Sources of Alternative Funding

Loughborough University

The table below provides a brief overview of alternative sources of funding, or routes to funding to be explored when EPG funds are unavailable.

AHRC (Follow on Funding for Impact & Engagement)	www.ahrc.ukri.org/funding/apply-for-funding/current-opportunities/followonfunding The AHRC Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement Scheme provides funds to support innovative and creative engagements with new audiences and user communities which stimulate pathways to impact. Funds will be awarded for knowledge exchange, public engagement, active dissemination and commercialisation activities that arise unforeseeably during the lifespan of or following an AHRC-funded project. The scheme does not support supplementary funding for continuation of research activities.
BBSRC (Follow on Funding)	www.bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/filter/follow-on This fund supports the translation of research into practical application, including commercialisation. The aim of the programme is to help researchers maximise the societal and economic benefits of their research. This is a proof-of-concept programme to support bioscience innovation and provide funding where further work on an idea will take it through to a stage at which the route to application is clear, which may include a spinout, licensing opportunity or the creation of a social enterprise. www.bbsrc.ukri.org/innovation/maximising-impact/follow-on Follow-on Funding supports activity that will enable commercialisation or other application from a BBSRC-funded project. For example, it might be used to develop research output from a BBSRC-funded project into a prototype; to obtain business advice; or to secure intellectual property rights. At the end of the project, a route to application should be clear – this could include development of a spinout company or a licensing agreement.
GCRF global research translation awards (currently closed)	www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gcrf-global-research-translation-awards This call aimed to support and enable new innovation and commercialisation opportunities with potential for translation and implementation at scale. More funding to be available in the future – keep an eye out for calls.
Innovate UK Funding Competitions	www.apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/search UK-based businesses or research organisations may be able to compete for government-backed funding to: 1) research and develop a process, product or service 2) test innovation ideas 3) collaborate with other organisations.

Innovate / GCRF demonstrate impact programme	**www.apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/443/overview** Organisations can apply for a share of up to £9.3 million to demonstrate market-creating innovations in lower income countries and emerging economies. This funding is Official Development Assistance from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). Competition closes 13 November 2019 12:00pm.
Innovate UK - iCURE	Commercialisation of University Research **www.warwick.ac.uk/services/ventures/midlandsicure** Programme of support for an early career researcher to explore the commercial potential of their research.
i-net funding (ERDF)	**www.the-inet.org.uk** Based at Loughborough University The iNet runs a number of business support programmes helping SMEs across Leicester and Leicestershire.
Medical Research Council (MRC)	**www.mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse** The MRC supports and advances medical research, spending around £800 million each year. It does this by providing research grants and career awards to scientists.
Midlands Innovation Commercialisation of Research Accelerator (MICRA)	**www.midlandsinnovation.org.uk/programmes/micra.aspx** The Midlands Innovation Commercialisation of Research Accelerator (MICRA), brings together the innovations and capabilities of the eight Midlands Innovation universities, in what is the largest formal collaboration between technology transfer offices (TTOs) in the UK. See final page for more information.
National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)	**www.nihr.ac.uk** NIHR's mission is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. It delivers against this mission through five strategic workstreams.
NERC	**www.nerc.ukri.org/funding/available/schemes/pathfinder** The Innovation Follow-on Fund Call awards up to £155,000 at 100% full economic cost (FEC) to fund development projects whose objective is to realise the commercial potential of NERC-funded research via a combination of complementary technical and commercial engagement work programmes.
Philanthropy Team / Donors / Charitable Trusts (@ Loughborough University)	**www.lboro.ac.uk/services/marketing-advancement/philanthropy** The Philanthropy Team focuses on raising funds from individuals (alumni and other contacts of the University), charitable trusts and foundations and companies in support of the University's priorities. This includes donations left in Wills as bequests.

Science and Technology Facilities Council (Follow-on Funding)	**www.stfc.ukri.org/funding/fellowships/innovations-partnership-scheme-fellowships** The IPS Fellowship Scheme is designed to support a knowledge exchange and commercialisation (KEC) professional in a position at a UK university in developing innovation and impact from its STFC-funded research outputs. It is expected that the IPS fellow will cultivate innovation opportunities by facilitating the transfer of technologies, skills and knowledge, developed through funding from the STFC Science Programme, to industry and other users of research outputs. The fellow will focus on commercial exploitation to ensure UK economic impact and strive to enhance the capacity for knowledge exchange within STFC funded departments of the host university. **www.stfc.ukri.org/funding/stfc-knowledge-exchange/innovations-partnership-scheme** The Innovations Partnership Scheme (IPS) is designed to transfer technology and expertise developed through STFC funding to the marketplace in partnership with industry and other academic disciplines. STFC technology or expertise must be integral to the project. **www.stfc.ukri.org/funding/stfc-knowledge-exchange/follow-on-funding** Follow-on Funding (FOF) is a 'proof-of-concept' model, where further work on an idea will make any commercial potential evident to the market and so secure, for example, a spinout (seed/venture finance) or licensing opportunity or provide the necessary information to bid for IPS support. This often takes small amounts of funds to enable activities essential to preparing a robust business plan. The scheme is designed support a range of relevant activities (e.g. market assessments, development of IP etc.) and enable the development and examination of a concept to establish its commercial feasibility and scientific and technical merit. FoF is designed for early stage TRL which can then feed in to a subsequent full IPS grant.
Royal Society of Edinburgh	RSE Enterprise Fellowships: **www.rse.org.uk/awards/enterprise-fellowships** Up to £90k package to support entrepreneurial development of a research student/RA/Academic. Annual competition, deadline November 1st.
Royal Academy of Engineering	Enterprise Hub: Various support packages for researchers and academics in the engineering field to support entrepreneurship **www.raeng.org.uk/grants-and-prizes/grants/enterprise-hub-support-for-entrepreneurs**
Welcome Innovator Awards	www.wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/innovator-awards These awards support researchers who are transforming great ideas into healthcare innovations that could have a significant impact on human health. Level of funding: Up to £500,000, or up to £750,000 for multidisciplinary collaborations Duration of funding: Usually up to 24 months, or up to 36 months for multidisciplinary collaborations.

Loughborough University is also a partner in the **MICRA (Midlands Innovation Commercialisation of Research Accelerator)** project, which has grant funding available for proof of concept development with commercial potential. This scheme aims to de-risk activity that has been identified as having breakthrough commercial potential. Grant awards provide support to accelerate the progress of technologies etc. to market that have already fully proven their underpinning scientific concepts.

The categories of projects funded under this grant scheme include:

Technical development activities:

Grant awards in this category can be used to present the proof of technical concept in a form needed for discussions with potential customers or industry partners.

EXAMPLE OUTPUTS:
• Record of invention
• No. of patent(s) filed
• Licensing agreement(s)
• No. of prototypes produced
• Value of investment secured

Industrial trial activities:

Grant awards in this category enable work with a specific industry partner to trial the market potential of a technology. They may take the form of inward or outward secondments for example.

EXAMPLE OUTPUTS:
• No. of new industry partners engaged by the TTO as a result of the project
• No. of joint industry publications
• No. of market assessments completed
• No. of sustained industry collaborations beyond the projects end date
• No. of licenses completed
• No. of spinouts established
• Value of additional investment secured during the project
• Value of any match funding secured to support the delivery of the project

Market validation activities:

Grant awards in this category enable market validation work (i.e. deep engagement in discussions with potential customers, and key opinion leaders/influencers etc). They may for example, result in visits to several commercial partners and to major industrial events.

EXAMPLE OUTPUTS:
• No. of new industry partners engaged by the Commercialisation Team as a result of the project
• Joint industry publications
• No. of sustained collaborations beyond the projects end date
• No. of market assessments completed
• Value of investment secured
• No. of new records of invention
• No of patents filed
• No. of licenses completed
• No. of spinouts established
• No. of industry events attended
• No. of new industrial contacts made
• Value of additional investment secured during the lifetime of the award

Other activities:

To support applications outside of these categories that meet the aim of MICRA.
Ideas require approval before an application can be submitted.

Applying to MICRA

All applications require the support of the Commercialisation Team;
please contact them if you wish to discuss an application.