

ICURE Discover Sprint for Women Entrepreneurs DSJUN26

A 3-week intensive programme to test your research in the real world

Thursday 25th June 2026 to Tuesday 21st July 2026

KEY DATES AND EXPECTATIONS

Applications open	Tuesday 5 th May 2026
Applications close	Monday 1 st June 2026, 23:59
Notification of results sent to applicants	Monday 8 th June 2026
Programme Outline**	
Week 0 – Welcome (Online)	Thursday 25 June 12:30–15:30
Week 1 – Bootcamp (In Person & Online) London Location TBC	Tuesday 30 June 09:30–17:00 (In Person) Wednesday 1 July 09:30–17:00 (In Person) Thursday 2 July 12:30–14:00 (Online)
Week 2 – Validation (Online)	Tuesday 7 July 12:30–14:00 Thursday 9 July 12:30–14:00 Friday 10 July 12:30–14:00 (Optional)
Week 3 – Pitch Preparation	Tuesday 14 July 12:30–14:00 Wednesday 15 July Full day (timings tbc) Thursday 16 July 12:30–14:00
Options Roundabout (Online)	Tuesday 21 July Full day (timings tbc)
All sessions are mandatory unless stated otherwise. Timings subject to final confirmation.	
Discover (including Sprint) is a compulsory route into ICURE Explore.	
<p>*The research student/technician will be expected to attend all sessions scheduled above and should hold these dates in their diary when applying.</p> <p>*Technology Transfer Representatives are also welcome to attend all sessions, but attendance is not compulsory.</p>	

**This is a closed programme for women only – if you are not eligible other Discover Programmes are available on our [website](#). Should you have any queries please contact icure@setsquared.co.uk.*

***Timetable subject to change.*

What is ICURE Discover Sprint?

ICURE Discover Sprint is a **full-time 3-week intensive market discovery programme** designed to help researchers quickly test whether their idea has real-world demand.

It focuses on **customer conversations and practical validation**, enabling participants to gather evidence, challenge assumptions, and explore the commercial potential of their research in a short timeframe.

Sprint offers an **accelerated, action-led route to market insight**, supporting participants to move rapidly from idea to evidence.

How does it work?

ICURE Discover Sprint is based on lean startup methodology, applying the scientific method (hypothesise, test, learn) to research ideas.

Participants will identify potential customers, test assumptions through real-world conversations, and gather evidence to understand the potential applications and value of their idea.

The programme is fast-paced and action-led, designed for those who want to generate insight quickly and explore the commercial potential of their research within a short timeframe.

What does it include?

- A structured **3-week intensive programme** combining online sessions and an in-person bootcamp
- A **2-day in-person bootcamp** to build your value proposition and plan customer discovery
- Dedicated **mentor support throughout**, providing guidance, challenge, and access to networks
- Practical, hands-on workshops focused on customer discovery and validation
- Support to carry out **market and customer discovery activity during the programme**
- Flexible delivery combining **in-person and online sessions**
- Introduction to key tools including the **Strategyzer Business Model Canvas (BMC)**
- Ongoing **trainer, mentor, and peer feedback** to guide next steps
- Up to **£2,500 support for market discovery activities**

Why Attend?

Sprint gives you dedicated time to step back from your research and test its real-world potential. Through direct engagement with customers and stakeholders, you'll gain a clearer understanding of where your work fits, how it could be used, and whether there is genuine demand.

Participants often find it shifts how they think about their research - moving from ideas and outputs to impact, application, and opportunity.

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.

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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 support 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 icure@setsquared.co.uk or use the contact form via this website.