

AMPI UK-RAS ICURE Discover January 2026

Key Dates & Expectations

Programme Outline*	
Applications Open	13 th October 2025
Applications Close	11 th December 2025, 23.59
Assessment Meeting	12 th December 2025
Welcome Call	12 th January 2026 (1.5 hrs) Online
Bootcamp Day 1	14 th January 2026 (5.5 hrs) In-person Manchester - location TBC
Bootcamp Day 2	15 th January 2026 (5.5 hrs) Online
Coaching Calls	TBC - Online
Pitch Training	16 th March 2026 (1.5 hrs) Online
Practice Pitch	19 th March 2026 Online
Options Roundabout	25 th March 2026 In-person Manchester - location TBC
*Exact timings and dates for sessions will be confirmed on your Welcome Call	
*The Entrepreneurial Lead will be expected to attend all sessions scheduled above and should hold these dates in their diary when applying.	
*Technology Transfer Representatives are also welcome to attend all sessions, but it is not obligatory.	

What is AMPI UK-RAS ICURE Discover?

The programme supports early-stage researchers to develop the skills, networks and confidence to begin building a business case around their research. Designed for teams with technologies relevant to **advanced manufacturing, automation, intelligent systems and robotics**, this initiative is a collaboration between the **Advanced Machinery and Productivity Institute**, the **EPSRC UK Robotics and Autonomous Systems Network** and **Innovate UK ICURE**.

How does it work?

Our part-time online market discovery programme is developed using the lean startup methodology, which applies the scientific method (hypothesise, test, evaluate) to business ideas. Participants will learn how to use this approach to gauge their potential customers' opinions about their idea, product, or service. This programme is suitable for participants looking to explore the potential of their early-stage projects or those who require a part-time commitment for market exploration.

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What's included?

- Up to £2,500 support for testing assumptions and market discovery activities.
- Part-time market discovery spanning 8-11 weeks.
- Training on how to gather market feedback that indicates the next steps for your research and potential for commercialisation.
- Access to our team of experts; we will proactively connect you to our network of entrepreneurs, investors and funders.

Discover provides a route towards other ICURE Programmes. ICURE Discover is now a compulsory route into the ICURE Explore Programme.

Why Attend?

Past participants say that having dedicated time to spend understanding what commercialisation of research means has dramatically changed their perspective on their research, ideas, and innovations. The programme introduces ICURE and provides the space and opportunity to think differently about impact, commercialisation, and entrepreneurship.

Who is it for?

You can apply if you are:

- A researcher, technician or academic staff member at a UK university or publicly funded research organisation
- Working in areas related to **advanced machinery, robotics, autonomous systems or digital manufacturing**
- Keen to understand how your research could address real market needs

How do I apply?

- The online application form will ask a series of questions about you and your research project.
- There is a limited number of spaces on each cohort, but we try to provide support to as many applications as possible.
- The application form may be accessed from the links on this website.

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You will need to have engaged with your University Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and your Principal Investigator prior to applying.

Please contact us if your university does not have a TTO or IP Manager and we will endeavor to help.

If you have any further questions, please direct them to ciaran@thehelixway.com

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