

General Questions

Who is eligible for ICURE Explore?

ICURE Explore is open to all research students and technicians from any discipline. This includes any research staff or technical research staff member who receives their salary or stipend from an eligible university, PSRE, research institute or organisation (including, but not limited to, Ph.D., technician, PDRA, fellowship and group leader positions).

I am a Ph.D. student, am I eligible?

To be eligible as an Entrepreneurial Lead you must have written up and submitted your Ph.D. for examination before being able to apply.

Can anyone be an Entrepreneurial Lead?

Yes, anyone can be an Entrepreneurial Lead. This can include but is not limited to, Ph.D., technician, PDRA, fellowship, and group leader positions. However, please note that ICURE

Explore is a full-time commitment for three months and if recommended for ICURE Exploit, you will be expected to commit full time for a minimum of a further 15 months. The

Entrepreneurial Lead is expected to be on the payroll of the new company funded through the IUK business grant.

I have previously completed ICURE Explore, am I eligible?

All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. You are eligible to apply if you wish to test the market for IP that does not originate in an incorporated company.

I am an individual in a start-up/company interested in ICURE Explore, am I eligible?

If you are from an incorporated UK business and want commercialisation support you are **ineligible** for the ICURE suite of programmes but you may be eligible for support from [Innovate UK Business Connect](#).

I am a non-UK national, can I participate in ICURE Explore?

Yes, provided you have the necessary visas allowing you to travel and work in the UK.

NOTE: To be eligible for an Innovate UK business grant to spin out (if recommended), all recipients of funding must be resident in the UK for tax purposes and have the appropriate permissions to work in the UK.

As a PhD student who is currently registering a company and awaiting information from our Tech Transfer Office, am I eligible for ICURE Explore?

Most ICURE teams are at the exploratory stage, where the ICURE Programmes help them identify the most appropriate commercialisation vehicle for their research.

If you have already decided to spin-out, it means you have already chosen your route to commercialisation and would, therefore, not be appropriate to participate in the ICURE programmes.

However, if the company has been created in name only, and you have not yet decided on your market route, please discuss it with us, as we assess this on a case-by-case basis.

Can we apply for ICURE Explore if the Entrepreneurial Lead is from another university?

This is allowed for ICURE Explore, but there needs to be a formal IP agreement in place between the institutions before an Entrepreneurial Lead from a different institution is eligible.

Who is eligible for ICURE Sector-Specific Explore programmes?

To be eligible for ICURE Sector-Specific Explore, you will need to have research in the stated sector for which the cohort is recruiting. If you are unsure whether you are in the sector, please contact us.

Will I be able to continue doing research and/or teaching while participating in ICURE Explore?

As an Entrepreneurial Lead, you are required to participate full-time during the period of ICURE Explore, and you will not be allowed to continue research and/or teaching. If you have existing commitments, please delegate them to another appropriate staff member or consider other ICURE programs (e.g., Engage or Discover).

I want to be an Entrepreneurial Lead, but my salary is beyond the support provided to participate full-time over the 12 weeks. Will you cover them based on my actual salary?

No. The maximum support that we will provide is £35,000 which covers the salary of the Entrepreneurial Lead to participate full-time over the 12 weeks and expenses associated with testing key market assumptions and market exploration. Anything beyond that will have to be covered by yourself.

How much funding am I eligible for in ICURE Explore?

You will be provided with a total of £35,000 in support, which covers both the salary of the Entrepreneurial Lead (EL) to participate full-time over 12 weeks and the expenses associated with testing key market assumptions and market exploration. Please note that the salary is inclusive of pension and N.I. contributions.

If the Entrepreneurial Lead is a PhD candidate, their funded scholarship may be paused for the duration of ICURE Explore (i.e., 3 months) to allow them to be 100% committed to ICURE Explore. If the EL is from a university, the university needs to create a post for the duration of the ICURE project and set up a project cost to charge any salary costs to the ICURE project code.

Can I have multiple Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) involved in ICURE Explore?

Yes, you are allowed to have multiple PSAs involved in the project participating in ICURE Explore. However, please note that only one PSA is funded for any travel and subsistence costs when the team needs to attend ICURE events (e.g., boot camps, Options Roundabout, and training days) if they are delivered in person.

If two universities apply for the ICURE Explore programme for a technology jointly developed, do we need to provide one or two Technology Transfer Officers (TTOs)?

A university has to take the lead, and the lead university's Technology Transfer Officer (TTO) should be on the application form. It is recommended that the university where the Entrepreneurial Lead (EL) is employed takes the lead.

IP-related questions

Are there any implications for IP ownership and revenue distribution if the academic takes part?

The ICURE programme does not take any equity or revenue from any teams or companies. It is a fully paid-for programme funded by Innovate UK to help UK researchers explore the commercial potential and application of their research.

What happens if my Senior Researcher owns all the IP?

If the Senior Researcher is employed by the University, the IP is owned by the University. Hence, it is recommended that your TTO is aware that you are applying to ICURE programs. In exceptional cases, some academics may own their own IP. Please reach out to us to discuss this further.

Am I eligible for ICURE Explore if I own the IP or if it is shared with a university/research organisation?

You are eligible to apply but will need to demonstrate that you have an appropriate team to support the commercialisation process.

Would combined student and University IP be considered?

Yes, but only with the full support of the host University TTO and research team.

Would IP that is being developed between a university and company be eligible?

Yes, if the new IP is wholly owned by the University and not in the business environment.