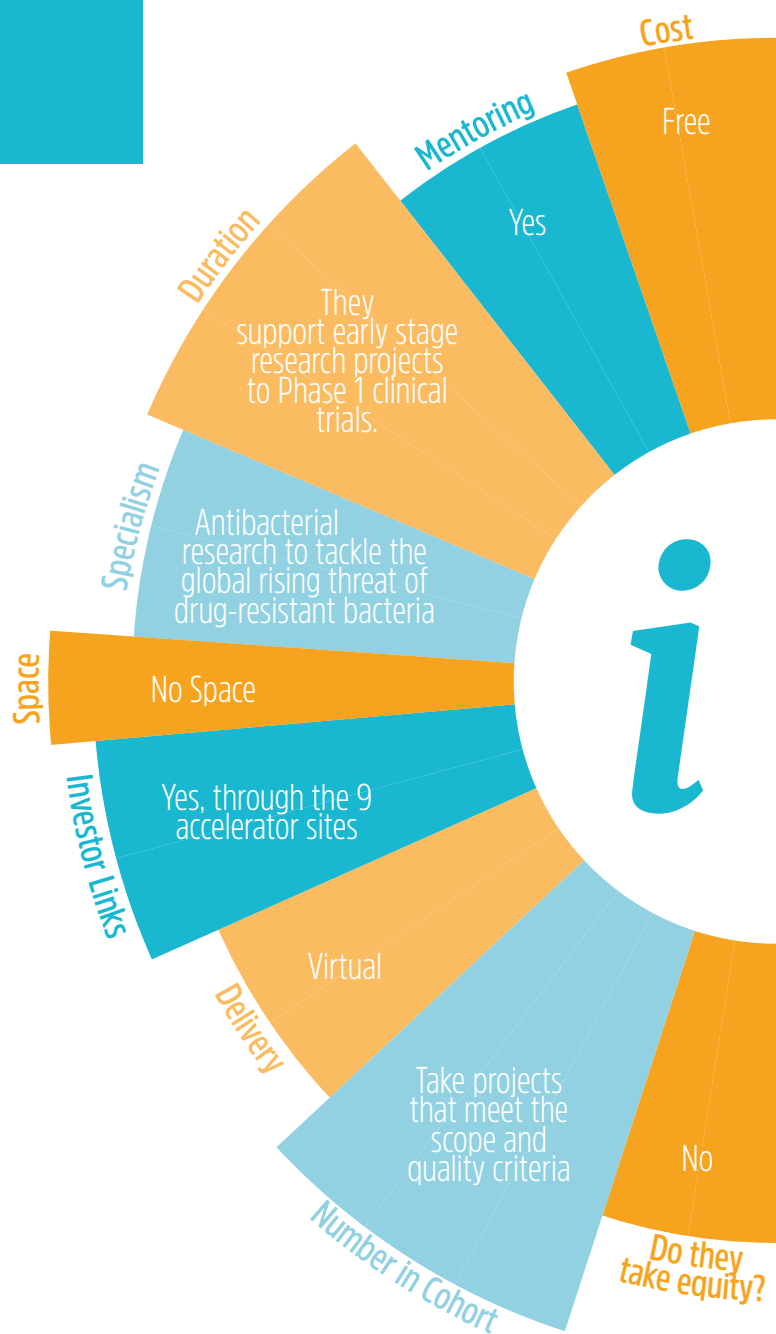
# CARB-X Accelerator

## CARB-X

Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

[carb-x.org/about/overview](http://carb-x.org/about/overview)

A virtual, international and very specific market focussed accelerator the Anti-Biotic Resistance, the Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator (CARB-X) is a global non-profit partnership dedicated to accelerating antibacterial research to tackle the global rising threat of drug-resistant bacteria. CARB-X provides scientific and business support to accelerate the development of products focused on the most serious drug-resistant bacteria identified by the WHO and CDC. The goal is to support them through the early stages of product development and Phase 1 so they can attract private or public investment for further clinical stage development.



### Open to

All around the world

### Organisation Partners/Owners

US Department of Health and Human Services Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Wellcome Trust, a global charity based in the UK working to improve health globally, Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the UK Government's Global Antimicrobial Resistance Innovation Fund (UK GAMRIF), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,



### Contact info

Boston University School of Law  
771e Commonwealth Avenue,  
Boston, MA 02215, United States

[carb-x@bu.edu](mailto:carb-x@bu.edu)

[carb-x.org/about/overview](http://carb-x.org/about/overview)

# Entrepreneur First



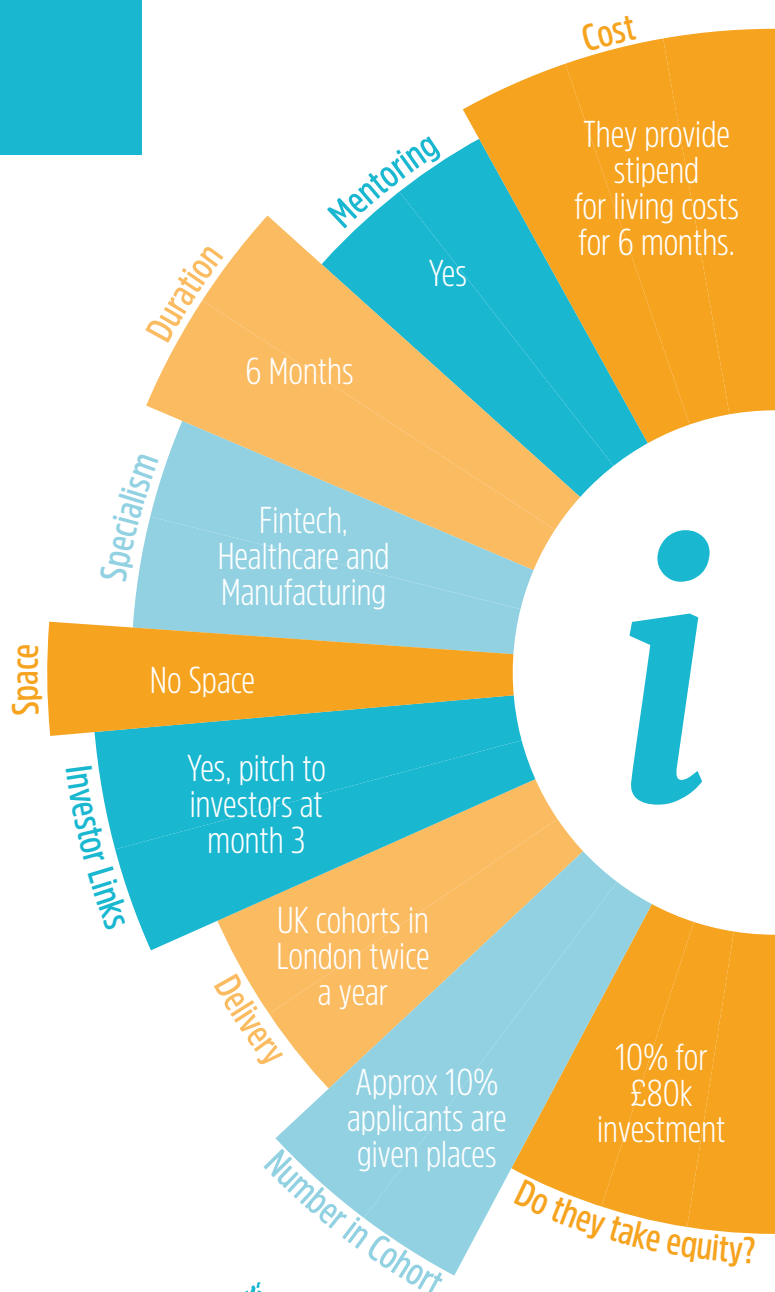
**ENTREPRENEUR FIRST**  
**JOINEF.COM**

[joinef.com](http://joinef.com)

If you have an idea and are keen to move it forward rapidly this is an accelerator programme that could work for you. It aims to upskill participants rapidly whilst also partnering them with potential senior business partners.

Each cohort kicks off with an intensive week bootcamp, and after after 3 months, you'll present your company to the Investment Committee to receive more funding. About 40-50% of the cohort make it to this stage. If your company is accepted, you'll spend 3 months developing your company, before pitching to hundreds of investors at Demo Day.

Cohorts run in London twice a year, with between 50 and 100 prospective founders taking part. The London companies are building across a huge range of sectors, including fintech, healthcare and manufacturing.



## Open to

Impatient entrepreneurs with ideas needing to partner with potential CEO and CTO's

## Organisation Partners/Owners

Entrepreneur First Investment Manager LLP

## Contact info

Entrepreneur First is based in London, Singapore, Toronto, Bangalore, Paris and Berlin.

London Campus, 100 Drummond Rd, Bermondsey, London SE16 4DG, UK

[joinef.com](http://joinef.com)



# Ignite NI



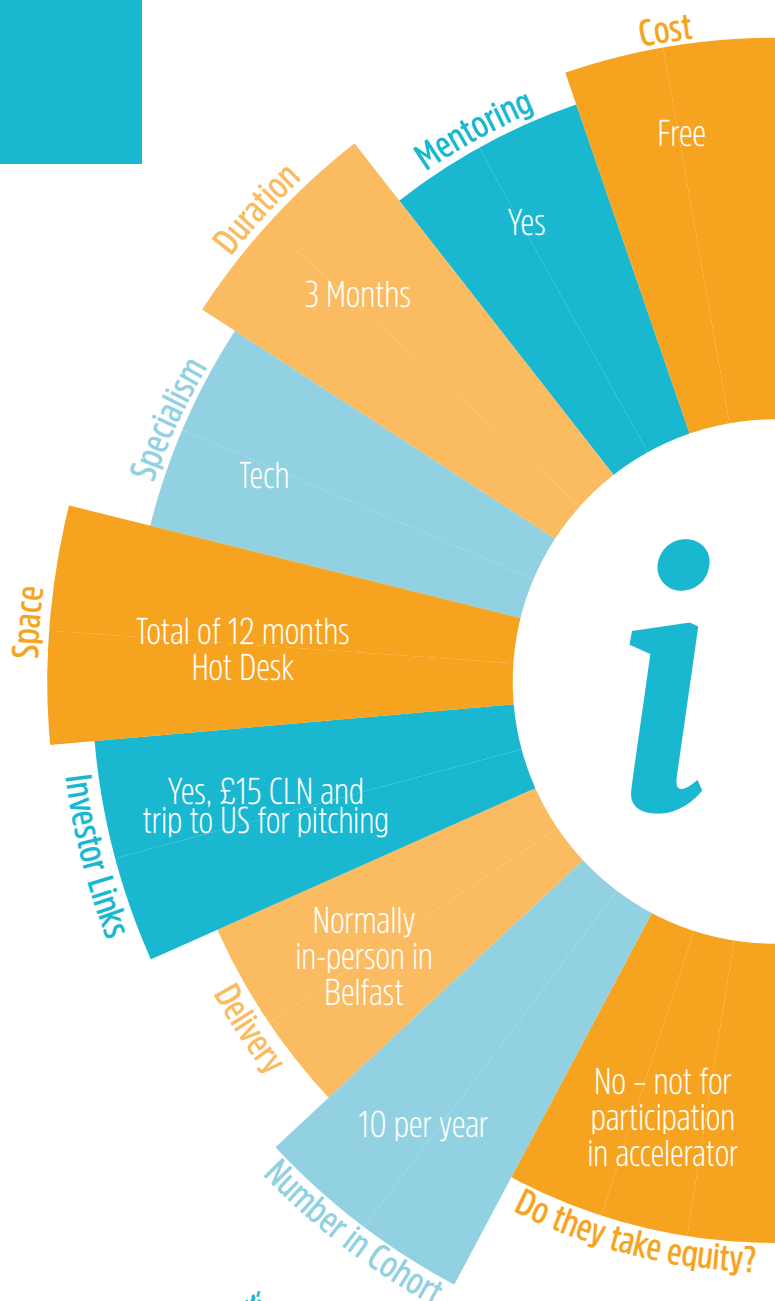
[igniteNI.com](http://igniteNI.com)

This is a natural follow-on from the Propel Pre-Accelerator, lasting 3 months and preparing companies for obtaining seed investment.

Over \$15M has been successfully raised as a result of the programme in the last 3 years. Ignite NI support companies up to the point where their model and metrics are in a highly investable state. Teams are given a large amount of exposure to investors.

Ignite NI run a series of events, introducing company CEOs to the most active early stage angels and VCs from across the UK and Europe such as Passion Capital, Balderton, Techstars, 500 Startups, DN Capital, Forward Partners, ADV, Northstar, Backed.vc, Episode 1 and ProFounders.

Up to 5 accelerator graduates will be offered an additional 3 months support to set up base in San Francisco.



## Open to

companies outside NI

## Organisation Partners/Owners

Ignite NI

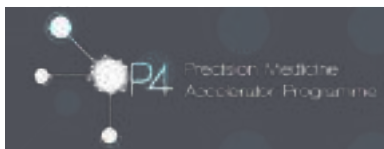


## Contact info

The Ormeau Baths,  
18 Ormeau Avenue,  
Belfast, County Antrim

[igniteNI.com](http://igniteNI.com)

# P4 Precision Medicine Accelerator Programme



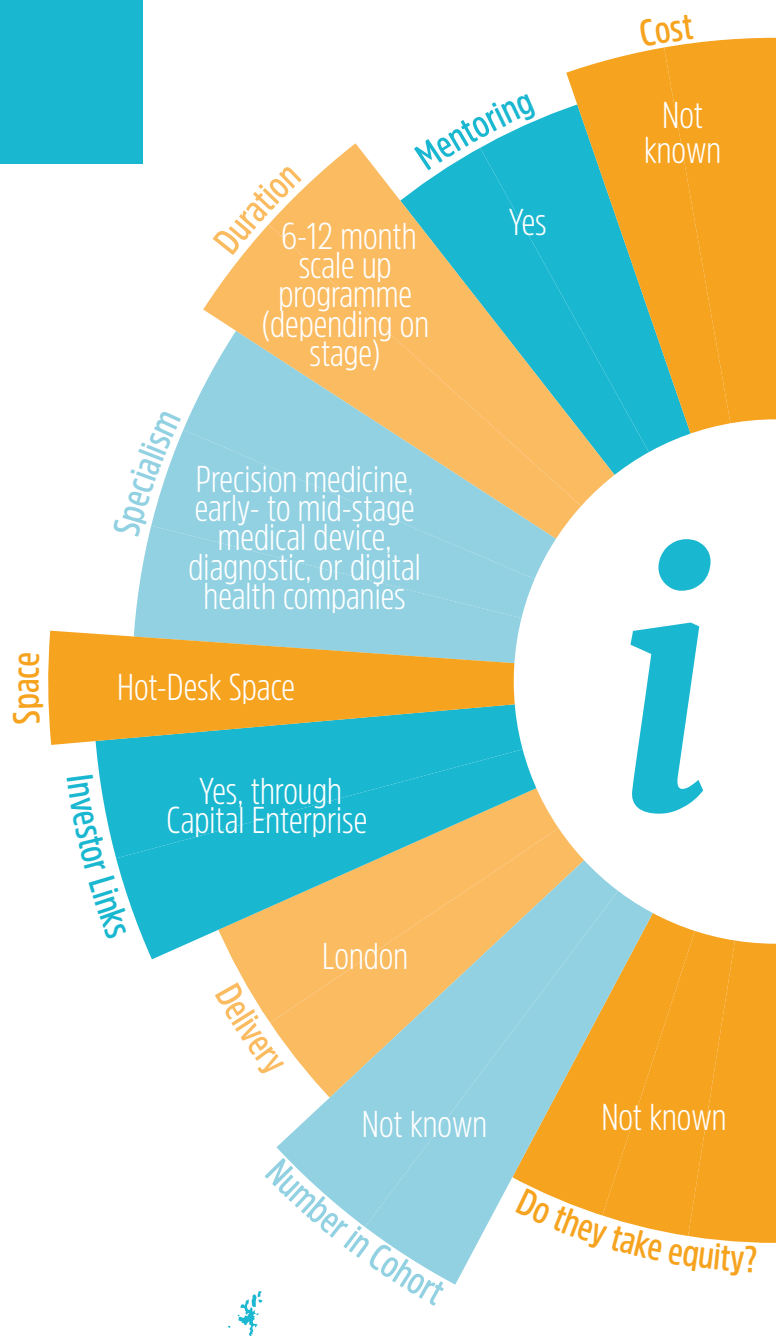
[p4precisionmedicine.co.uk](http://p4precisionmedicine.co.uk)

The programme is led by Professor Phil Beales Chair of the UCL Institute of Precision Medicine, Professor of Medical and Molecular Genetics at the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health and UCLPartners. It seeks the world's leading Precision Medicine startups to support through development, regulation, investment, adoption and scale to UK and international markets to innovate and advance the healthcare landscape. The programme curates an ecosystem of physical space and specialist to support Precision Medicine innovations to develop research into world leading technology, support to gain regulatory approval and adoption not only to the UK healthcare system but scale internationally.

This is a 6-12 month scale up programme connecting you with academia, industry and the healthcare sectors to create a clear innovation pathway.

Open to every company within precision medicine to apply:

- Be data-driven including data scientist involvement and use of AI;
- Be able to demonstrate their route to market with a time-frame of 12 - 18 months;
- Show team credibility (at least 3 members with complimentary and relevant expertise).



## Open to

Every Data focussed company within precision medicine who have already achieved SEED funding but not yet at Series B.

## Organisation Partners/Owners

IDEALondon  
[idealondon.co.uk/innovation/](http://idealondon.co.uk/innovation/)



## Contact info

69 Wilson Street,  
London EC2A 2BB

[p4precisionmedicine.co.uk](http://p4precisionmedicine.co.uk)

# Start Codon: The Life Sciences Accelerator

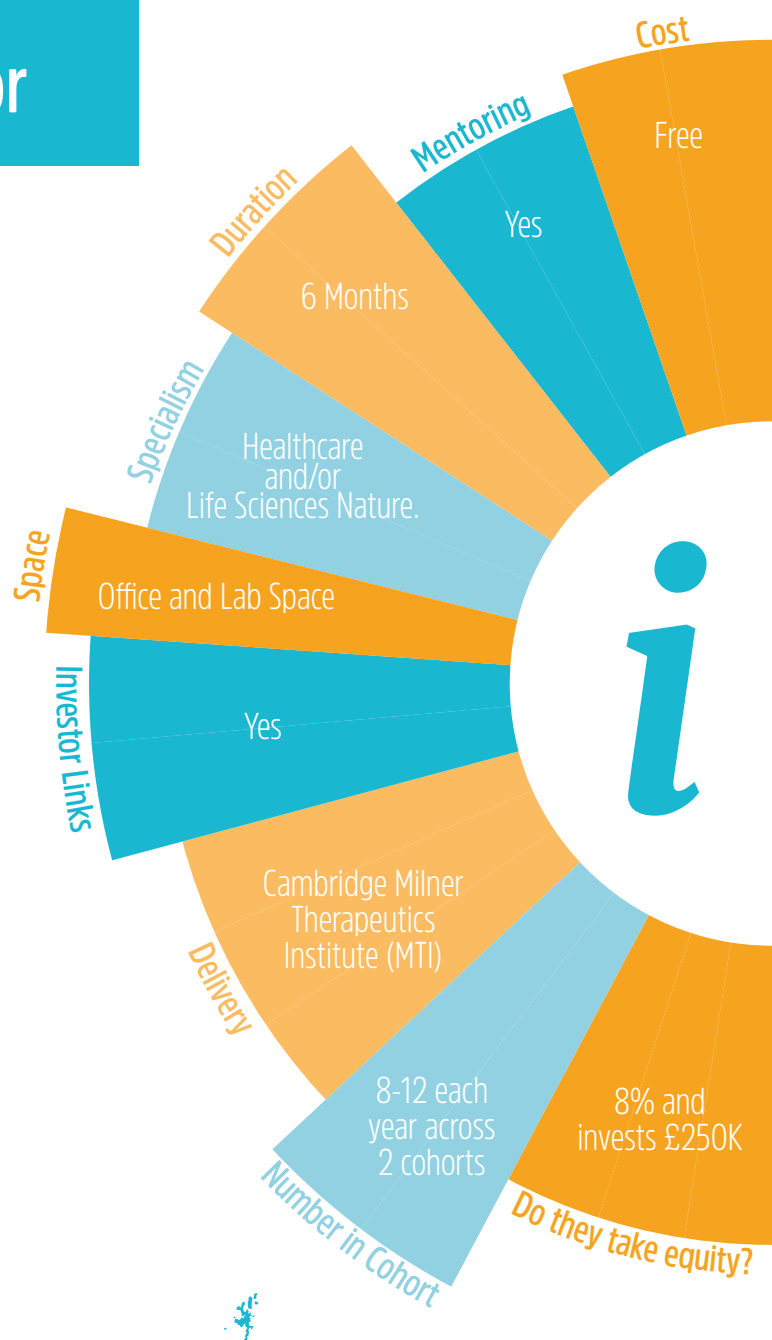


[startcodon.co](http://startcodon.co)

Located in the heart of Cambridge, UK, aims to provide a world-class life science accelerator that offers significant funding and support to rapidly translate the most disruptive and innovative research into successful start-up companies.

Each of the cohort companies receives £250k seed funding to enable essential proof-of-concept experiments to be performed and to equip their teams with the skills and resources they need to succeed and secure series A financing.

The dedicated and experienced management team works hand-in-hand with founders and runs a comprehensive, 6-month programme that is tailored to the individual needs of each company. This includes access to state-of-the-art office and lab facilities mentorship, and introductions to our network of venture capital strategic investors.



## Open to

Early stage start-up companies in the life sciences and healthcare space registered in England/Wales, with minimum 2 team members.

## Organisation Partners/Owners

Cambridge Innovation Capital, Babraham Research Campus through Babraham Bioscience Technologies, Genentech, a member of the Roche Group, Dr Jonathan Milner and Dr Ian Tomlinson.

## Contact info

Start Codon

Cambridge Biomedical Innovation Hub,  
Clifford Allbutt Building,  
Hills Road, Cambridge  
PE27 5JY, UK

[startcodon.co](http://startcodon.co)



# Accelerate@Babraham

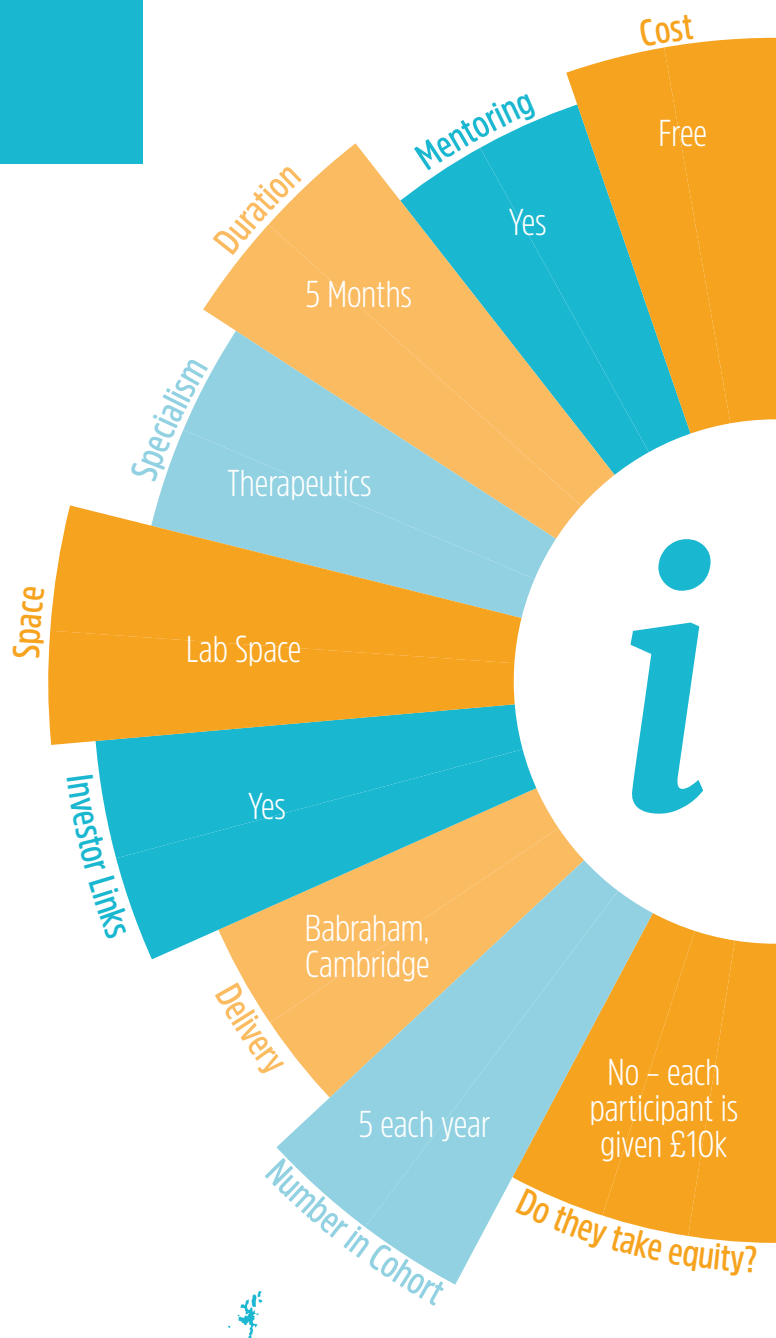


[accelerateatbabraham.com](http://accelerateatbabraham.com)

5 Life Science Start-ups selected through a competitive and rigorous selection process to then have access to lab space at the Babraham Institute and £10,000 prize money to spend on developing their idea.

Weekly seminars, workshops and 1-2-1 mentoring help hone their idea, polish their commercial proposition, develop their company structure and deliver a compelling investor pitch time after time. Contacts made during this process are often career-long connections. The programme is supported by many local companies including Astra-Zeneca, Eisai, Kidney Research UK and LifeArc.

The Babraham Research Campus is recognised as one of the best places to start and scale-up a life science business in Europe. The unique co-location of the world-renowned Babraham Institute alongside over 60 commercial science organisations has created an exciting, dynamic and collaborative ecosystem dedicated to supporting and nurturing life science enterprise at all levels.



## Open to

Life Science Start-Ups

## Organisation Partners/Owners

Babraham Research Campus

## Contact info

Babraham Bioscience  
Technologies Ltd

Babraham Research Campus,  
Cambridge, CB22 3AT,  
United Kingdom

[accelerateatbabraham.com](http://accelerateatbabraham.com)





# Pathfinder



[hie.co.uk/support/browse-all-support-services/pathfinder-accelerator](http://hie.co.uk/support/browse-all-support-services/pathfinder-accelerator)

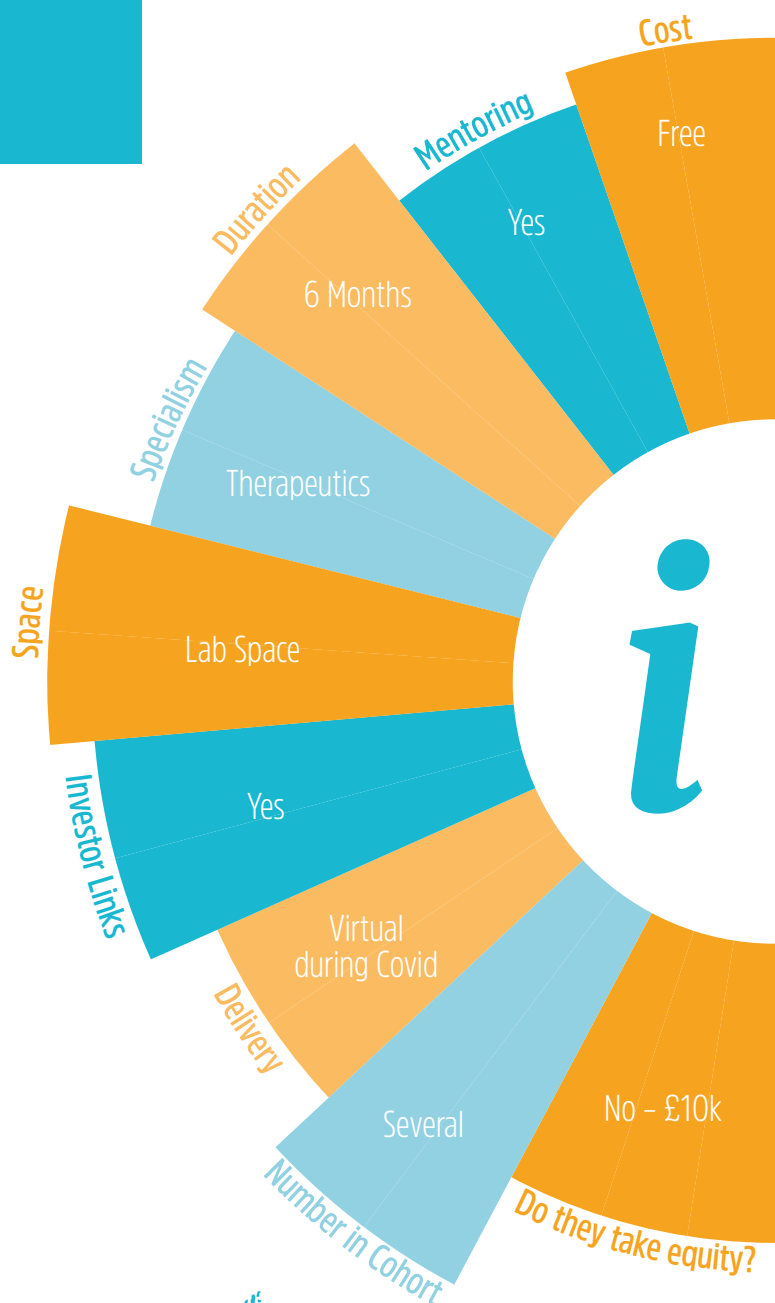
Pathfinder is a fully funded opportunity for entrepreneurs to accelerate their new product or business in only six months, delivered on line with access to 24/7 access to learning content. Participants will be taught practical tools and techniques to interrogate their idea, plan for opportunities and optimise for marketplace success. To help you execute their idea, Pathfinder delegates are coached directly by experts across a range of disciplines including new product development, innovation, business strategy, finance, investment and more. The programme includes a 'Dragon's Den' style pitching session in front of real investors in a safe environment to help to you prepare for just about anything in the commercial world.

Training and mentoring is done through group sessions, masterclasses and 1-2-1 coaching by business experts and investors across a range of disciplines.

Networking opportunities are provided through connect with funders, investors and other key contacts. Form a lifelong bond with other entrepreneurs who are on the same journey.

Pathfinder is a support programme delivered through the Northern Innovation Hub, designed to build on and accelerate business innovation.

It is funded through the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal - a joint initiative supported by £315m investment from the UK and Scottish governments, The Highland Council, HIE and University of the Highlands and Islands. This programme also receives financial support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Innovation strategic intervention.



## Open to

Technology, Life Sciences, IT, Healthcare, Engineering, or Aquaculture.

## Organisation Partners/Owners

Highlands and Islands Enterprise

## Contact info

An Lòchran  
10 Inverness Campus, Inverness  
IV2 5NA Scotland  
0300 303 0660

[hie.co.uk/support/browse-all-support-services/pathfinder-accelerator](http://hie.co.uk/support/browse-all-support-services/pathfinder-accelerator)



# Other Relevant Networks

## Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst

### [StevenageCatalyst.com](http://StevenageCatalyst.com)

Is a leading location for companies to develop and commercialise cutting edge therapeutics.

The campus is home to major organisations including GSK, the Cell and Gene Therapy Manufacturing Catapult, LifeArc and Cytiva alongside a growing cluster of start-up companies which together have raised £1.6bn in funding.

Located within the golden triangle and the academic centres of London, Cambridge and Oxford, SBC is ideally positioned for the translation and scale-up of cutting edge innovation.



### Contact info

Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst  
 Gunnels Wood Road,  
 Stevenage, Herts  
 SG1 2FX, United Kingdom

[StevenageCatalyst.com](http://StevenageCatalyst.com)

## The Antibiotic Discovery Accelerator Network (ABX)

### [plymouth.ac.uk/research/biomedical-research-group/abx](http://plymouth.ac.uk/research/biomedical-research-group/abx)

An initiative for researchers engaged in antibiotic discovery and aims to encourage sharing of expertise and the development of new collaborations. The University of Plymouth has funded the initiative for 18 months, with the prospect of seeking additional future funding from UKRI or other relevant organisations to continue and expand the network activities.

The ABX initiative is being led by early career researchers, whose aim is to bring together researchers in the field to identify gaps in the antibiotics discovery pipeline and provide solutions to the bottlenecks that impede the discovery of novel compounds.



### Contact info

University of Plymouth  
 Plymouth, Devon PL4 8AA  
 United Kingdom

[plymouth.ac.uk/research/biomedical-research-group/abx](http://plymouth.ac.uk/research/biomedical-research-group/abx)

# Incubators

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# Overview

Across the UK there are currently 205 incubators, 163 accelerators, 11 pre-accelerators, 7 virtual accelerators and 4 virtual incubators active in the UK<sup>1</sup>. Approximately 25% of them accommodate Life Sciences companies.

The UK life sciences industry employs 256,100 people in 6,300 businesses and generates a turnover of £80.7bn<sup>2</sup>. 82% of the businesses in the industry are SMEs; these employ 24% of the industry total and generate 10% of the turnover. The Core Biopharma sector has a higher percentage of non-SME businesses at 31% compared to 18-19% for all other sectors. The Top 25 Global Pharmaceutical companies with activity in the UK (and are non-SMEs) employ 58% of the Core Biopharma sector.

Historically Science Parks were property development businesses providing locations and premises as shells for companies to move into geographically located close to universities to promote collaboration with researchers. Today that definition has expanded, and it is recognised that having easy to migrate facilities from early-stage through to global corporation is better for a life sciences cluster to develop and thrive<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/955469/business-incubators-accelerators-uk-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955469/business-incubators-accelerators-uk-report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/910590/Bioscience\\_and\\_Health\\_Technology\\_Statistics\\_2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910590/Bioscience_and_Health_Technology_Statistics_2019.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-94-011-5074-3\\_5](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-94-011-5074-3_5)



# Key Terminology

## Info on the terms used

**Wet Lab:** A wet lab is one where drugs, chemicals, and other types of biological matter can be analyzed and tested by using various liquids.

**Dry Lab:** a dry lab environment focuses more on applied or computational mathematical analyses via the creation of computer-generated models or simulations.

**Co-working Spaces:** Some incubators have large laboratories that are shared between start-up companies. This can be beneficial for organic sharing of knowledge and skills.

**Biology Labs:** (Cat 1 and Cat 2) Biosafety Level 2 would cover work with agents associated with human disease, in other words, pathogenic or infectious organisms posing a moderate hazard. Examples are the equine encephalitis viruses and HIV when performing routine diagnostic procedures or work with clinical specimens.<sup>4</sup> Anything above Level 2 is unlikely to be available in an incubator.

**Shared Lab facilities:** Some incubators provide access to shared equipment and services such as Autoclave, Glass washing, Gases, Hazard waste, Tissue Culturing, Freezers, and Microscopes etc. Details for each facility will vary.

**Hot Desks/Virtual Presence:** Desk space and access to meeting rooms.

**Meeting rooms:** Varying sized rooms for meetings with internal and external partners.

**Write-Up/office space:** Space for scientists to think away from the lab, not always part of the main laboratory work area.

**Mentoring:** Incubators which have business professionals on their team who are there to assist, advice and guide start-ups often have the best success rates for company longevity and success with funding.

**Networking Events:** Incubators with a programme of events and seminars can offering their tenants a chance to get to know each other, facilitating collaborations, and also to get to know the wider life sciences and healthcare industry.

**Grant Funding Support:** Different across the UK, in England incubators with access to funding support from Local Enterprise Partnerships, or Growth Hubs, can be very useful. In Northern Ireland this comes from InvestNI, in Scotland the support is from Business Gateway and Scottish Enterprise; and in Wales, Business Wales.

**Investor:** Some of the incubators have involvement and active interest from Investor Groups and regularly host pitching opportunities.

**Growing a business in a technical or life sciences field takes money. Incubator sites that have a close partnership with investors that have already knowledge of the market, and who have a stated interest in investing in your market sector can be a huge advantage in raising funds to keep your business moving forwards towards product development and market launch.**

<sup>4</sup> [labmanager.com/lab-health-and-safety/biosafety-levels-1-2-3-4-19123](https://labmanager.com/lab-health-and-safety/biosafety-levels-1-2-3-4-19123)

# Incubators for Life Sciences

The best incubator facilities provide an excellent environment for start-up companies.

They can provide lab space for working, with access to shared facilities like autoclaves and glass-washing, access to gasses, waste containment locations, so each young company doesn't have to provide all the laboratory infrastructure that they would normally have access to in a university or purpose-built facility. They can allow easy changes to lease to enable companies to expand, or contract, as they need.

They can provide networking and collaborative working opportunities between companies working in the same market sector just by providing opportunities to meet and exchange ideas.

They can provide access to international markets and investors through co-ordinating events where visiting dignitaries come to see the whole site when they wouldn't normally have time or interest in seeing individual small companies.

Incubators where the management team can provide additional help mentoring their tenants are frequently the most successful locations. Here the team can support start-ups to work with local enterprise and public sector support for grants, making sure that they are constantly learning the commercialisation skills they need for success.

Growing a business in a technical or life sciences field takes money. Incubator sites that have a close partnership with investors that have already knowledge of the market, and who have a stated interest in investing in your market sector can be a huge advantage in raising funds to keep your business moving forwards towards product development and market launch.

You can estimate how much space a company might need to get started by working out how many scientists you will need for the first phase of work and then allow a square footage per person at between 18 m<sup>2</sup> and 37m<sup>2</sup> (200 and 400 square feet) depending on the complexity of the requirements.

**management team provides mentoring and support**

**lab space, shared facilities and access to infrastructure**

**networking and collaborative working opportunities**

**local enterprise and public sector support for grants**

**access to international markets and investors**

**close partnerships with investors and mentors**

FOCUS ON INCUBATORS:

# We Are Pioneer Group

(formerly Biocity)

PAGE 1

**WAPG**  
 We Are Pioneer Group  
[biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes/](http://biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes/)

A recent acquisition by Trinity Investment Management of BioCity Group has created 'We are Pioneer Group' (WAPG) and brings together a total of 9 locations across the UK creating the UK's largest network of science and tech-focused businesses.

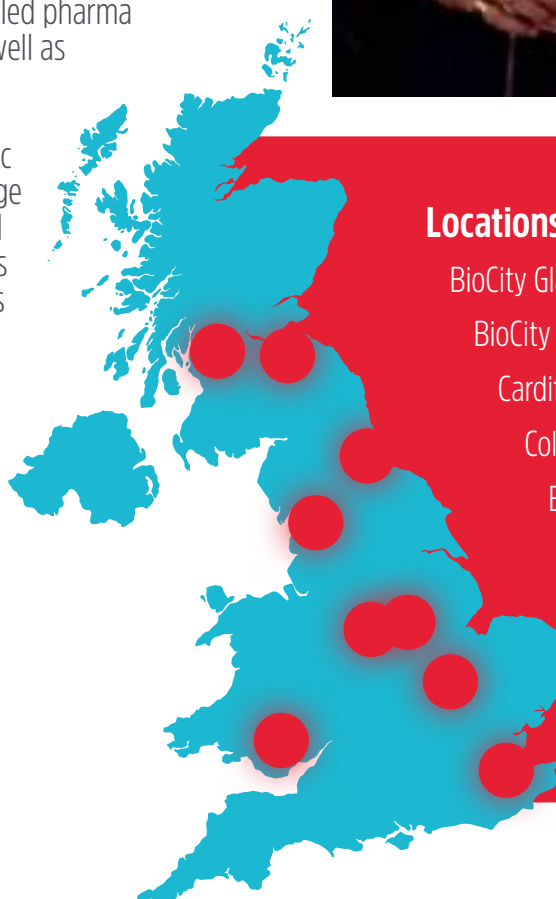
Their philosophy is to surround businesses with people who share a common goal - to help science entrepreneurs tackle global challenges. To help ideas out of the lab and into the world.

WAPG are one of Europe's Top 25 Bioincubator destinations. Focusing on life sciences they provide a complete range of start-up support services from a pre-accelerator, an 8-week accelerator programme and mentoring and support services for start-ups in their incubators.

Founded in 2002 by the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University, WAPG originated in a former BASF Pharma research facility in Nottingham city centre. They opened the first incubator in Nottingham in 2004 and it boasts a survival rate of 91% of the companies it has hosted since then. Now with nine locations across the UK, WAPG organises pitching competitions, trade visits, and roundups of investment opportunities for its members. In the Nottingham and Glasgow locations, the WAPG group also runs MediCity incubators specialising in medical technology startups.

Their incubator locations are predominantly upcycled pharma sites, providing pre-laid out labs for start-ups as well as access to shared equipment such as autoclaves, meeting rooms and conference facilities. Working in professional, purpose designed, industry specific space not only provides cost-savings for early-stage companies, but also locations to impress potential clients, partners and funders. The communal areas provide natural networking opportunities, chances to exchange ideas and encourage clusters of new companies to grow, furthering their own science and supporting each other.

WAPG is more than just a location, they have their own investor arm and take active interest, and sometimes invest in the companies that they have as tenants. Their staff are well connected in their own right, but also work with local authorities and regional funders to ensure that all their tenants gain from as much grant and equity opportunities as are available.



## Locations

- BioCity Glasgow
- BioCity Nottingham
- Cardiff Edge
- Colworth Science Park
- Edinburgh Technopole
- Hexagon Tower
- MediCity Nottingham
- Wilton Centre
- Kent Science Park

**The WAPG Accelerator is designed to help founders to explore the commercial viability of their venture, and support founders to realise the real-world potential of their idea.**

**We work with entrepreneurs creating new medical devices, discovering treatments and building technologies to tackle global health and environmental challenges. With academic and clinical backgrounds, these founders have already developed the science or technology but are not sure about its commercial application.**

**Science start-ups have distinct challenges. For example, how to sell innovation to the NHS and how to secure investment (high capital, slow returns). So, we offer business coaching that is specific to entrepreneurs who are turning science into business. We take contemporary entrepreneurial concepts such as the Lean Start-Up Approach and apply the framework of commercial science.**

**WAPG run Accelerators and scale-up programmes run throughout the UK, both in-house and in partnership with a number of organisations, those who share our goal of supporting life science innovation at a regional level.**

**Over the past five years, we have worked with approximately 150 entrepreneurs, and are continually impressed by the calibre of not only the innovation but the founding teams behind the big ideas, it's an honour to work with these entrepreneurs who have the potential to revolutionize the future of healthcare.**

COLIN ROBERTS, VENTURE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, WAPG.



# We Are Pioneer Group

(formerly Biocity)



**WAPG**  
We Are Pioneer Group  
[biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes/](http://biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes/)

## How WAPG help and support Entrepreneurs

For those who are at the beginning of the process they offer a pre-accelerator programme of workshops. Applicants go through a 2.5 day Pre-Accelerator Workshop, during which coaches introduce the key entrepreneurial techniques needed to scrutinise and develop new businesses. Entrepreneurs then have four weeks to use the tools, techniques and methods learnt, to undertake rigorous customer discovery to work on their idea and shape their business model. Applicants then present their work and pitch for one of the limited places on the WAPG Business Accelerator Programme. Coaches work closely with every pioneer on the programme, so only the most promising ventures will gain a place.

The WAPG Business Accelerator Programme is an intensive eight-week programme specifically designed to help scientific entrepreneurs launch, grow and scale businesses from their science.

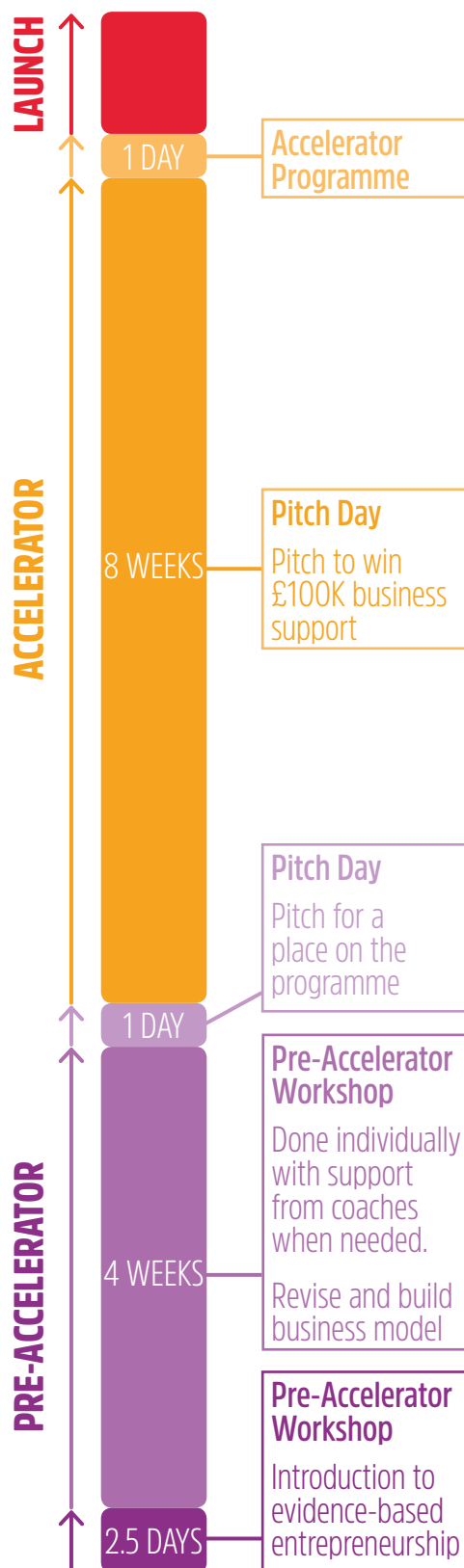
Participants learn how to 'Lean Start-up', using a set of highly effective tools to identify gaps in their business, evaluate risks and create a business model that stands-up to the scrutiny of potential investors, partners and customers. The programme provides opportunities to work with a dedicated coach, to attend workshops or complete activities weekly. These are esteemed figures from the life science world who altruistically give their time as part of the WAPG Expert Network, offering advice and guidance on growth and scaling challenges.

The Accelerator programme gives a direct route to investment, pitching to investors on their expert panels, with the opportunity for the most promising ventures to go live on the WAPG co-investment platform.

**Over the last five years, 144 entrepreneurs have graduated from the WAPG Accelerator with 38 raising a combined total of £42M.**

WAPG is a keen investor in young businesses, specialising in pre-seed and seed funding - [biocity.co.uk/companies](http://biocity.co.uk/companies)  
They are a necessary part of the funding landscape where it can frequently be a challenge to obtain funding.

## Accelerator Programme Timeline



**Sometimes ground-breaking ideas don't make it. There are countless pioneering innovations that never make it out of the lab and into the world, and one of the reasons is money. We created an investment arm specifically for early-stage life science investments that meets the needs of scientific ventures, which funders have traditionally seen as high risk.**

**We're passionate about helping science entrepreneurs who want to affect change and make a difference. We welcome great ideas and big ambitions with the potential for real-world impact. The type of ideas which could solve the health and environmental challenges that affect us all, globally.**

**We make early-stage seed investments to add value to fledgling businesses and to help companies and their founders make it to subsequent funding rounds. Post-investment, we offer continued support and guidance to ensure the venture reaches their next milestones and rounds. As one of our investees put it, "the old adage that it takes a village to raise a child is just as true of growing a business". That support can be making key introductions to influential figures within our networks, managing investor relationships, stakeholder communications, a sounding board for ideas and a reassuring presence with whom leaders can work through the inevitable challenges.**

CLAIRE BROWN, DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT, WAPG.

# We Are Pioneer Group

(formerly Biocity)

**WAPG**  
 We Are Pioneer Group  
[biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes/](http://biocity.co.uk/accelerator-programmes/)

## Who have WAPG supported through this process?

Other therapeutics companies who have been through this process include CHAIN Biotech: ***ChainBiotech.com***

CHAIN Biotechnology is a microbiome therapeutics company founded in 2014 by biotech entrepreneur Dr Edward Green.

CHAIN is based at MediCity Nottingham with a head office in Marlow.

CHAIN develops oral vaccines and immuno-therapies targeting the lower gastrointestinal tract with several therapeutic candidates in pre-clinical development.

Using our knowledge of the gut microbiota and expertise in engineering biology and fermentation we have built a proprietary and highly differentiated Clostridium Assisted Drug Development platform (CADDTM) for vaccine development.

**Over the past five years, we have worked with approx. 150 entrepreneurs, and are continually impressed by the calibre of not only the innovation but the founding teams behind the big ideas.**

COLIN ROBERTS,  
 VENTURE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR,  
 WAPG.



# England

In England, the Life Sciences sector is dominated by the Golden Triangle of the life sciences cluster of London, Cambridge, Oxford and the South-East of England. It is an area with renowned research centres, and substantial Pharmaceutical presence.

But London isn't the only area with a focus on Life Sciences. Manchester, through its economic development agency MIDAS has a team working to support and expand presence of life science companies in the area, and Alderley Park is the home of the Medicines Discovery Catapult.

Other increasingly important areas are Newcastle, Birmingham and Redcar.

One of the disadvantages of starting up a company in England is the inconsistency of funding support as the nine Regional Development Agencies were replaced with 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships (Growth Hubs), these provide individual approaches to supporting Life Sciences in their geographical areas – but there is still a large amount of interest from investors in early-stage innovation coming from Entrepreneurs and English Universities.



## South East England Golden Triangle<sup>5</sup>

This region is a hotbed of innovation, home to:

4 of the world's  
**TOP 10**  
universities

5 OUT OF 7  
of the UK's  
academic health  
science centres

Leading medical research institutes including the Wellcome Trust, the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, and the national Cell Therapy Catapult, focusing on stem cell research and industrialisation.

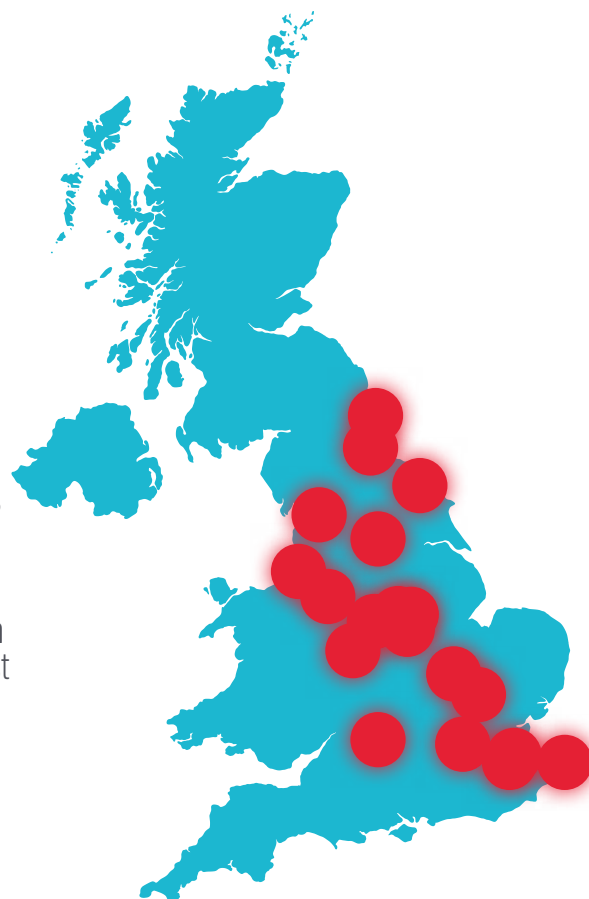
**The Francis Crick Institute**  
bringing together 1,500 scientists under one roof

**Imperial West**  
co-locating researchers and businesses on 25 acres

**UCL East**  
a cross-discipline enterprise and innovation centre focused on health and biological technologies on the site of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

**The Institute of Cancer Research**  
creating the world's second largest cancer research campus in south London

**AstraZeneca's Global R&D Centre**  
bringing together 2,000 employees in Cambridge



<sup>5</sup> [files.londonandpartners.com/business/resources/At-a-glance-Life-sciences-in-London-and-the-south-east.pdf](https://files.londonandpartners.com/business/resources/At-a-glance-Life-sciences-in-London-and-the-south-east.pdf)

# London BioSciences Innovation Centre



London BioScience  
Innovation Centre

***lbic.com***

The London BioScience Innovation Centre was created in 2000 to provide high quality accommodation for life sciences activity in central London. It is a key part of the London Development Agency's strategy for life sciences, with the objective of developing a commercial life sciences cluster around the capital's world-class knowledge base. The excellent facilities offer benefit from shared networking space and meeting rooms as well as close proximity to the various financial services available throughout the capital.

The London BioScience Innovation Centre has established a Business Support Network (BSN), in order to provide support and guidance to entrepreneurial start-ups and overseas companies establishing a base at the Centre. The network brings together a number of specialist service providers such as regulatory affairs specialists, accountants, legal experts and HR professionals, to provide potential and existing LBIC clients with a full business support package.

## Owned/ Funded by

RVC Royal  
Veterinary College

## Specialism

Life Sciences and  
Biotechnology

### Space



Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2

Labs: 265-1258ft<sup>2</sup>

Offices: 107-790ft<sup>2</sup>

### Shared Facilities



Autoclave, Glass Washing, Cold Storage, Access to Gases,  
Distilled Water, Laundry

### Business Support



Reception, Meeting Rooms, Phone Answering Service, Post

### Virtual Tenancy



Yes

### Current companies on site



50

### Guidance/Growth offered



Regular Events, Business Support Network

### Dedicated Accelerator Programme



No

### Specific Investor Links



No

### Contact info

London BioScience Innovation Centre  
2 Royal College Street  
London NW1 ONH  
United Kingdom

+44 (0) 20 7691 1122

***lbic.com***



# QMB Innovation Centre



## Owned/ Funded by

Queen Mary  
Bioenterprises  
Limited

## Specialism

Late stage incubator  
for biology and  
chemistry companies  
within the Life  
Sciences sector

[qmbioenterprises.com](http://qmbioenterprises.com)

The Queen Mary BioEnterprises (QMB) Innovation Centre offers 39,000 square feet of commercial wet laboratory and office space within Zone 2 of London. It is London's first completely new built facility focussing on late stage chemistry and biology start-ups and encourages access to Queen Mary School of Medicine and Dentistry.

There are three meeting rooms of varied sizes and a Board room equipped with projection facilities which are booked on an hourly basis. Tenants can benefit from reduced rates. Laboratory space has integrated write-up areas and provides ducting for both fume hood and biology cabinets.



## Space

Wet Labs - Ducts - Biology Cat 2  
40,000ft<sup>2</sup> in 500, 800, 2000ft<sup>2</sup> sizes with write up area



## Shared Facilities

Autoclave, Glass Washing, Freezer Access, Water Ice



## Business Support

Meeting Rooms



## Virtual Tenancy

No



## Current companies on site

7 - full with waiting list

## Tenants Include

[qmbioenterprises.com/tenants/](http://qmbioenterprises.com/tenants/)



## Guidance/Growth offered

Regular Events



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



## Specific Investor Links

No

## Contact info

Queen Mary Bioenterprises Ltd  
The QMB Innovation Centre  
42 New Road  
London E1 2AX

[qmbioenterprises.com](http://qmbioenterprises.com)



# Imperial College Incubator

**Owned/  
Funded by**  
Imperial College

## Specialism

Deep Science,  
Life Sciences,  
Engineering and  
Manufacturing

***imperial.ac.uk/enterprise/  
business/incubator***

The Imperial College White City Incubator is an incubator programme run by the Imperial College London. It provides office space, labs, entrepreneurial programmes, events and incubation services, supporting entrepreneurs in the deep technology sectors including cleantech, healthtech and robotics.

The Incubator hosts companies throughout the journey from startup to Series A-funded scale-up. Incubator startups can grow an idea, test it within the shared laboratory, and develop their business to a stage that allows them to raise funding.

### Space



Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2  
Labs with separate write up areas: 410ft<sup>2</sup>-1130ft<sup>2</sup>  
Shared space lab for start-ups.

### Shared Facilities



Autoclave, Glass Washing

### Business Support



Meeting Rooms, Hot Desks, Phone Answering Service

### Virtual Tenancy



Yes

### Current companies on site

16 - 90% full

### Tenants Include

Medisieve: *medisieve.com*

### Guidance/Growth offered



Mentoring, Regular Events, Supplier Network

### Dedicated Accelerator Programme



Innovators Programme (suspended due to covid)

### Specific Investor Links



No

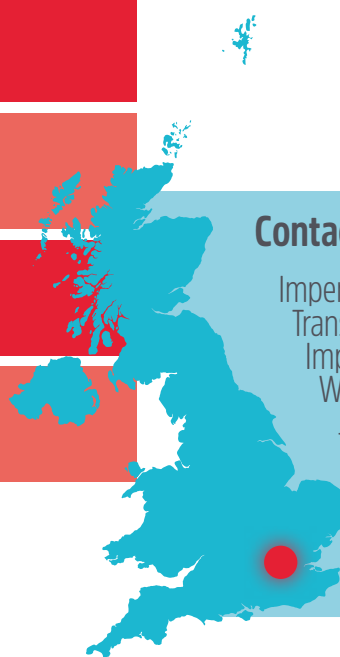
### Contact info

Imperial White City Incubator  
Translation and I-HUB  
Imperial College London  
White City W12 0BZ

+44 (0)20 8811 6730

*incubator.admin@imperial.  
ac.uk*

*imperial.ac.uk/enterprise/  
business/incubator*



# Discovery Park, Sandwich Kent



## Owned/ Funded by

Discovery Park Ltd

## Specialism

Life Sciences

[discovery-park.co.uk](http://discovery-park.co.uk)

In 2012 Pfizer cut back their presence at the massive R&D centre in Sandwich, Kent and created a multi-business science campus. Pfizer remains largest tenant, and the site now hosts over 3,000 jobs.

This is an Enterprise Zone area and has significant support from the local area including the Kent Life Science Fund (KLSF). This is a new £50m venture capital fund backed by Kent County Council, with fund investing in small high-growth companies active in life sciences. KLSF offers equity investments with a focus on game-changing medical technologies and advanced therapeutics.



### Space

Wet Labs - Ducts - Biology Cat 2  
Stand-alone spaces up to 50,000ft<sup>2</sup>, also shared space



### Shared Facilities

Gases, Pure Water, Chem/Biology Waste Collection



### Business Support

Reception, Goods In, Meeting Rooms



### Virtual Tenancy

Not known



### Current companies on site

95

### Tenants Include

Pfizer, Agilent Technologies



### Guidance/Growth offered

Regular Events



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



### Specific Investor Links

Kent Life Science Fund (KLSF)

### Contact info

Discovery Park Limited  
Innovation House  
Ramsgate Road  
Sandwich CT13 9FF  
01304 614060

[sales@discovery-park.co.uk](mailto:sales@discovery-park.co.uk)  
[discovery-park.co.uk](http://discovery-park.co.uk)





# Kent Science Park

**WAPG**  
We Are Pioneer Group

## Owned/ Funded by

We Are  
Pioneer Group

## Specialism

Agri-Tech,  
Biotech,  
Biopharma

[kentsciencepark.com](http://kentsciencepark.com)

Kent Science Park offers a range of flexible laboratory solutions suitable for growing start-ups and blue-chip companies alike with options on spaces from 100 up to 120,000 sq. ft. The site can also provide space for small scale manufacture and has scale-up space for future growth. The site can also provide space for small scale manufacture and has scale-up space for future growth. Kent Science Park is undergoing significant development and expansion, project completion Q4 2021. Recently acquired by the We are Pioneer Group, the site will now receive the full range of Pre-Accelerator, Accelerator and mentoring support for tenants that exists on their other sites.



## Space

Wet Labs - Biology Cat 2



## Shared Facilities

Under development, project completed Q4 2021.  
Expected: Autoclave, Glass Washing, Analytical Services,  
Gases Chem/Biology Waste Collection, Freezer Access.



## Business Support

Reception, Goods In, Meeting Rooms, On-site Café, 24/7 security



## Virtual Tenancy

No



## Current companies on site

67

## Tenants Include

GW Pharma



## Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector, Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Yes



## Specific Investor Links

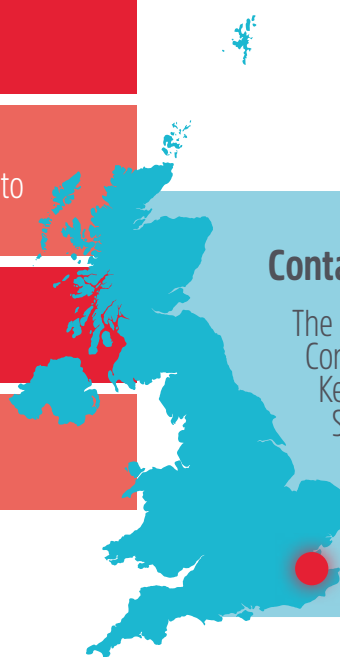
Yes

## Contact info

The Hub  
Cornforth Drive  
Kent Science Park  
Sittingbourne ME9 8PX  
+44(0) 1795 411 500

[info@ksp-uk.com](mailto:info@ksp-uk.com)

[kentsciencepark.com](http://kentsciencepark.com)



# Begbroke Science Park



## Owned/ Funded by

Oxford University

## Specialism

General science  
interest, not  
exclusively life  
science

[begbroke.ox.ac.uk](http://begbroke.ox.ac.uk)

In 2014, as part of the Oxford City Deal, £4.2m was provided to Begbroke Science Park to create an innovation accelerator. The Centre of Innovation and Enterprise (CIE), CIE offers new companies far more than just serviced incubation units. As a core component of the Oxford University Begbroke Science Park, the CIE and other site tenants are able to access Oxford University's science and technology departments. Occupiers of the CIE therefore have the unique benefit of access to Oxford University's world-leading research programmes and opportunities to talk with experts in the field. In the same spirit, the CIE hosts regular networking events to provide opportunities for exchange of ideas with business advisers and like-minded entrepreneurs.



### Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods



### Shared Facilities

Chem/Biology Waste Collection



### Business Support

Reception, Goods In, Meeting Rooms, On-site Café,  
Phone Answering Service



### Virtual Tenancy

No



### Tenants Include

Adaptix Imaging, Chiralabs, Oxford Gene Technology (OGT),  
Population Bio UK



### Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector, Regular Events



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



### Specific Investor Links

No

## Contact info

Begbroke Science Park  
Begbroke Hill  
Woodstock Road  
Begbroke  
Oxfordshire OX5 1PF  
+44 1865 283700

[enquiries@begbroke.ox.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@begbroke.ox.ac.uk)

[begbroke.ox.ac.uk](http://begbroke.ox.ac.uk)



# Oxford Science Park Magdalen Centre



[oxfordsp.com](http://oxfordsp.com)

The Oxford Science Park, one of the most influential science, technology and business environments in the UK. It's home to more than 2,500 people in over 90 companies.

There's an outstanding atmosphere of discovery, innovation and entrepreneurship amid 75 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and state-of-the-art office and laboratory space.

## Owned/ Funded by

Magdalen College  
Oxford

## Specialism

Science and  
Technology  
including Life  
Sciences

## Space



Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2  
Labs: 80ft<sup>2</sup> to 11,500ft<sup>2</sup>

## Shared Facilities



Not known

## Business Support



Reception, Meeting Rooms, Phone Answering Service,  
Mail Handling

## Virtual Tenancy



Yes

## Current companies on site

90

## Tenants Include

[oxfordsp.com/whos-here](http://oxfordsp.com/whos-here)

## Guidance/Growth offered



Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector,  
Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events

## Dedicated Accelerator Programme



Not known

## Specific Investor Links



Not known

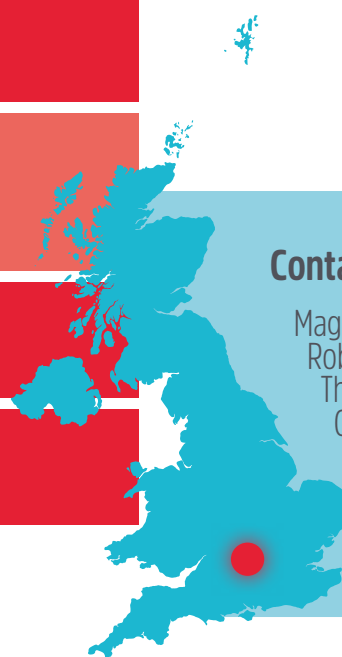
## Contact info

Magdalen Centre  
Robert Robinson Avenue  
The Oxford Science Park  
Oxford OX4 4GA

+44 (0)1865 784 000

[info@oxfordsp.com](mailto:info@oxfordsp.com)

[oxfordsp.com](http://oxfordsp.com)



# Wood Centre for Innovation Headington, Oxford



## Owned/ Funded by

The Oxford Trust  
managed by Oxford  
Innovation

## Specialism

Early stage  
businesses  
specialising in  
science and  
technology

**wcfi.co.uk**

Based in the middle of Headington's Health and Life Sciences District the Wood Centre for Innovation has a focus on early stage science and technology. Tenants are encouraged to participate in the vibrant community and to support each other. The Business Support service is provided by Oxford Innovation through a dedicated on site member of staff.



### Space

Wet Labs - Biology Cat 2



### Shared Facilities

Autoclave, Analytical Services, Distilled/Pure Water,  
Equipment Pool, Freezer Access



### Business Support

Reception, Meeting Rooms, Mail Handling, Hot Desks,  
Phone Answering Service



### Virtual Tenancy

Yes



### Current companies on site

7 - [wcfi.co.uk/our-companies-business-support](http://wcfi.co.uk/our-companies-business-support)

### Tenants Include

Spintex



### Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector,  
Networking, Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events



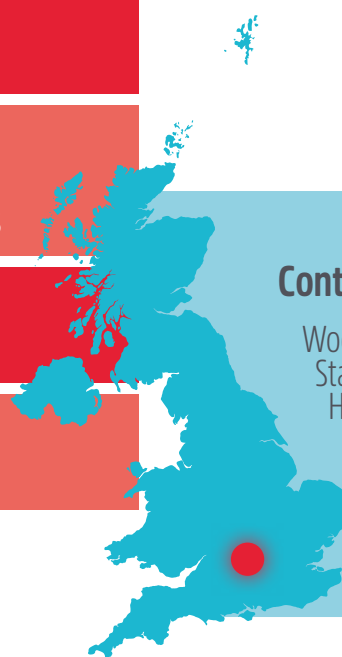
### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



### Specific Investor Links

Through Oxford Innovation



### Contact info

Wood Centre for Innovation,  
Stansfeld Park, Quarry Road,  
Headington, Oxford, OX3 8SB  
01865 945 500

[info@wcfi.co.uk](mailto:info@wcfi.co.uk)  
[wcfi.co.uk](http://wcfi.co.uk)

# Babraham Research Campus



## Owned/ Funded by

Babraham Institute  
Enterprise Ltd

## Specialism

Life Sciences  
and Data

***babraham.com***

This bioincubator at the Babraham Research Campus provides young life science companies with laboratory and office space, as well as support on business, science, and finance from its network. Strategic partners include AstraZeneca and Eisai; other supporters include the contract research organisation RxCelerate, Eli Lilly, and the Silicon Valley Bank.



### Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2



### Shared Facilities

Not known



### Business Support

Not known



### Virtual Tenancy

Yes



### Current companies on site

60

### Tenants Include

Who CC Bio, Kalium Health, Reflection Therapeutics



### Guidance/Growth offered

Networking



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Yes - Accelerate@Babraham



### Specific Investor Links

Not known

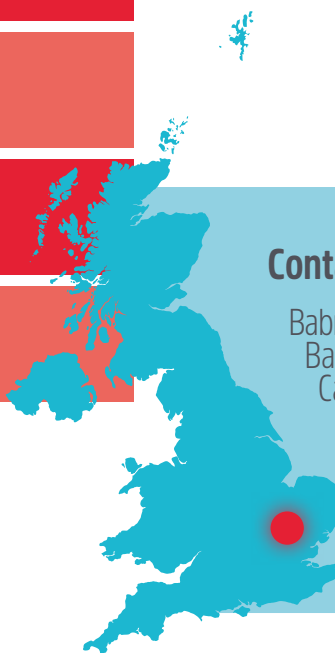
## Contact info

Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd  
Babraham Research Campus  
Cambridge, CB22 3AT

(+44) 1223 496 000

[info@babraham.co.uk](mailto:info@babraham.co.uk)

[babraham.com](http://babraham.com)



# Cambridge Science Park TusPark Bio-Innovation Centre



[tuspark.co.uk/cambridge](http://tuspark.co.uk/cambridge)

## Owned/ Funded by

Trinity College and  
Tus-Holdings

## Specialism

Life Sciences

The Bio-innovation Centre is the first bio-incubator on the Cambridge Science Park. This 3-storey building forms part of the TusHoldings investment in the Park, opened in May 2019. It has approximately 40,300 sq ft of fully-equipped laboratories and offices for multiple occupiers in the life science sector. In the incubator facility there is a co-working Lab aimed at early stage companies, comprising of a general laboratory area of 150m<sup>2</sup> together with an associated tissue culture lab. These are fitted out with a variety of general laboratory equipment including safety cabinets; incubators; centrifuges; imaging equipment etc.



## Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology  
28 individual labs: 600-700ft<sup>2</sup> and larger



## Shared Facilities

Autoclave, Glass Washing, Analytical Services,  
Distilled/pure Water, Gases Chem/Biology Waste Collection,  
Equipment Pool, Freezer Access



## Business Support

Reception, Goods In, HighSpeed Wifi, Meeting Rooms, Mail Handling,  
On-site Café, Hot Desks, Phone Answering Service



## Virtual Tenancy

No



## Current companies on site

12

## Tenants Include

Mogrify, Novogene, Applied Biotech, Swift Diagnostics,  
Xampla, AI VIVO, Immaterial and Vital Signs Solutions



## Guidance/Growth offered

Regular Events, Networking



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



## Specific Investor Links

Yes



## Contact info

[info@tuspark.co.uk](mailto:info@tuspark.co.uk)

[tuspark.co.uk/cambridge](http://tuspark.co.uk/cambridge)

# Biocity Nottingham

**WAPG**  
We Are Pioneer Group

[biocity.co.uk/locations/biocity-nottingham](http://biocity.co.uk/locations/biocity-nottingham)

The first WAPG incubator opened in Nottingham in 2004 and boasts a survival rate of 91% of the companies it has hosted since then. Now with three locations across the UK, this biotech incubator organises pitching competitions, trade visits, and roundups of investment opportunities for its members. In the Nottingham and Glasgow locations, WAPG also runs MediCity incubators specializing in medical technology startups.

Nottingham also has a MediCity incubator focussing on pioneers of Med Tech and their needs.

**Owned/  
Funded by**

We Are Pioneer  
Groups

**Specialism**

Life Sciences



## Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2  
Labs: 150ft<sup>2</sup> - 11,000ft<sup>2</sup>



## Shared Facilities

PAYG in-house analytical services include NMR and mass spectrometry. Extended analytics services, accessed via the University of Nottingham include: Powder X-ray diffraction, single crystal X-ray diffraction, GCMS / LCMS / HPLCMS, direct mass spec, UV-Vis spectroscopy, thermal gravimetric analysis, digital scanning calorimetry, ICP-OES (inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry), Karl Fischer titration, Infrared spectroscopy and elemental analysis. Group purchasing schemes on lab consumables



## Business Support

Reception, Goods In, HighSpeed Wifi, Meeting Rooms, Mail handling, On-site Café, Hot Desks, Co Working space



## Virtual Tenancy

No



## Current companies on site

32

## Tenants Include

Azotic Technologies, CHAIN Biotechnology, Scottish Bioenergy



## Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector, Access to pitching to investors



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Yes



## Specific Investor Links

Yes

## Contact info

BioCity Nottingham  
Pennyfoot Street  
Nottingham NG1 1GF

[biocity.co.uk/locations/biocity-nottingham](http://biocity.co.uk/locations/biocity-nottingham)



# Birmingham Research Park BioHub



[birminghamresearchpark.co.uk](http://birminghamresearchpark.co.uk)

## Owned/ Funded by

University of Birmingham

## Specialism

Biomedical lab space for early stage life science companies

Birmingham Research Park is in the Edgbaston Medical Quarter, and includes the BioHubBirmingham® a fully serviced biomedical incubator and accelerator designed to house life science companies from proof of concept through to expansion.

The BizzInn delivers intensive support to entrepreneurs, startups and established SMEs through a rolling programme of free training and networking events. The BizzInn is well networked with local professional services associations, and advisors are on hand to provide advice or signpost to specialist services in areas such as intellectual property or finance.



## Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2



## Shared Facilities

Autoclave, Centrifuges, Balances, Fridges, Freezers and the support of qualified laboratory managers, Equipment Pool



## Business Support

Meeting Rooms, On-site Café, BizzInn programme of support



## Virtual Tenancy

Not known



## Current companies on site

11

## Tenants Include

Abingdon Health, Linear Diagnostics, Gifford Bioscience



## Guidance/Growth offered

BizzInn support including mentoring and support of Uni of Birmingham Business school, Regular Events and Networking



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

YES and BizzInn Support



## Specific Investor Links

No

## Contact info

Birmingham Research Park, 97  
Vincent Drive, Birmingham B15 2SQ

0121 415 8543

[brpl@bham.ac.uk](mailto:brpl@bham.ac.uk)

[birminghamresearchpark.co.uk](http://birminghamresearchpark.co.uk)





# Liverpool Science Park



## Owned by

Jointly owned by Liverpool City Council, the University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University and Bruntwood SciTech

## Specialism

Knowledge based companies from all sectors

[liverpoolsciencepark.co.uk](http://liverpoolsciencepark.co.uk)

Opened in 2005 and including the University of Liverpool's Institute for Global Health, Liverpool Science Park houses a community of like-minded and ambitious innovators, developers, creators and scientists housed in three outstanding science and technology facilities in the heart of the city's Knowledge Quarter.



### Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology



### Shared Facilities

Glass washing, Autoclave, Ice



### Business Support

Meeting Room, Wifi on-site café and Hot Desks



### Virtual Tenancy

Yes

### Current companies on site

48 - [liverpoolsciencepark.co.uk/our-customers](http://liverpoolsciencepark.co.uk/our-customers)



### Tenants Include

**videregen.com** - tissue repair at clinical stage  
**geminibioscience.com** - products and services including Proteomics, Antibodies, Cell Biology and Computational Biology areas.



### Guidance/Growth offered

Access to Uni led business courses



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



### Specific Investor Links

No

## Contact info

Liverpool Science Park  
Innovation Centre One  
131 Mount Pleasant  
Liverpool L3 5TF

[liverpoolsciencepark.co.uk](http://liverpoolsciencepark.co.uk)



# Alderley Park



## Owned/ Funded by

We Are Pioneer Group but not operated by them

## Specialism

Biotech and Life Sciences. The site also hosts the AMR Centre and the Medicines Discovery Catapult

[biocity.co.uk/locations/alderley-park](https://biocity.co.uk/locations/alderley-park)

Based on the former Astra-Zeneca R&D site at Alderley Park, the facilities are world-class and extensive including access to significant analytical services such as NMR, PET, CT and LC-MS.. The team at Alderley Park provide key connections to the clinical, academic and business support institutions in the region including University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Department for International Trade and Cheshire East Council. The co-existence with the national institutes AMR and Medicines Discovery Catapult give companies based here added advantages.



## Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2  
Labs and associate write up space: 800ft<sup>2</sup> - 2300ft<sup>2</sup>



## Shared Facilities

Autoclave, Glass Washing, Analytical Services, Distilled/Pure Water, Gases Chem/Biology Waste Collection, Equipment Pool, Freezer Access, Laundry



## Business Support

Reception, Goods In, High Speed Wifi, Meeting Rooms, Mail Handling, On-site Café



## Virtual Tenancy

No



## Current companies on site

75

## Tenants Include

Medicines Discovery Catapult



## Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector, Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events, Networking



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Yes



## Specific Investor Links

Yes

## Contact info

Alderley Park, Alderley Edge  
SK10 4TG

01625 512 763

[accelerator@alderleypark.co.uk](mailto:accelerator@alderleypark.co.uk)

[biocity.co.uk/locations/alderley-park](https://biocity.co.uk/locations/alderley-park)



# Hexagon Tower WAPG

# WAPG

We Are Pioneer Group

[hexagon-tower.co.uk/the-team](http://hexagon-tower.co.uk/the-team)

## Owned/ Funded by

We Are  
Pioneer Group

## Specialism

Science and  
Technology

The former ICI R&D centre in Blackley, North Manchester this is a re-purposed structure with excellent infrastructure and facilities. Historically the site was one of the first in ICI creating dyes and has retained an excellence for fine chemicals through the times of Zeneca. Although life sciences is not the primary focus of the site at the moment, the incubator facilities are still appropriate for those in the healthcare and therapeutics areas.



### Space

Wet Labs - Biology Cat 2



### Shared Facilities

Within Hexagon Tower, all fitouts, facilities and services are arranged privately by the occupying company



### Business Support

Not known



### Virtual Tenancy

No



### Current companies on site

14

### Tenants Include

Lubrizol, Lonza, Intertek



### Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector, Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events, Networking



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Yes



### Specific Investor Links

Yes

## Contact info

Hexagon Tower, Crumpsall Vale  
Blackley, Manchester M9 8GQ

+44(0) 161 721 2266

[reception@hexagon-tower.co.uk](mailto:reception@hexagon-tower.co.uk)

[hexagon-tower.co.uk/the-team](http://hexagon-tower.co.uk/the-team)



# Manchester Incubator Building

## Owned/ Funded by

University of  
Manchester

## Specialism

high quality state of  
the art biotech and  
hi-tech facilities

***umic.co.uk***

Founded in 2005, the Manchester Incubator Building is an incubation programme run by the University of Manchester.

They tend to focus on incubating startups in the life sciences space, providing a range of services including office space, laboratory space and variety of other infrastructure useful to deeptech companies biotech firms, satellite companies carrying out R&D and even pharma companies looking to develop drugs.

## Space



Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2

16 turnkey laboratory suites, each 1,000ft<sup>2</sup> (93m<sup>2</sup>), comprising fitted out write-up and wet-lab areas, equipped for functioning at ACGM Containment Level 2 with the capability of conversion to Level 3



## Shared Facilities

Not known



## Business Support

Not known



## Virtual Tenancy

Yes



## Current companies on site

4

## Tenants Include

Epistem - *epistem.co.uk*



## Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector,  
Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events, Networking



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



## Specific Investor Links

Yes

## Contact info

West Hill Innovation Park Biotech  
Incubator in Hoddesdon

***umic.co.uk***



# Leeds Innovation Centre

**NEXUS**  
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## Owned/ Funded by

University of Leeds

## Specialism

business from  
all sectors

[nexusleeds.co.uk/about-us](http://nexusleeds.co.uk/about-us)

As a key part of the University of Leeds' approach to business engagement, Nexus is a community of innovators located on Campus and based in a new state-of-the-art building, and provides easy access to the University's research and expertise.

Through the Nexus enterprise support services Leeds University has been successful in commercialisation and innovation, creating over 110 companies in the last 20 years, 6 of which are AIM market listed with a combined value in excess of £500m.



### Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2  
Labs: 73m<sup>2</sup> to 160m<sup>2</sup>



### Shared Facilities

Not known



### Business Support

Not known



### Virtual Tenancy

Yes



### Current companies on site

Not known

### Tenants Include

Not known



### Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector,  
Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events, Networking



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



### Specific Investor Links

Yes

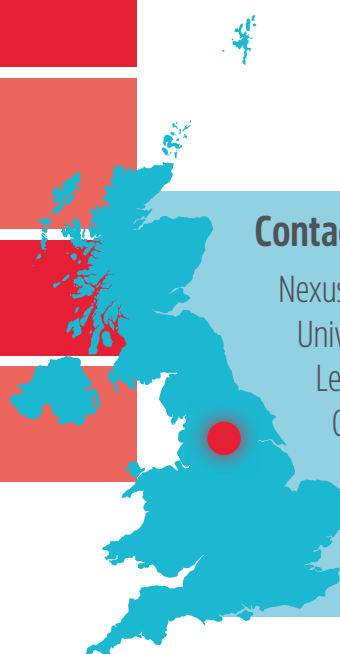
## Contact info

Nexus, Discovery Way  
University of Leeds  
Leeds LS2 3AA  
0113 3061 444

[hello@nexusleeds.co.uk](mailto:hello@nexusleeds.co.uk)

[events@nexusleeds.co.uk](mailto:events@nexusleeds.co.uk)

[nexusleeds.co.uk/  
about-us](http://nexusleeds.co.uk/about-us)



# Wilton Centre WAPG

**WAPG**  
We Are Pioneer Group

## Owned/ Funded by

We Are  
Pioneer Group

## Specialism

Chemical, Material,  
Manufacturing, & Life  
Science industries. Site  
houses the High Value  
Manufacturing  
Catapult

***wiltoncentre.com/facilities/  
innovation-accelerator***

Wilton Centre is the premier science park in the North East of England and provides office, laboratory and pilot plant accommodation. The park is adjacent to Wilton International and sits in the heart of the North East of England Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC). It is the only location in the North East that can offer office, laboratory, pilot plant and scale-up facilities on one site and is home to the High Value Manufacturing Catapult (HVMC).

A first-rate range of well-equipped laboratory facilities enables companies to carry out development work in a research-orientated environment. There are over 90 laboratories of varying sizes – covering 86,000 ft<sup>2</sup>.



## Space

Wet Labs - Biology Cat 2  
90 labs: 300ft<sup>2</sup> - 1,000ft<sup>2</sup>



## Shared Facilities

Within Wilton Centre, all fitouts, facilities and services are arranged privately by the occupying company



## Business Support

Reception, Goods In, Meeting Rooms



## Virtual Tenancy

No



## Current companies on site

58



## Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector,  
Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events, Networking



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Yes



## Specific Investor Links

Yes

## Contact info

Wilton Centre, Redcar,  
Cleveland TS10 4RF

+44(0) 1642 438000

***enquiries@wiltoncentre.co.uk***

***wiltoncentre.com/facilities/  
innovation-accelerator***



# Newcastle Bioincubator

## The Biosphere at Newcastle Helix

[thebiospherenewcastle.co.uk](http://thebiospherenewcastle.co.uk)

### Owned/ Funded by

Newcastle  
City Council

### Specialism

Early-stage  
Bio-Technology  
and Life Sciences  
companies.

The Biosphere is part of the Newcastle Helix community. It is a high-quality building dedicated to the commercialisation of life science research and development and part of the city's commitment to supporting innovation and growth within the sector. The Biosphere is at the centre of a £1.1bn life science eco-system and the North East is home to more than 200 life science companies who employing more than 7,000 people.

The NE region has built a global reputation as a UK hotspot for clinical trials and is one of the strongest regions in the UK for exports of medical and pharmaceutical products, with a commercial base underpinned by a broad range of expertise in biotechnology and novel therapeutics.



### Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2  
Labs: 240ft<sup>2</sup> upwards



### Shared Facilities

Not known



### Business Support

Not known



### Virtual Tenancy

Yes



### Current companies on site

16

### Tenants Include

AMLo Biosciences, NorthGene, Atilerix, Iksuda Therapeutics



### Guidance/Growth offered

Not known



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Yes



### Specific Investor Links

Not known

### Contact info

The Biosphere, Draymans Way,  
Newcastle Helix,  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
+44 (0) 191 5806150

[hello@thebiosphere  
newcastle.co.uk](mailto:hello@thebiosphere.newcastle.co.uk)

[thebiosphere  
newcastle.co.uk](http://thebiosphere.newcastle.co.uk)



# Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland has a growing Health and Life Sciences community.<sup>6,7</sup>

The Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland (HIRANI)<sup>8</sup> is an alliance of universities, health organisations and other industry bodies, established to drive and support ambitious growth in Northern Ireland's Life & Health Sciences sector.

Successful companies such as Norbrook<sup>9</sup>, Almac<sup>10</sup> lead the way with NICTU<sup>11</sup>, Fusion Antibodies<sup>12</sup> and Exploristics<sup>13</sup> providing clinical trials expertise. The Virology Centre at QUB is providing leading role in Covid-19<sup>14</sup>.

There are no incubator facilities for science based companies but there is a Science Park in Belfast Harbour<sup>15</sup> which can provide office facilities and it would be possible to have a foothold here and locate wet labs with one of the two universities in Northern Ireland. The Weavers Park facility<sup>16</sup> is a business centre where previous tenants have included wet lab companies but have had to install laboratory kit themselves. Plans for dedicated business incubators are being created through the Belfast City Deal applications, but it is unlikely that these will be available before 2023.

Useful references for general incubator facilities include:  
[incubatorlist.com/top-startup-accelerators-incubators-and-vcs-in-northern-ireland/](https://incubatorlist.com/top-startup-accelerators-incubators-and-vcs-in-northern-ireland/)



<sup>6</sup> [investni.com/invest-in-northern-ireland/life-and-health-sciences](https://investni.com/invest-in-northern-ireland/life-and-health-sciences)

<sup>7</sup> [matrixni.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MATRIX-life-and-health-sciences-foresight-report-2015.pdf](https://matrixni.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MATRIX-life-and-health-sciences-foresight-report-2015.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [hira-ni.com/about](https://hira-ni.com/about)

<sup>9</sup> [norbrook.com](https://norbrook.com)

<sup>10</sup> [almacgroup.com/about](https://almacgroup.com/about)

<sup>11</sup> [nictu.hscni.net](https://nictu.hscni.net)

<sup>12</sup> [fusionantibodies.com](https://fusionantibodies.com)

<sup>13</sup> [exploristics.com/contact-us](https://exploristics.com/contact-us)

<sup>14</sup> [qub.ac.uk/coronavirus/experts/respiratory-research-expertise](https://qub.ac.uk/coronavirus/experts/respiratory-research-expertise)

<sup>15</sup> [wearecatalyst.org](https://wearecatalyst.org)

<sup>16</sup> [weaverscourt.com](https://weaverscourt.com)



# Scotland

Scotland has a vibrant Life Sciences community and growing reputation in the vaccines area. The Life Sciences sector employs over 37,000 people, across 800 organisations across Scotland and is acknowledged as one of Europe's most accessible, connected and collaborative clusters. Expertise in both research & translational development for vaccines and advanced therapies has created a rapidly growing vibrant cluster of spin-out therapeutic companies, increasing clinical trials of new Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs) as well as expanding its manufacturing capability.<sup>17</sup>

Human and animal vaccine development is a strength in Scotland represented by companies such as Valneva, Neogen, and GalvMed as well as the Moredun Research Institute. In addition to Valneva's Covid-19 Vaccine programme, Scotland's supply chain made huge contributions to the development of Covid-19 vaccines including Merck BioReliance, Charles River, Symbiosis, SGS, Ingenza & ReproCell Europe.

Scotland based start-ups benefit from several sources of grant and equity funding and a very supportive Entrepreneurial background. There are national networking opportunities to co-ordinate and support vaccine development in both human and animal health. More information: [lifesciencesscotland.com/advanced-therapies-vaccines-in-scotland/networking-coordination](https://lifesciencesscotland.com/advanced-therapies-vaccines-in-scotland/networking-coordination)



## Scotland ATMP & Vaccine Supply Chain

Scottish Enterprise schematic of Vaccine companies in Scotland<sup>18</sup>



<sup>17</sup> [lifesciencesscotland.com](https://lifesciencesscotland.com)

<sup>18</sup> [lifesciencesscotland.com/advanced-therapies-vaccines-in-scotland](https://lifesciencesscotland.com/advanced-therapies-vaccines-in-scotland)

# Northern Innovation HUB NEXUS – Inverness

NEXUS  
LIFE SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY

## Owned/ Funded by

University of the Highlands and Islands and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. With funding from Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal and ERDF.

## Specialism

Life Sciences, Digital Healthcare and Technology

[hie.co.uk/support/browse-all-support-services/nexus](http://hie.co.uk/support/browse-all-support-services/nexus)

Inverness is home to the NEXUS incubator site, located just outside of Inverness on Inverness Campus a purpose built business park Nexus is a support programme delivered through the Northern Innovation Hub, located in Solasta House, designed to build on and accelerate business innovation. It provides flexible office and lab space in close proximity to NHS research, development and innovation, and is within walking distance to the Centre for Health Science.

In 2022 there will be 2 new incubator buildings on site- Life Sciences Innovation Centre focussing on human health and Life Sciences and the Rural Vet Hub which will include SRUC (Scotland's Rural College).

## Space



Wet Labs - Ducts - Biology Cat 2  
9 lab suites 16-51m<sup>2</sup>. Rented as empty spaces for tenants to furnish. Also some co-working space.  
COMING IN 2022: New Incubator facilities

## Shared Facilities



No

## Business Support



High Speed Wifi, Mail Handling, Hot Desks

## Virtual Tenancy



No

## Current companies on site



650 scientists on campus

## Tenants Include

LifeScan

## Guidance/Growth offered



Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector, Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events, Networking

## Dedicated Accelerator Programme



Yes

## Specific Investor Links



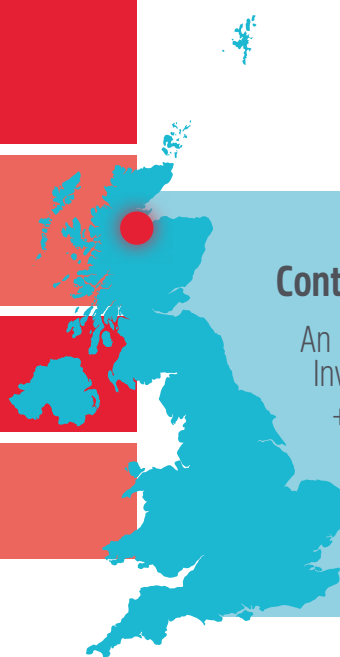
Yes

## Contact info

An Lòchran, 10 Inverness Campus,  
Inverness IV2 5NA, Scotland  
+44 (0) 1463 245 245

[enquiries@hient.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hient.co.uk)

[hie.co.uk/support/browse-all-support-services/nexus](http://hie.co.uk/support/browse-all-support-services/nexus)



# Roslin Innovation Centre



## Owned/ Funded by

University of  
Edinburgh

## Specialism

Research Life  
Sciences and  
Biosciences, strong  
veterinary area



PHOTO CREDIT:  
Roslin Innovation Centre

[roslininnovationcentre.com](http://roslininnovationcentre.com)

Roslin Biocentre is an incubator based in Roslin, outside of Edinburgh, that specialises in research, life and bio sciences. They provide mentoring, advice, funding, administrative support, office space and research laboratories. They offer facilitated access to:

- Bio Imaging/Cell Sorting and Flow Cytometry Facility
- Biological Research Facility
- The Centre for Comparative Pathology
- Edinburgh Genomics
- The Wellcome Trust Critical Care Laboratory for Large Animals

The Easter Bush Campus hosts the largest concentration of animal sciences companies in Europe.



PHOTO CREDITS:  
Roslin Innovation Centre

## Space

Wet Labs - Ducts - Biology Cat 2  
285 laboratory workstations  
Office space for up to 380 scientists



## Shared Facilities

Autoclave, Glass Washing, Distilled/Pure Water, ICE,  
Chem/Biology Waste Collection, Equipment Pool, Freezer Access



## Business Support

Reception, Goods In, High Speed Wifi,  
Meeting Rooms, Mail Handling, On-site Café



## Virtual Tenancy

No



## Current companies on site

25 - 80% full

## Tenants Include

Ingenza



## Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector,  
Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events, Networking



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Coming Soon



## Specific Investor Links

Yes

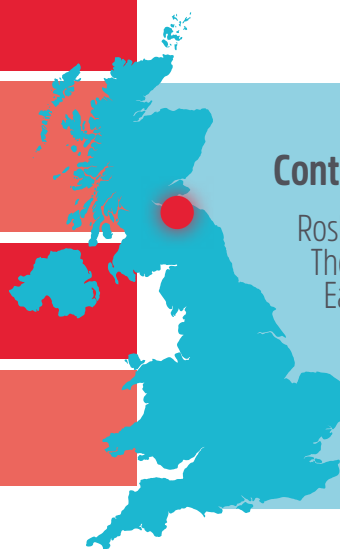


## Contact info

Roslin Innovation Centre  
The University of Edinburgh  
Easter Bush Campus  
Midlothian, EH25 9RG

44 (0) 131 651 9000

[roslininnovationcentre.com](http://roslininnovationcentre.com)



# Edinburgh Technopole



[edinburghtechnopole.co.uk](http://edinburghtechnopole.co.uk)

## Owned/ Funded by

We Are Pioneer Group

## Specialism

Life Science



### Space

Dry Labs only



### Shared Facilities

Within Edinburgh Technopole, all fitouts, facilities and services are arranged privately by the occupying company.



### Business Support

Dedicated on site facilities staff, 24 hour helpdesk, 24 hour security with cctv monitoring, car parking, -conference and meeting facilities, outside gym, pilates and yoga studio, HUB café, private catering service, electric vehicle charging points, cycle paths and woodland walk, regular training courses for health and safety – fire warden etc, on site and fully equipped croquet lawn and 5-a-side football, occupier networking and social events, membership and a range of benefits through the Midlothian Science Zone



### Virtual Tenancy

No



### Current companies on site

17



### Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector, Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Yes



### Specific Investor Links

Yes

Edinburgh Technopole part of national network of science parks under the Knowledge Factory, recently brought under the 'We are Pioneer Group' banner. As the merger rolls out the accelerator and mentoring support services of WAPG will be offered to all sites.

It is a parkland site, just 8 miles south of the city centre offering flexible offices, high specification laboratories and product development space, all with generous parking provision and excellent transport links. The Technopole offers fully-fitted, high-specification laboratories for a range of sciences, and an opportunity for significant upfront savings to new occupiers with options up to 20,000 sq. ft. The buildings at Edinburgh Technopole have been designed to be flexible for a range of scientific uses, including small-scale manufacturing. There is access to growth funding for businesses who wish to develop manufacturing facilities at Edinburgh Technopole.

The location is very encouraging of collaboration with SRUC, Uni Edinburgh Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies, Uni of Edinburgh and others in the Knowledge Factory

### Contact info

Bush House, Edinburgh Technopole,  
 Milton Bridge EH26 0BB  
 +44 (0) 131 445 8600

[parkmanager@  
 edinburghtechnopole.com](mailto:parkmanager@edinburghtechnopole.com)  
[edinburghtechnopole.co.uk](http://edinburghtechnopole.co.uk)



# Nine Incubator at Edinburgh BioQuarter



[edinburghbioquarter.com](http://edinburghbioquarter.com)

Edinburgh Bioquarter is located beside the Queen's Medical Research Institute and University Of Edinburgh Medical School on the same site as Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. The BioQuarter campus offers a wide range of facilities and specialist services in one location. Research centres in regenerative neurology and neurology/psychology as well as the new Royal Hospital for Sick Children are included on the site.

## Owned/ Funded by

City of Edinburgh Council joining NHS Lothian, Scottish Enterprise and The University of Edinburgh as official partners

## Specialism

Life Science

## Space

Wet Labs - Fume Hoods - Biology Cat 2

Ground floor incubator incorporating fully fitted laboratories from 286ft<sup>2</sup> to 699 ft<sup>2</sup>, which can be combined and offices from 150ft<sup>2</sup> (13.9 m<sup>2</sup>). Upper floors available for bespoke fitout from 1,000 -52,268ft<sup>2</sup> (92.9 -4,856m<sup>2</sup>)



## Shared Facilities

Autoclave, Glass Washing, Analytical Services, Distilled/Pure Water, Gases Chem/Biology Waste Collection, Equipment Pool, Freezer Access



## Business Support

Reception, Goods In, Meeting Rooms, On-site Café, WiFi, Hot Desks, Phone Answering Service



## Virtual Tenancy

Yes



## Current companies on site

Not known



## Tenants Include

Fios Genomics, RoslinCT, Aquila BioMedical



## Guidance/Growth offered

Access to funding through public sector



## Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



## Specific Investor Links

No

## Contact info

Edinburgh BioQuarter Programme Team, NINE, Little France Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4UX

0131 651 7899

[info@edinburghbioquarter.com](mailto:info@edinburghbioquarter.com)

[edinburghbioquarter.com](http://edinburghbioquarter.com)



# Biocity Scotland

**WAPG**  
We Are Pioneer Group

## Owned/ Funded by

We Are  
Pioneer Group

## Specialism

Biotech  
Life Sciences

[biocity.co.uk/locations/  
biocity-glasgow](http://biocity.co.uk/locations/biocity-glasgow)

A former MSD research facility this 20-acre biotech incubator for Scotland is located in-between Glasgow and Edinburgh on the M8. Nestled in amongst landscaped gardens, The flexible and modular lab space is perfect for life science startups and scaleups, including Class 1 and 2, GCP and GMP life science labs with fully extracted and recirculating fume hoods. The flexible and modular chemistry and biology lab space at WAPG was built to an exceptionally high specification by Organon Laboratories (previous owner), with tailored bench space, extra-large laboratories and grow on space for companies at all stages. One of the 'We are Pioneer' facilities it is ranked among the best in Europe for support and facilities for Life Sciences incubators.



### Space

Wet Labs - some with fume hoods - biology CAT 2  
53 - 3,000ft<sup>2</sup>



### Shared Facilities

Autoclave, Glass wash, Drying oven, Washing machines/dryers, Gas and waste solvent stores, Ice machine, Water purification system, Group purchasing scheme on lab consumables, Internal consumable store, -80°C freezer storage.



### Business Support

Reception, Goods In, Meeting Rooms, On-site Café, coworking spaces, fitness suites.



### Virtual Tenancy

Not known



### Current companies on site

Not known

### Tenants Include

Sartorius Stedim BioOutsource



### Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector, Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events



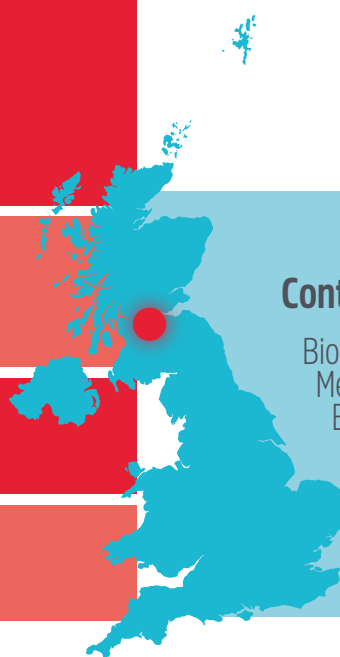
### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

Yes



### Specific Investor Links

Yes



### Contact info

BioCity Glasgow  
MediCity Glasgow  
Bo'Ness Road  
Newhouse ML1 5UH

[biocity.co.uk/locations/  
biocity-glasgow](http://biocity.co.uk/locations/biocity-glasgow)

# Wales

With world-leading academic expertise and a central Life Sciences Hub, Wales demonstrates a strong competitive advantage in Medtech, Diagnostics, Wound Healing, Regenerative Medicine and Cell Therapy and is already creating a world-leading Regenerative Medicine ecosystem, which includes academics, the NHS, Government and centres of excellence. Established clusters of excellence in high-growth markets include in vitro diagnostic, single use technology, and wound care.<sup>19</sup>

Wales has a vibrant research culture involving the NHS, industry, academic institutions, and government developing innovative e-health solutions.

The Welsh Life Sciences industry currently employs more than 12,000 people, in over 360 companies ranging from SMEs and start-ups to large blue chips, with an approximate turnover of £2bn.<sup>20</sup>

Unlike other parts of the UK, the activity and investment isn't concentrated in just one wealthy area of the region. The growth of the life sciences sector in Wales spans the length and breadth of the country, from harvesting jellyfish collagen in the west to the foundation of cutting-edge infantile prosthetics in the north.

The full range of Entrepreneurial support services throughout Wales can be found here: [bethespark.wales/first-edition-blueprint](http://bethespark.wales/first-edition-blueprint)

The Wales Start-Up Awards were established in 2015 to recognise the achievements of those amazing individuals who have had a great idea, spotted the opportunity and taken the risks to launch a new product or service. [walesstartupawards.com/about](http://walesstartupawards.com/about)



## Key Companies



<sup>19</sup> [landing.newscientist.com/wales-life-sciences-hub-adfeature](http://landing.newscientist.com/wales-life-sciences-hub-adfeature)

<sup>20</sup> [tradeandinvest.wales/key-industries/life-sciences](http://tradeandinvest.wales/key-industries/life-sciences)

# AberInnovation

ArloesiAber  
AberInnovation



## Owned/ Funded by

a subsidiary of Aberystwyth University funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government; the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC and Aberystwyth University

## Specialism

Farm to Fork  
bioprocessing, food  
and drink, animal  
feed, analytical  
chemistry  
Bovine TB

[aberinnovation.com/en](http://aberinnovation.com/en)

AberInnovate is expanding, at present they do not yet have a traditional incubator facility but they offer close collaboration with University of Aberystwyth facilities including the Vet Hub which has and specific expertise for vaccine and Bovine TB projects. There is a bioAccelerate programme to support commercialisation interests and specific plans under the Mid-Wales Growth Deal to create new facilities suitable for start-up companies which may include a wide range of start-up mentoring and support facilities including links to public and equity funders.

Not a traditional incubator at this time as they do not have small labs for sole use but they do have a shared lab, which is available for short term lease of 1 week to 6 months.

Alongside AberInnovate is VetHub1 Website: [www.vethub1.co.uk](http://www.vethub1.co.uk) This is available through collaboration and has three CL3 facilities (security perimeter constructed to Loss Prevention Standard 1175, Security Rating 4) each self-contained with an autoclave, two microbiological safety cabinets and a range of equipment including autoclaves, centrifuges, incubators (CO2 supplied and a separate normoxic one), microscopes (with digital cameras) and ultralow temperature freezers.

There is also a CL2 suite consists of three laboratories containing a Nanostring nCounter SPRINT profiler, Nexcelom Cellometer K2 image cytometer, BMG Labtech CLARIOStar Plus multilabel plate reader, automated plate washer and a Life Technologies QuantStudio 7 Pro real-time PCR system. The laboratories also contain an array of high end ancillary equipment including incubators (static and shaking; CO2 supplied and a separate normoxic one), microscopes (with digital cameras), an autoclave and microbiological safety cabinets.

PHOTO CREDITS:  
AberInnovate



## Contact info

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Ceredigion SY23 3EE

01970 621809

[innovate@aber.ac.uk](mailto:innovate@aber.ac.uk)

[aberinnovation.com/en](http://aberinnovation.com/en)





# Menai Science Park (CAT2 LABS)



[m-sparc.com/our-park](http://m-sparc.com/our-park)

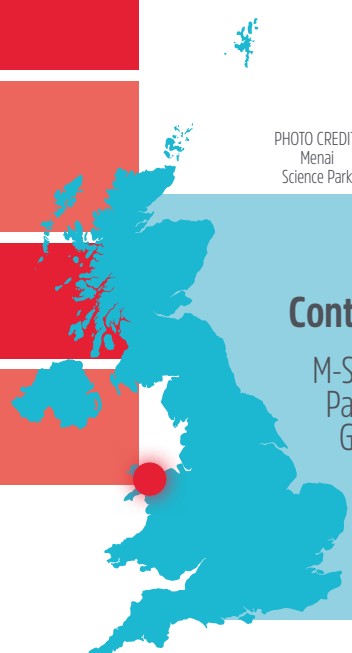
M-SParc can provide space for businesses of all sizes, from start-ups to large corporate companies. Everything a business requires, from outstanding facilities and bespoke business support services to flexible office space and laboratories, is available on site.

Close links to Bangor University can provide options for collaboration and there are also mentors and support available to ensure that tenants are supported by regional development teams and opportunities to apply for innovation grant funding.

Home to Diagnostig Ltd A spin-out company from Bangor University, the company was created to deliver unique devices for the diagnosis of Mycobacterial infections, including TB based on a proprietary lipid technology. Their core technology centres on the ability to manufacture specific mycolic acids which are components of the cell walls of Mycobacteria.



PHOTO CREDIT:  
Menai  
Science Park



## Contact info

M-SParc  
Parc Gwyddoniaeth Menai  
Gaerwen  
Anglesey LL60 6AG

[m-sparc.com/our-park](http://m-sparc.com/our-park)

**Owned/  
Funded by**  
Bangor University

**Specialism**  
Science and  
Technology



PHOTO CREDIT:  
Menai Science Park

### Space

Wet Labs - Ducts - Biology Cat 2  
17 Lab Spaces: 22m<sup>2</sup>, 43m<sup>2</sup> and 52m<sup>2</sup>



### Shared Facilities

None



### Business Support

Reception, Meeting Rooms, Hot Desks



### Virtual Tenancy

Yes



### Current companies on site

over 35 - 81% occupied

### Tenants Include

DIAGNOSTIG



### Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector,  
Regular Events, Networking



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



### Specific Investor Links

Bank of Wales Connections



# Cardiff Medicentre



## Owned/ Funded by

joint venture between  
Cardiff University  
and Cardiff and Vale  
University Health  
Board

## Specialism

Biotech and  
Medtech  
Startups

[cardiff.ac.uk/medicentre](http://cardiff.ac.uk/medicentre)

This business incubator focuses on providing lab and office facilities for health and wellbeing, life science and biotech companies. Aside from specialist medical services and labs, they offer a range of support in the form of funding and business advice, networking and access to further expertise.

### Space



Wet Labs - Ducts - Biology Cat 2  
Empty labs that companies have to kit out themselves.  
Office and laboratory units: 284 - 1045ft<sup>2</sup>

### Shared Facilities



Not known

### Business Support



Reception, Meeting Rooms

### Virtual Tenancy



No

### Current companies on site



16 - Full

### Tenants Include

Cellesce, Diurnal, OnICS

### Guidance/Growth offered



Mentoring on request from Uni, Access to funding through public sector, Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events, Networking

### Dedicated Accelerator Programme



On request from Uni

### Specific Investor Links



No

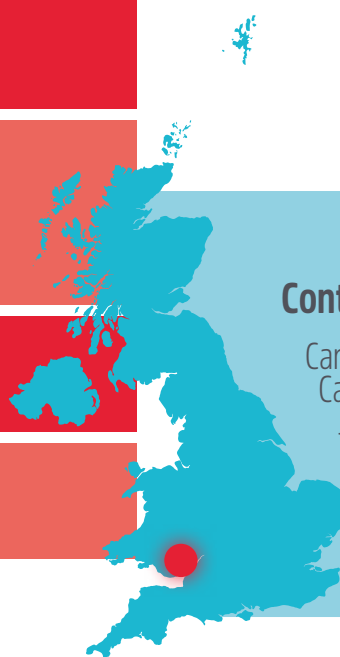
### Contact info

Cardiff Medicentre, Heath Park,  
Cardiff, CF14 4UJ,

+44 (0) 29 2075 7744

[medicentre@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:medicentre@cardiff.ac.uk)

[cardiff.ac.uk/medicentre](http://cardiff.ac.uk/medicentre)



# Institute of Life Science Incubator

## Owned/ Funded by

A joint venture between Cardiff University and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

## Specialism

Biotech and Medtech Startups

[swansea.ac.uk/medicine/facilities/institute-of-life-science](http://swansea.ac.uk/medicine/facilities/institute-of-life-science)

Based in Swansea, the Institute of Life Science Incubator is a business incubator to support advances in medical science to improve human health. The incubator can provide access to lab spaces, experts, and working space with a competitive package for any business. The buildings ILS1 and ILS2 have been specially built to provide an environment in which to develop products, processes and services to benefit human health. The ILS environment is intended to assist innovative organisations to grow quickly. It is anticipated that organisations will stay in ILS for 2 to 5 years, during which they will have expanded and be ready to move to larger suites or develop their own premises



### Space

Wet Labs - Biology Cat 2  
Offices with access to Labs



### Shared Facilities

Not known



### Business Support

Reception, Meeting Rooms



### Virtual Tenancy

Not known



### Current companies on site

Not known

### Tenants Include

Haemometrics, Calon Cardio-Technology



### Guidance/Growth offered

Mentoring, Access to funding through public sector, Access to pitching to investors, Regular Events, Networking



### Dedicated Accelerator Programme

No



### Specific Investor Links

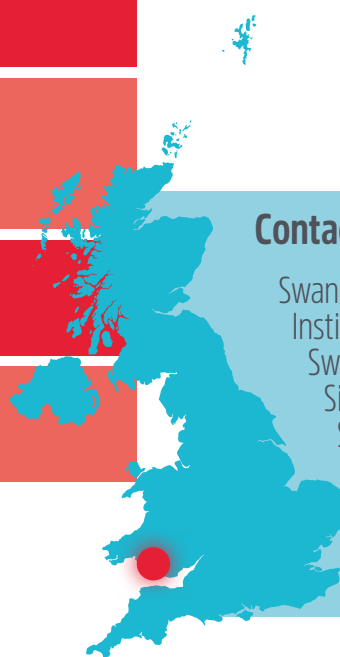
Not known

## Contact info

Swansea University Medical School,  
Institute of Life Science 2,  
Swansea University,  
Singleton Park,  
Swansea SA2 8PP

+44 (0) 1792 602697

[swansea.ac.uk/medicine/facilities/institute-of-life-science](http://swansea.ac.uk/medicine/facilities/institute-of-life-science)



# Funding Options

It takes money to get a company up and running, especially so for life sciences that often require wet labs with specific equipment. Often the amounts required mean that start-ups and spin-outs need to turn to investors to get the collateral needed to pay for staff and premises to get operations underway. Investors take shares in the company in exchange for the money they make available in the belief that the company will become successful. If it is possible to obtain 'soft-money' in grant funding this lessens the amount of money that will be needed to exchange for equity, and because grants are often subject to due diligence on the technical merit achieving a grant funding award can give comfort to investors and make them more likely to partner with a start-up.

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Post-Company Formation Funding Support - EU Funding	70

# Funding Options

There are different ways of accessing grant funding for TRL2 and TRL3 (Technology Readiness Level) in different regions and nations of the UK.

Within the university world there are often Proof of Concept funding opportunities to help start to shape your research in a more commercial direction and to get ready to form a spin-out.

## Who are UKRI?

UK Research and Innovation UKRI (UKRI) provides the main bulk of funding for research and innovation in the UK, with separate funding being available comparable to Research England in the devolved nations.

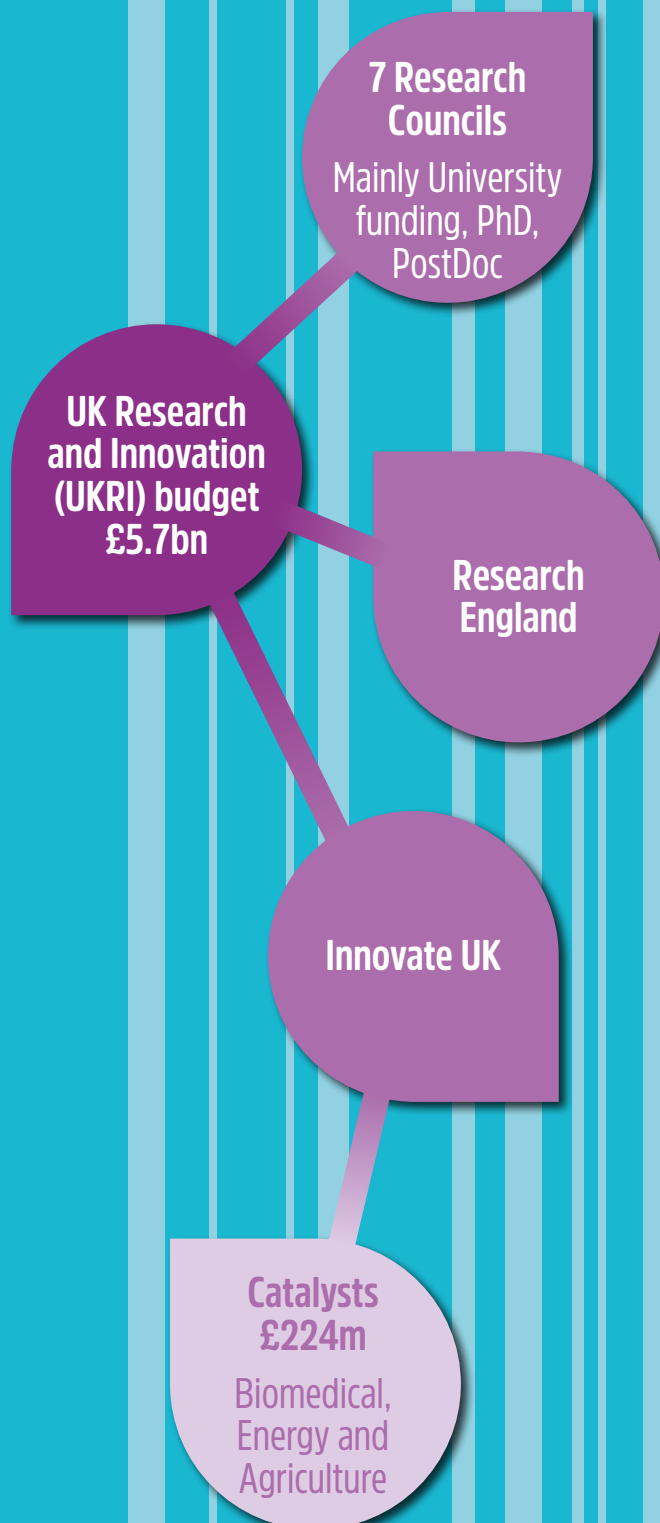
There are other grants available, specifically for life sciences through the biomedical Catalyst, available to any company in the UK on a call by call competitive basis:

**[apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/922/overview](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/922/overview)**

Often these are supported through your college/university innovation team with money sources from UKRI. A typical Project will last 18 months and the company is formed at the end of the process: **[ukri.org/opportunity/stfc-follow-on-funding-sep-2021](https://ukri.org/opportunity/stfc-follow-on-funding-sep-2021)**

In Scotland this is the High Growth Start-Up fund and administered by Scottish Enterprise: **[scottish-enterprise.com/support-for-businesses/business-development-and-advice/scale-your-business](https://scottish-enterprise.com/support-for-businesses/business-development-and-advice/scale-your-business)**

But if you are already at a point where the next steps for your entrepreneurial journey would be better outside academia, then there are other options, with differing routes for support and different opportunities in different locations across the UK.



# Post-Company Formation Funding Support - UK Funding

## Innovation Vouchers

Available to all UK companies interested in innovation. These vouchers enable companies to access some time or equipment within University departments to try new ideas and start the process of new product and service development.

## SMART Awards

The different nations of the UK have different access routes to SMART but the types of projects that are eligible are the same.

Feasibility studies- aimed at TRL2 and TRL3 6 to 18 months long, with a grant support level of up to 70%, up to a maximum grant of £100,000 which mainly covers research staff and consumables.

Development studies – aimed at more advanced research that needs a bit more help to get to a commercialisation stage. Generally 50% grant support.

Here is the link for Innovate UK that puts out calls for SMART projects on a regular basis: [apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/810/overview](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/810/overview)

## Biomedical Catalyst

Especially for the life sciences area the UK, has access to a Biomedical Catalyst that has funding support for commercialisation of new therapeutics and medical devices<sup>1</sup>.

## England: area specific support options

In 2010 the regional Development Agencies who provided grant funding across 9 different regions of England were removed and have been replaced by 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships.

- London Enterprise, through the London Growth Hub has investment fund opportunities for start-ups: [london.gov.uk/what-we-do/london-growth-hub](https://london.gov.uk/what-we-do/london-growth-hub)
- UKRI: [ukri.org/opportunity/multimodal-research-across-scales-to-understand-human-disease/](https://ukri.org/opportunity/multimodal-research-across-scales-to-understand-human-disease/)

<sup>1</sup> [apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/922/overview](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/922/overview)

## Scotland: area specific support options

- If the company is already set up in Scotland then your first port of call could be Business Gateway: [bgateway.com/](https://bgateway.com/) They can provide you an advisor to help with navigating the entrepreneurial options for support, networking and grant funding.
- Scottish Enterprise can provide grant support for SMART for Scottish based companies: [scottish-enterprise.com/support-for-businesses/funding-and-grants/business-grants/smart-scotland-grant](https://scottish-enterprise.com/support-for-businesses/funding-and-grants/business-grants/smart-scotland-grant)
- The Scottish Investment Bank is often a partner for equity investors looking to take a stake in Scottish based Life Sciences companies who have also achieved grant funding.
- Scottish EDGE competition – HIGGS EDGE category. Open to all companies across Scotland, no matter their market sector or stage of development, Scottish EDGE is a prize offering business competition. The highest value prizes are within the technology focussed HIGGS Edge section, providing up to £150k for winning companies. EDGE has 2 competitions each year, and gives out over £1m prize money in total for each cohort.

## Northern Ireland: area specific support options

- The best starting Point for High Growth potential companies registered in Northern Ireland is TechStart: [techstart.vc/investni.com/support-for-business/proof-of-concept-techstart](https://techstart.vc/investni.com/support-for-business/proof-of-concept-techstart)
- CoFundNI – is a Northern Ireland based public sector investor which will co-fund alongside traditional angel and VC investors: [cofundni.com/companies.aspx](https://cofundni.com/companies.aspx)

## Wales: area specific support options

- The Welsh Government, through Business Wales offer some additional support for Wales based life sciences companies as the accelerated growth programme: [businesswales.gov.wales/growth/](https://businesswales.gov.wales/growth/)
- And they have a SMART fund too: [businesswales.gov.wales/innovation/smart-innovation](https://businesswales.gov.wales/innovation/smart-innovation)

# Post-Company Formation Funding Support - EU Funding

## EU FUNDING: TRL 2

Research supported by a technology concept and/or application idea

[eufundingplaybook.fi/small](https://eufundingplaybook.fi/small)

Definition of this TRL level:

- **Software:** To reach this TRL level you have some basic principles observed and you have started R&D, but applications are still speculative.
- **Medical Research:** Some basic principles were observed and R&D has started, but applications are still speculative.
- **Examples** of possible EU funding programmes:  
 EIC Pathfinder of Horizon Europe  
[eufundingplaybook.fi/eic/#pat](https://eufundingplaybook.fi/eic/#pat)

## EU FUNDING: TRL 3

Research supported by a minimum of experimentation

[eufundingplaybook.fi/small](https://eufundingplaybook.fi/small)

Definition of this TRL level:

- **Software:** To reach this TRL level you need to have experimental and analytical studies conducted to validate the predictions on the technology. These studies provide a preliminary technology proof of concept, performed in the laboratory.
- **Medical Research:** Experimental and analytical studies were conducted to validate the predictions on the technology. These studies provide a preliminary technology proof of concept, performed in the laboratory. In biomedical technologies, 'in vitro' tests fit in this stage.
- **Examples** of possible EU funding programmes:  
 EIC Pathfinder of Horizon Europe  
[eufundingplaybook.fi/eic/#pat](https://eufundingplaybook.fi/eic/#pat)

The EIC Pathfinder funds projects with the aim to achieve the proof of principle and validate the scientific basis of breakthrough technology. The approach of the call is bottom-up, with emphasis on the specific challenges.

- Number of pages of the application: 17 pages
- Maximum grant: EUR 3 million (open call) and EUR 4 million (challenge driven call)
- Funding rate: 100%
- Technology Readiness Level (TRL): 1-4
- Project duration: maximum 4 years
- Estimated duration of application writing process (recommendation): 6 weeks

The application will be evaluated by EIC expert evaluators, after which you get to reply to their findings within seven calendar days. The evaluation committee will then decide on the final score taking into consideration the score given by the expert evaluators and your reply to their findings. The application is evaluated based on three main criteria: Excellence (60% weight), Impact (20% weight) and Implementation (20% weight).

# Post-Company Formation Funding Support - EU Funding

## EU FUNDING: TRL 4 Technology components validation in a laboratory environment

[eufundingplaybook.fi/small](https://eufundingplaybook.fi/small)

Definition of this TRL level:

- **Software:** At this stage, the basic technological components are designed, developed and integrated to verify that they work together. In the case of software products, this is the stage of 'alpha tests'.
- **Medical Research:** At this stage, the basic technological components are designed, developed and integrated to verify that they work together.
- **Examples** of possible EU funding programmes: EIC Pathfinder, EIC Transition of Horizon Europe  
[eufundingplaybook.fi/eic/#pat](https://eufundingplaybook.fi/eic/#pat)

In the EIC Transition, the focus on validation and demonstration of technology in application-relevant environment and development of market readiness. It supports both the maturation and validation of your novel technology in the lab and in relevant application environments as well as the development of a business case and business model towards the innovation's future commercialisation.

- Number of pages of application: 25 pages
- Maximum grant: EUR 2.5 million
- Funding rate: 100%
- Technology Readiness Level (TRL): 4-6
- Estimated duration of application writing process (recommendation): 8 weeks

Four EIC expert evaluators will evaluate and score your application against the evaluation criterion. The overall score for each evaluation criterion will be the median of the corresponding scores attributed by the individual evaluators. The total score of your proposal will be the sum of the overall scores from the three evaluation criteria.

At the interview you should convincingly pitch your application to the jury of maximum six people, who will ask you questions aimed at clarifying various aspects of your application in line with the evaluation criteria. The jury will recommend your application for funding or not ('GO' or 'NO GO') and will not provide a separate scoring against the criteria.

## IMI, Innovative Medicine Initiative

[imi.europa.eu](https://imi.europa.eu)

EU public-private partnership funding health research and innovation. They have funding available and for instance for the IMI2 programme (2014-2020), the total budget was €3.276 billion. IMI is the world's biggest public-private partnership (PPP) in the life sciences. It is a partnership between the European Union (represented by the European Commission) and the European pharmaceutical industry (represented by EFPIA, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations).

The new initiative will be IHI, Innovative Health Initiative. On 23 February 2021, the European Commission published a proposal for a Single Basic Act establishing a number of joint undertakings under Horizon Europe, including the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI). The European Commission's proposal is now being discussed by the Council, in consultation with the European Parliament. All information on IHI is indicative and the details are subject to change during the legislative process, until the regulation has been formally adopted by the Council.

The total budget proposed for IHI is EUR 2.4 billion.

## COST

[www.cost.eu](https://www.cost.eu)

The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) provides international research funding for researchers and innovators to set up interdisciplinary research networks in Europe and beyond, this can include all fields of science and technology.

Researchers and innovators from universities, public and private institutions, NGOs, industry and SMEs. Particular emphasis is placed on activities involving researchers from less-research-intensive COST Member countries with a view to increasing their participation.

Thus, COST Actions are open to:

- all fields of science and technology (including interdisciplinary, new and emerging fields);
- all types of institutions (academia, public institutions, SME/ Industry, NGO, European/International organisations, etc);
- all career stages;
- all COST Members (based on mutual benefit). Non-COST Members can join based on mutual benefit, they are spread across the Near Neighbour Countries and International Partner Countries.



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## THE BLOOMSBURY SET

A knowledge exchange platform bringing together four partner Colleges of the University of London, together with the London International Development Centre, to accelerate the delivery of innovative scientific and technical solutions to help safeguard human and animal health.

## CONNECTING CAPABILITY FUND

Research England's Connecting Capability Fund (CCF) supports university collaboration in research commercialisation through allocation of £100 million for competitive projects and formula funds. It aims to share good practice and capacity internally across the higher education sector, forge external technological, industrial and regional partnerships, and deliver the Government's industrial strategy priorities.

## Partners



Supported by the Connecting Capability Fund





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