



The Assessor Role and Application Process at Innovate UK

Frequently Asked Questions
September 2025



Innovate
UK

How do I become an Expert Assessor?

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Contents

Our organisation

How do I become an Expert Assessor?	1
About Innovate UK	2
About Innovate UK Business Connect	2
Together as One: Supporting UK Innovation.....	2
Purpose.....	3
The role of an Expert Assessor in Innovate UK.....	3
What is an Expert Assessor?	3
What to expect as an Expert Assessor	4
How often will I be asked to assess?	4
What will I be asked to do?	4
What are the employment and payment terms?.....	5
What support will I be offered?	5
The Application Process	6
How do I apply?	6
What are Advanced Connectivity Technologies?	6
What is the process?	6
Reasonable adjustment requests with your application	7
Where can I find additional support?	7
Data handling and protection.....	7
Glossary of terms	7
Competition	7
Innovation Funding Service	7
Research organisation	7

About Innovate UK

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, is the UK's innovation agency. It works to create a better future by inspiring, involving and investing in businesses developing life-changing innovations.

Whether you're looking to collaborate, scale, or bring your innovation to market, we're here to help every step of the way.

We believe that diverse perspectives enhance innovation, and we strive to create an assessment process that welcomes experts from all sectors and communities. Whether you bring deep technical expertise, direct experience, or strategic insight. As an Expert Assessor your contributions will play a vital role in shaping the future of UK innovation.

[Find out how we support innovators](#)

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to ensure transparency in our new recruitment process for an Expert Assessor. This document outlines what the role of Expert Assessor is, and how you can get support if you decide to apply.

Diversity is one of our priorities: we are actively seeking new experts and professionals from underrepresented backgrounds to bring more diverse perspectives to enhance the fairness in our assessment process.

We're delivering on our commitment: this new Expert Assessor recruitment process demonstrates our strong and immediate action to our public commitments to enhance fairness, inclusion and excellence in all phases and aspects of our competition processes.

The role of an Expert Assessor in Innovate UK

What is an Expert Assessor?

Expert Assessors are professionals from across industry, academia, clinical practice, social innovation and beyond. You bring applied, lived, or professional expertise to evaluate funding applications. Your role is to provide fair, impartial, and evidence-based feedback that helps applicants improve their ideas and supports effective funding decisions.

You'll be independent (not employed by Innovate UK), and your insights will help shape the future of UK innovation.

Watch a short video about the role [here](#) for an overview of how Expert Assessors contribute to the assessment process at Innovate UK.

What to expect as an Expert Assessor

If your application to become an Expert Assessor is successful, you'll join our pool of experts. When we have identified a competition that aligns with your experience, we'll contact you to confirm your availability against the assessment window and check how your expertise aligns with the competition's technology areas.

Once the competition has closed:

- We'll confirm if we have any applications matching your experience.
- We'll invite you to attend a 1-hour online briefing (via Microsoft Teams)


After the briefing

- We'll assign applications for you to assess.
- You'll complete your assessments on the Innovation Funding Service, scoring and providing feedback based on the competition's criteria.

How often will I be asked to assess?

You'll be invited to assess applications when a competition matches the expertise and experience you shared in your application. We can't guarantee a specific number of assessments, as it depends on the volume and nature of applications submitted.

There's no minimum number, and we'll always aim to ensure you're not overloaded. Each assessment must be completed within the defined assessment window. If you're unable to complete your assessments, please let us know as early as possible so we can reallocate them.

 *Only commit to what you can realistically complete within the timescales.*

What will I be asked to do?

When a suitable competition is identified:

- You'll be invited to a short online briefing (approx. 1 hour).
- After the briefing, we'll assign you applications.
- You'll assess each one by scoring and providing constructive feedback via the Innovation Funding Service.

What are the appointment and payment terms?

This is a flexible role. Before each competition, we'll confirm your availability and outline the payment terms, which are based on the number of applications you assess. You will be asked to sign up to a 12-month contract, which is renewed annually. You will be asked to declare and update conflicts of interest before each assessment round.

Additional paid activities may include:

- Attending interviews (online or in person)
- Participating in feedback sessions to support continuous improvement

Please note: Induction, guidance sessions, drop-ins, and competition briefings are not billable.

What support will I be offered?

We're here to help you succeed.

Once your account is set up, contract is signed, and any conflicts of interest declared you'll get access to a library of helpful resources.

You'll also be invited to:

- A two-part induction (held weekly on Fridays via Microsoft Teams)
- An EDI guidance session & quiz

You must attend the induction and have completed the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) guidance session and quiz before you are able to be allocated any assessments.

Should any new legislation be introduced regarding equality, diversity & inclusion we will keep you updated on how this affects you. Which may involve you attending an online briefing session to enable you to ask questions.

Can I be an Expert Assessor and apply for IUK funding?

Yes, you can. You won't be able to assess on a competition you are applying into or where you have supported in completing an application.

The Application Process

How do I apply?

It's simple! Just fill out the [online form](#). You'll also complete a short Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) survey.

You can save your progress and submit when you're ready.

What are Advanced Connectivity Technologies?

Previously known as Future Telecoms, Advanced Connectivity Technologies are defined by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) as technologies that enable the transmission of data in our increasingly digitised economy and society; connecting both people and things. These include technologies that make up advanced wireless systems, such as 5G and the transition to 6G, non-terrestrial networks, advanced optical networks, the growing integration of AI - and in time quantum - with communications.

What is the process?

The recruitment process for applying to be an Expert Assessor is as follows:

1. Submit your application.
2. Wait up to 6 weeks for Innovate UK to review your application.
3. You are informed of the outcome of your application.
4. If your evidence provided is enough to meet the criteria of an Expert Assessor for that sector, industry, or general level of business acumen, you will be contacted to sign a contract and be onboarded onto our internal systems.

All applications are responded to whether successful or unsuccessful.



Reasonable adjustment requests with your application

We are committed to ensuring that our recruitment and assessment processes are inclusive and accessible to everyone.

If you require any reasonable adjustments to participate, please contact us at: assessor.recruitment@iuk.ukri.org

Where can I find additional support?

If you have any further questions about the role of an Expert Assessor and the application process, please contact the team on assessor.recruitment@iuk.ukri.org

Data handling and protection

Data collected in the application process is in line and in accordance with the [UKRI Privacy Notice](#) and [Equality, diversity and Inclusion in UKRI](#).

You can notify IUK to withdraw your application at any point in the process by using the above email address. You will be able to retain a copy of your submitted application for your own records.

Glossary of terms

Competition

The term used by Innovate UK for the process of applying for funding. Any individuals, research organisations or companies can apply to receive funding, by applying to a relevant competition managed by Innovate UK, which will then be assessed.

Innovation Funding Service

The Innovation Funding Service is a web supported platform where all activity regarding Innovate UK funding is managed.

Research organisation

A public or private entity, such as a university or research institute, whose primary purpose is to conduct scientific research and disseminate the results through teaching, publication, or technology transfer. These organisations can vary in structure and legal status, but they must have research as a main objective and may operate on a non-profit basis with profits reinvested in research activities.



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