

ICURE Discover October 2026

Key Dates & Expectations

Programme Outline*	
Applications Open	20th July 2026
Applications Close	14th September 2026, 23.59
Welcome Call	5th October 2026 (1.5 hrs)
Bootcamp Day 1	6th October 2026 (5.5 hrs)
Bootcamp Day 2	7th October 2026 (5.5 hrs)
Coaching Calls	16th Oct, 29th Oct, 12th Nov, 25th Nov.
Pitch Training	3rd December 2026
Practice Pitch	7th December 2026
Options Roundabout	10th December 2026
*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 Discover?

This Innovate UK ICURE Discover is a 10-week, part-time online market exploration programme for researchers and technicians to explore their potential market. The programme aims to enhance market awareness and deepen the understanding of potential technological applications.

How does it work?

Our 10-week, 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.

Delivered by

What does it include?

- Support to carry out market and customer discoveries on a part-time basis over a 10-week period.
- Introduction to Strategyzer Business Model Canvas (BMC).
- Trainer and mentor feedback with next steps guidance following your ICURE Discover journey.
- Up to £2,500 support for market discovery activities.

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 eligible?

ICURE Discover is open to all UK universities and approved public sector research establishments (PSREs). We accept innovations from any discipline or background within these areas.

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.
- The application form may be accessed from the links on this website.

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