



Collaborating with Academia

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Driving Knowledge Exchange in Scotland



Interface's free and impartial service connects businesses to the right academic expertise for increased R&D activity leading to the creation and development of new products, services and processes.

The Interface service – How it works



Businesses come to Interface directly, or through referrals from business support organisations throughout Scotland, looking to create and develop their ideas.



The Interface Team works with them to understand their goals and objectives; searching through all of Scotland's 23 higher education and research institutions to find the right partner to address their needs.



Once a match has been made Interface remain on hand to provide continuous support. We can identify numerous funding opportunities to offset the cost of the project.

Interface – Our Academic Partners



Abertay University



College Development Network



Colleges Scotland



Edinburgh Napier University



Forest Research



Glasgow Caledonian University



Open University



Queen Margaret University



Robert Gordon University



Glasgow School of Art



Heriot-Watt University



Moredun Research Institute



Scotland's Rural College



Scottish Association for Marine Science



The James Hutton Institute



Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland



The University of the Highlands and Islands



University of Aberdeen



University of St Andrews



UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

University of Stirling



University of Strathclyde



University of Dundee



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

University of Edinburgh



University of Glasgow



University of the West of Scotland

Innovation Voucher Funding

There are two types of Innovation Vouchers awarded by the Scottish Funding Council which help off set the cost of collaborating with academia for the first time



Product/Process/Service Innovation Voucher – Up to £5,000 of funding aimed at encouraging new business and academic partnerships, to support *outward* innovation to develop a new product, process or service.



Workforce Innovation Voucher – Up to £5,000 of funding aimed at supporting the development of innovation skills for the business workforce, to support *inward* innovation in workplace practices e.g. enhancing employment/new practices/adopting new ways of employees doing things/supporting a culture of innovation

Student Placement Vouchers




Up to **£5,000** to fund a PhD/Masters student who will work on placement **within the business premises** on a clearly defined project, **continuing the development** from the original standard voucher.

Only organisations that have had a successful SFC Standard Innovation Voucher are eligible to apply. Plus they **must be a Registered Company**.

The organisation contributes an **equal value in cash or in kind** (such as staff time, materials or equipment) or a **combination of both**.


The organisation must have suitable premises to host a student for the duration of the project. (SFC - advised during the Pandemic will permit Students to work remotely)

Advanced Innovation Vouchers



**ADVANCED
INNOVATION
VOUCHERS**

**Application deadline
Monday 5th
December**



The Advanced Innovation Voucher (AIV) is aimed at building sustained relationships between small/medium-sized companies (SMEs) and universities or Further Education Colleges (FEC).

There is now an **open call** for Advanced Innovation Vouchers, the final deadline for applications is **Monday 5th December 2022** (projects must complete by 28th March 2023 to allow for payment prior to end of financial year).

This Voucher offers a matched **grant of up to £20,000 (minimum £5,000)** on a **sliding scale basis** with a **minimum cash contribution** required from the company



Student Projects



Variety of student projects which are available within university timetables.

They include:

- Engineering and Design
- Business Schools - research, business evaluations, processes, HR, marketing and data analytics

Inward Investment Catalyst Fund

THE SCOTTISH INWARD INVESTMENT CATALYST FUND

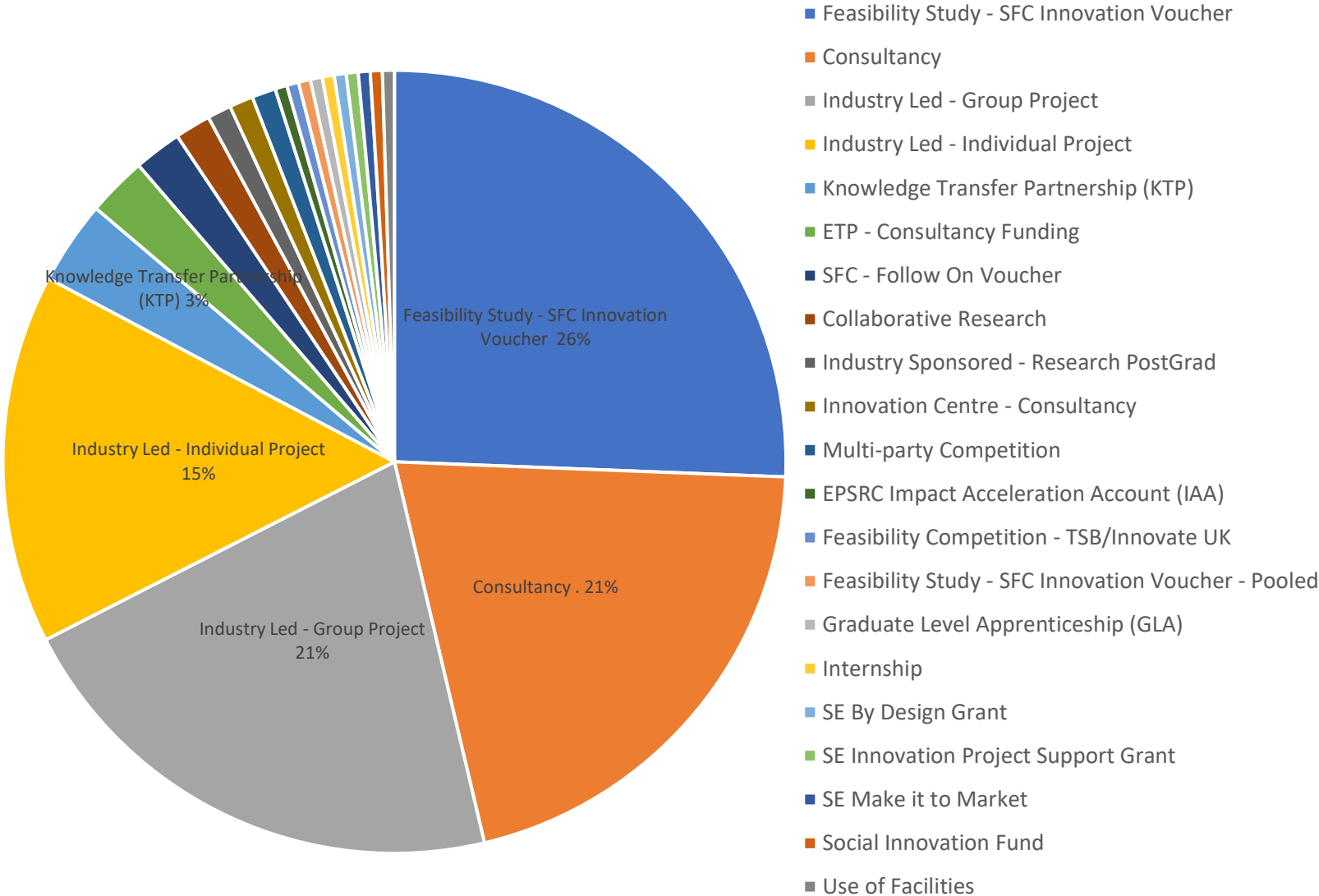


The fund will support inward investment companies not yet located in Scotland and seeking to establish stronger ties with academia in Scotland through collaborative R&D

Funding awards of up to £10,000 can contribute to the costs of an initial collaborative programme of work including but not limited to: (i) feasibility study (e.g. for a joint R&D centre); (ii) roadmap to leverage investment for joint R&D; (iii) early-stage proof of concept for R&D; (iv) supporting talent and skills for R&D.



Project Funding – More than just Innovation Vouchers!



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InterfaceOnlineUK



Interface - The knowledge



connection for business