

ICURE Engage EGMAR26 PQA
Photonics & Quantum Focused
Thursday 5th March 2026 to Friday 27th March 2026
KEY DATES AND EXPECTATIONS**

• Thursday 29 th January 2026	Applications open
• Tuesday 24 th February 2026	Applications close
• Wednesday 25 th February 2026	Notification of results sent to applicants

Programme Outline

- **2 Day Bootcamp: Thursday 5th March 2026 and Friday 6th March, 09:00 – 16:00**
- **Session 1: Friday 13th March 2026**
- **Session 2: Friday 20th March 2026**
- **Session 3: Friday 27th March 2026**

All sessions scheduled for 12.30-14.30.

- The research student/technician 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 bootcamp and sessions, but it is not obligatory.

** Timetable subject to change.

What is Engage?

This sector-specific Innovate UK ICURE Engage programme, delivered in collaboration with the Photonics & Quantum Accelerator (PQA), is a 4-week, part-time programme tailored for research students and technicians from Scottish institutions.

The programme supports participants to identify potential beneficiaries of their research, introduces practical tools for commercialisation, and encourages entrepreneurship as a pathway to achieving societal impact and a viable career choice. This cohort is focused on innovations within **photonics, quantum, and related enabling technologies**.

If you are unsure whether your technology or research fits these sectors, please get in touch icure@setsquared.co.uk.

What does it include?

- 2-day training bootcamp from Impact experts.
- Introduction to ICURE, ideation, design thinking and Value Proposition Canvas.
- Weekly hour-long conversations with peer group support and mentors for 3 Weeks.
- Around 5 hours of self-study and research over the 3 weeks.
- Consideration of how a venture delivering Impact may be funded.
- Production of a short video report reflecting on knowledge gained and research area Impact potential.

Delivered by

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. Our pioneers get access to leading university resources, and fantastic networks of mentors and investors who join them early on their journey. We're de-risking very exciting technologies which have enormous potential to change the world for the better.

Who is eligible?

The ICURE Engage programme is open to research students (including research master's students, early-stage PhD candidates, and post-Docs) and technicians who are interested in entrepreneurship and are working within photonics, quantum, or closely related fields.

This opportunity is open to all researchers from Scottish institutions - regardless of whether they already have a defined commercial idea. The programme is designed to introduce participants to ICURE and support early thinking around impact and entrepreneurship.

We particularly welcome applications from individuals in:

- Universities who have not previously participated in the ICURE programme.
- Universities who do not receive HEIF funding.
- Under-represented groups including women, people of colour, those living with disabilities, and those from the LGBTQI+ communities.
- Approved public sector research establishments (PSREs) conducting research within the specified domains.

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.

If you have any further questions, please direct them to icure@setsquared.co.uk.