

NAPIC ICURE Discover September 2026

Key Dates & Expectations

Programme Outline*	
Applications Open	1 st June 2026
Webinar	2 nd June 2026
Applications Close	3 rd September 2026, 23.59
Assessment Open	7 th September 2026
Assessment Close	9 th September 2026
Welcome Call	28 th September 2026 (1.5 hrs) Online
Bootcamp Day 1	29 th September 2026 (In-person)
Bootcamp Day 2	30 th September 2026 (online)
Coaching Calls	8 th Oct, 19 th Oct, 27 th Oct, 9 th Nov Online
Pitch Training	16 th November 2026 (1.5 hrs) Online
Practice Pitch	19 th November 2026 Online
Options Roundabout	24 th November 2026 (In-person)
*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.	

NAPIC ICURE Discover

Innovate UK ICURE is partnering with the National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre (NAPIC) to deliver an ICURE Discover programme in September 2026, specifically for research projects within the alternative protein sector. Applications from researchers working across the alternative protein space are welcome, including proteins from plants, insects, and microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, algae, precision fermentation, and cell cultured systems as well as hybrids/blends. Projects may relate to food, feed, or ingredient applications.

Applications enabling technologies and solutions that enhance sensory quality, nutrition, and safety; reduce environmental impact; improve production efficiency; or support consumer adoption of alternative proteins, falls under scope of this programme. This may include analytical tools, digital technologies, and innovations across the wider supply chain.

Applications must align with one or more of NAPIC's Innovation Challenges and Focus Areas. They may be positioned around any of NAPIC's four interdisciplinary knowledge pillars which together cover the entire value chain of alternative protein supply from production through to consumption. You can read more about NAPIC's priority areas here: [About NAPIC - NAPIC](#).

NAPIC ICURE Discover is an 8-week, part-time hybrid market discovery programme designed to support researchers and technicians in exploring their potential market. The programme aims to enhance market awareness and deepen the understanding of potential technology applications.

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.

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

Who is eligible?

NAPIC ICURE Discover is open to researchers (including PhD students, research technical professionals, postdoctoral research associates, fellowship and group leader positions) in all UK universities, BBSRC-funded institutes and approved public sector research enterprises.

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How do I apply?

- The online application form will ask a series of questions about you and your research project.
- You will need to have engaged with your University Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and your Principal Investigator prior to applying.
- The application form may be accessed from the links on this website.

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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