

IBIC ICURE Discover, September 2026

Key Dates & Expectations

Programme Outline*	
Applications Open	8 th May 2026
Applications Close	17 th July 2026, 23.59
Assessment Open	20 th July 2026
Assessment Close	24 th July 2026
Applicants Notified	Week beginning 29 th July 2026
Welcome Call	7 th September 2026 (1.5 hrs) Online
Bootcamp Day 1	9 th September 2026 (In-person, Manchester)
Bootcamp Day 2	10 th September 2026 (In-person, Manchester)
Coaching Calls	18 th Sept, 1 st Oct, 13 th Oct, 23 rd Oct - Online
Pitch Training	2 nd November 2026 (1.5 hrs) Online
Practice Pitch	6 th November 2026 Online
Options Roundabout (Including pitching competition)	12 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.	

Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Catalyst (IBIC) ICURE Discover Programme

Innovate UK ICURE is partnering with Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Catalyst (IBIC) to deliver an ICURE Discover programme in September 2026, specifically to accelerate research innovations in the industrial biotechnology sector.

IBIC ICURE Discover is an 8-week, part-time 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.

In partnership with

Delivered by

How does it work?

Our part-time hybrid 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?

The programme is open to early career researchers and technical staff (**postgraduate students, postdocs, fellows, junior lecturers and technical professionals**), from any north-west university, interested in increasing their market awareness and gaining a deeper understanding of their technology's potential applications in industrial biotechnology.

Teams should contain between 2-4 people and must comprise of at least one early career researcher as Entrepreneurial Lead and ideally a tech transfer professional. It is strongly recommended that the team has the approval from their supervisor/principal investigator/scientific advisor/funder.

The Entrepreneurial Lead must be able to commit for the duration of the programme, starting the week of the bootcamp through to the options roundabout, including attending all online/in-person sessions, and have approval of their research organisation or funder to do so.

The applicants will be selected on the basis of their application, the potential of their idea to impact the north-west's industrial biotech sector, and demonstration of their business potential.

As part of our commitment to improving diversity across our IBIC programme we are actively seeking applications from under-represented groups and also actively encourage applications led by non-Russell Group universities.

In partnership with

Delivered by

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.

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