

## ICURE Explore Frequently Asked Questions

### **General Questions**

#### **Who is eligible for ICURE Explore?**

ICURE Explore is open to all UK researchers and technicians from any discipline. This includes any research staff or technical research staff member who receives their salary or stipend from an eligible university, PSRE, research institute, or organization (including, but not limited to, Ph.D., technician, PDRA, fellowship, and group leader positions).

#### **Do I need to attend ICURE Engage or ICURE Discover to be eligible for ICURE Explore?**

There isn't any prerequisite to join ICURE Explore; however, past Entrepreneurial Leads (EL) who have gone through ICURE Discover tend to make stronger applications to ICURE Explore.

#### **I am a Ph.D. student, am I eligible?**

Yes, you are eligible to be an Entrepreneurial Lead. However, it is crucial that you comprehend the commitment involved in ICURE Explore, as well as the subsequent steps if you receive a recommendation for spin out or licensing. Please reach out to us if you intend to apply so that we can gain an understanding of your situation and provide appropriate guidance.

Additionally, in the event that you are accepted into ICURE Explore or recommended for spin out through Options Roundabout, it becomes your responsibility to negotiate the terms and conditions with your university and funding entity, as these entail full commitments.

#### **I have previously completed ICURE Explore, am I eligible?**

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in the following scenarios:

- A previous Entrepreneurial Lead (EL) applies with a different project.
- A distinct project is submitted from the same research group or represents a significantly different application of the same technology.

However, it's important to note that you cannot bring the same project to ICURE Explore for investigation of the same business application.

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### **I am an individual in a start-up/company interested in ICURE Explore, am I eligible?**

If you are from an incorporated UK business and want commercialisation support you are ineligible for the ICURE suite of programmes, but you are eligible for Scaling the Edge (STE).

Link: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/Business/Support-for-business/Innovation-smes/>

Alternatively, if you are an established start-up further along in Technology Readiness Level (TRL) or Market Readiness Level (MRL), you could benefit from Innovate UK EDGE.

Link: <https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org/>

### **I am a non-UK national, can I participate in ICURE Explore?**

Yes, provided you have the necessary visas allowing you to travel and work in the UK. If you are applying as an Entrepreneurial Lead or Principal Scientific Advisor, you must also be employed from an eligible university, PSRE, research institute, or organisation.

NOTE: To be eligible for an Innovate UK business grant to spin out (if recommended), all recipients of funding must be resident in the UK for tax purposes and have the appropriate permissions to work in the UK.

### **Would teams be accepted that have participated in multiple business support/spin-out/accelerator programmes?**

We would expect teams to have participated in ICURE before these types of programmes as ICURE Explore helps to identify the appropriate exit vehicle. You should consider Scaling the Edge programme.

Link: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/Business/Support-for-business/Innovation-smes/>

Alternatively, if you are an established start-up further along in Technology Readiness Level (TRL) or Market Readiness Level (MRL), you could benefit from Innovate UK EDGE.

Link: <https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org/>

However, if you possess the expertise to advise one of our ICURE teams, we are constantly seeking experienced Business Advisers. Please get in touch with us through your local delivery team.

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### **As a UK researcher who is currently registering a company and awaiting information from our Tech Transfer Office, am I eligible for ICURE Explore?**

Most ICURE teams are at the exploratory stage, where the ICURE Programmes help them identify the most appropriate commercialisation vehicle for their research.

If you have already spun out, please discuss with us why you would like to participate in ICURE, as we assess these situations on a case-by-case basis.

### **Can we apply for ICURE Explore if the Entrepreneurial Lead is from another university?**

This is allowed for ICURE Explore, but there needs to be a formal IP agreement in place between the institutions before an Entrepreneurial Lead from a different institution is eligible.

### **Who is eligible for ICURE Sector-Specific Explore programmes?**

To be eligible for ICURE Sector-Specific Explore, you will need to have research in the stated sector for which the cohort is recruiting. If you are unsure whether you are in the sector, please contact us.

### **Where can I find the interview dates for the ICURE Explore cohort I applied to?**

The interview dates are usually provided on the application form. When possible, you will be given a range of interview dates, and these are likely to occur very shortly after the application deadline.

### **How many applications can we apply for ICURE Explore?**

Each team is only allowed to apply one project once for each cohort.

### **Will I be able to continue doing research and/or teaching while participating in ICURE Explore?**

As an Entrepreneurial Lead, you are required to participate full-time during the period of ICURE Explore, and you will not be allowed to continue research and/or teaching. If you have existing commitments, please delegate them to another appropriate staff member or consider other ICURE programs (e.g., Engage or Discover).

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## ICURE Explore Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can anyone be an Entrepreneurial Lead?**

Yes, anyone can be an Entrepreneurial Lead. This can include but is not limited to, Ph.D., technician, PDRA, fellowship, and group leader positions. However, please note that ICURE Explore is a full-time commitment for three months and if recommended for ICURE Exploit, you will be expected to commit full time for a minimum of a further 15 months. The Entrepreneurial Lead is expected to be on the payroll of the new company funded through the IUK business grant.

### **I am an Early Career Researcher (ECR) and want to be an Entrepreneurial Lead, who should my team consist of?**

If you are Early Career Researcher (ECR) and want to be an Entrepreneurial Lead, your team should consist of:

- Entrepreneurial Lead – You as the ECR
- Principal Scientific Advisor – Usually your Senior Researcher/Principal Investigator
- Business Adviser (independent of your host institution or for universities, the Business Adviser should be distinct from other roles within the ICURE team)
- Technology Transfer Officer (TTO) or institutional equivalent

### **I want to be an Entrepreneurial Lead, but my salary is beyond the support provided to participate full-time over the 12 weeks. Will you cover them based on my actual salary?**

No. The maximum support that we will provide is £35,000 which covers the salary of the Entrepreneurial Lead to participate full-time over the 12 weeks and expenses associated with testing key market assumptions and market exploration. Anything beyond that will have to be covered by yourself.

As a guideline, salaries are usually in the range of £15,000 to £20,000, based on actual payslips, with the remaining amount allocated for market discovery. Please note that the salary is inclusive of pension and N.I. contributions.

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### **How much funding am I eligible for in ICURE Explore?**

You will be provided with a total of £35,000 in support, which covers both the salary of the Entrepreneurial Lead (EL) to participate full-time over 12 weeks and the expenses associated with testing key market assumptions and market exploration. Please note that the salary is inclusive of pension and N.I. contributions.

If the Entrepreneurial Lead is a PhD candidate, their funded scholarship may be paused for the duration of ICURE Explore (i.e., 3 months) to allow them to be 100% committed to ICURE Explore. If the EL is from a university, the university needs to create a post for the duration of the ICURE project and set up a project cost to charge any salary costs to the ICURE project code.

If you are recommended to spin out or license at Options Roundabout, the commitment could be paused for an additional period of 6 to 15 months.

### **Can I have multiple Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) involved in ICURE Explore?**

Yes, you are allowed to have multiple PSAs involved in the project participating in ICURE Explore. However, please note that only one PSA is funded for any travel and subsistence costs when the team needs to attend ICURE events (e.g., boot camps, Options Roundabout, and training days) if they are delivered in person.

### **If two universities apply for the ICURE Explore programme for a technology jointly developed, do we need to provide one or two Technology Transfer Officers (TTOs)?**

A university has to take the lead, and the lead university's Technology Transfer Officer (TTO) should be on the application form. It is recommended that the university where the Entrepreneurial Lead (EL) is employed takes the lead.

### **What if I can't find a Business Advisor?**

If you are unable to find an appropriate business advisor prior to application, we can help with recruiting an appropriate individual from a relevant industrial sector.

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### **Do I need to nominate a Business Advisor in my ICURE Explore application? Will the absence of a Business Advisor impact my application score?**

It is not compulsory to have a Business Advisor in your ICURE Explore application, but please state if you have one available. If you do not have one available, you will be assisted in finding an appropriate Business Adviser if you are accepted onto ICURE Explore. The absence of a Business Advisor does not impact your application score.

### **How is the budget handled for ICURE Explore?**

The university will likely set up a project code to receive ICURE funds under an existing cost centre code. You will be given more information by your delivery partner once you have onboarded ICURE.

### **Are in-person events mandatory for ICURE Explore?**

Depending on the delivery partner, you will be provided with information on which team members are required to attend the in-person events at boot camp and options roundabout, respectively. You will be covered for travel and subsistence costs incurred, but only up to the four team members (i.e., EL, PSA, BA, & TTO).

### **How much commitment is required from the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) and Technology Transfer Officer (TTO) on ICURE Explore?**

The PSA and TTO are expected to be available throughout ICURE Explore to support the Entrepreneurial Lead (EL). Specific commitments regarding which ICURE events they are required to attend will be provided by the delivery partner.

### **When filling out my application on F6S, I'm prompted to provide information in the 'Company' section or the 'Looking for companies' section, even though I haven't yet incorporated a company.**

Please kindly input the name of your research project instead. At this point, you're not expected to have a company, and we are currently addressing this matter with F6S.

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### **When are the other ICURE programmes running?**

You may find cohorts that are open for application and upcoming cohorts of different ICURE offerings at <https://www.icureprogramme.com/upcoming-programmes/>

### **IP-related questions**

#### **Are there any implications for IP ownership and revenue distribution if the academic takes part?**

The ICURE programme does not take any equity or revenue from any teams or companies. It is a fully paid-for programme funded by Innovate UK to help UK researchers explore the commercial potential and application of their research

#### **What happens if my Senior Researcher owns all the IP?**

If the Senior Researcher is employed by the University, the IP is owned by the University. Hence, it is recommended that your TTO is aware that you are applying to ICURE programs.

In exceptional cases, some academics may own their own IP. Please reach out to us to discuss this further.

#### **Am I eligible for ICURE Explore if I own the IP or if it is shared with a university/research organisation?**

You are eligible to apply but will need to demonstrate that you have an appropriate team to support the commercialisation process.

#### **Would combined student and University IP be considered?**

Yes, but only with the full support of the host University TTO and research team.

#### **Would IP that is being developed between a university and company be eligible?**

Yes, if the new IP is wholly owned by the University and not in the business environment.

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### **Would IP that is due to be licensed to an external company be considered?**

No, as the company is already established but could consider Scaling The Edge Programme

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