

# HOW WE ASSESS FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Applying for funding can raise a few concerns. Is it worth my while applying? Is it really a level playing field? Are the assessors qualified to judge my application? So here, we answer the **five most frequently asked questions**.

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## WHO ASSESSES THE APPLICATIONS?

Innovate UK appoint independent assessors with relevant sector expertise, knowledge and experience in the specific innovation area for each funding competition.

Each application is assessed by up to five assessors from both business and academia. The assessors are briefed on the competition scope and will score proposals against the answers to the questions provided in your application form.

The Innovate UK Funders Panel makes the final decision regarding all funding.

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## IS EVERY APPLICATION TREATED THE SAME?

Rest assured they are. Innovate UK's funding mechanisms are a competitive application process. So all applications are assessed on individual merit and assessed against the same set of scoring criteria.



## WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

The standard assessment process is as follows (don't worry, it's not as scary as it looks).

1. Applications are forwarded to assessors after the closing date for submission.
2. The applications that meet the eligibility criteria and scope of the competition are sent for assessment. If your application is out of scope, you will be notified with a full explanation.
3. The assessors evaluate each application against the same set of criteria.
4. Each assessor completes and submits a score sheet with comments for each application they have been assigned.
5. A report is compiled to identify a ranked order of all applications.
6. Where there is a second stage to the competition, successful applications from the expression of interest (stage 1) are invited to submit a full stage application. The successful applicants are taken in order from the top of the ranked list, as recommended by the assessors.
7. The written assessment process is repeated on the full stage applications. Assessors will not necessarily have seen your expression of interest (EOI) application and so the full stage application must include all necessary information. Similarly, assessors may note different points in your full stage application to those found by the assessors who reviewed your EOI application. It is therefore important not to rely on purely addressing the points referenced in the EOI feedback. The latter should be used to enhance your full stage application, but not exclusively as different assessors will note different things.
8. Following the written assessment of the full stage application, an assessment moderation panel is assembled to discuss any applications that require clarification around scope, quality, feasibility or fundability. The assessment panel recommends a ranked list of applications to be funded by Innovate UK and its funding partners.
9. The final recommended panel list is presented to the Funders Panel of Innovate UK for final approval. Whilst Innovate UK engages assessors to act on its behalf, it retains the right of decision over scope and to whether a proposal is entitled to receive funding.



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## DO I GET ANY FEEDBACK ON MY APPLICATION?

Yes, after the time and effort you have spent applying, it is only fair we give feedback. Assessors will provide written feedback for each scored question in the application. The comments provided by the assessors noted on the score sheets are provided to you at the end of the process.

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## WHAT'S A 'PORTFOLIO' APPROACH?

All applications are assessed on individual merit in accordance with the normal Innovate UK process. We however reserve the right to apply a 'portfolio' approach to ensure the distribution of funds across areas, subject to meeting the required quality threshold.

The portfolio will be spread across a range of:

- scope areas
- categories of research and development
- project durations
- project costs, including demonstrating value for money

This is to make sure that our funds are allocated across the key areas identified in the scope of the grant competition.

**READY TO APPLY?** [Click here](#)