

# Global Explorers Innovate UK

**Global Explorers** is an Innovate UK programme designed to support individual UK SMEs to explore global R&D and innovation opportunities to accelerate the development of their innovative ideas, products and services and global market access.

The Global Explorers programme is available throughout the UK, with entry and access via Innovate UK's business growth service Innovate UK EDGE.

## Aims & Objectives:

The Global Explorers programme has the overall objective of accelerating SME growth and scaling through increasing global collaboration and future market access, and aims to enable individual UK SMEs to:

- Explore and further international R&D and innovation collaboration and partnerships
- Engage effectively in collaborative research and innovation across borders
- Explore global market opportunities

## Key Features

- Funded by Innovate UK
- Grant funding for 70% of eligible costs up to £21,000
- Six-month project window
- Apply through and work with a highly experienced Innovate UK EDGE innovation & growth specialist
- Opportunity to explore international R&D collaboration and partnerships
- Opportunity to explore global markets

## Benefits

- **Part of the Innovate UK's support for UK SMEs enabling access to global opportunities**
- **Reduced risk to the business in taking steps to explore global markets**
- **Leverage of existing costs**
- **Access to expertise, knowledge and experience enabling validation and acceleration of innovative products and services**

- **Increased knowledge, understanding and experience of international opportunities and markets**
- **Accelerated global growth and scaling**

## Eligibility

**Global Explorers is targeted at ambitious innovative businesses that have the capability to grow and scale, including through global innovation collaboration and building partnerships.**

**All Global Explorer applications must be endorsed by an Innovate UK EDGE innovation & growth specialist or Scaleup Director and therefore, to apply, SMEs must already be working with Innovate UK EDGE. See overleaf for more information on eligibility and suitability.**

## Funding available

Grant funding is available for up to 70% of eligible project activities, up to a maximum of £21,000. The business will need to contribute the remaining 30% of project costs (in kind, financial or non-financial).

## KEY AIMS

Explore further international R&D and innovation opportunities

Engage in research and innovation across borders

Develop global partnerships, collaborations and networks

Increase understanding and experience of accessing global markets

Accelerate innovative products and services

## EXAMPLES OF GLOBAL EXPLORER PROJECTS:

All Global Explorer projects aim should be to accelerate the innovation process through exploring global opportunities with a focus on international R&D and innovation partnership and collaboration:

- Explore and test possible new markets, partnerships and collaboration opportunities
- Identify opportunities for R&D and innovation collaboration
- Explore the adaption of existing innovative products for a new market
- Seek technical expertise and specialist sector knowledge to aid market access
- Gain advice on regulatory and government processes
- Gain access to networks and to access the programmes of global incubators and accelerators
- Receive sector-specific expert advice and support with market analysis, cost modelling, business-case support, creation of industry and market relevant R&D and innovation plans
- Market-specific intellectual property advice
- Investment readiness/scalability advice linked to international exploration
- Market research reports
- New market certification readiness (not for the physical certification)

## TO APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAMME, YOU MUST:

Be a UK based innovation-led company with ambitions to grow and internationalise

Be a company with fewer than 500 employees

Must already be working with Innovate UK EDGE

Global Explorers is only available to Innovate UK EDGE clients. To be eligible for Global Explorers, a client will need to have an action plan agreed with an Innovate UK EDGE innovation & growth specialist or Scaleup Director where one action must be defined as exploring and accessing global opportunities to accelerate growth.

## ELIGIBILITY & SUITABILITY

Standard Innovate UK Eligibility requirements apply:

- UK registered business
- Business is trading and not a holding or dormant company
- Business has less than 500 employees (250 in Northern Ireland), a turnover of less than €50m, or a balance sheet of less than €43m
- The support to be provided will not exceed their rolling three-year Minimal Financial Assistance Allowance
- Global Explorers will not fund any activities related to Russia or Belarus including procurement, commercial, business development or supply chain activity with any Russian and Belarusian entity, partner or subcontractor. This includes any goods or services originating from a Russian and Belarusian source.

## WHAT GLOBAL EXPLORERS DOES NOT SUPPORT:

Global Explorers support is designed to support R&D and innovation based activities to enable innovative UK businesses to explore future global market opportunities.

Global Explorers does not support:

- UK focused activity
- Export related activity including exhibiting at international trade fairs
- Non-civilian activity
- More than one project with an individual business in a 12 months period

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

To register your interest, please contact your Innovate UK EDGE innovation & growth specialist (if already an existing client) or complete our contact form by visiting the [Innovate UK EDGE website](#).