



IGL Grants Programme

IGL Grants programme: Supporting RCTs to find out what works to increase innovation, support high-growth entrepreneurship and accelerate business growth

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. What is the aim of the IGL Grants programme and how do I know if my project is eligible?

- A. This call is intended to fund randomised controlled trials that provide evidence on the best approaches to increase innovation, support high-growth entrepreneurship and accelerate business growth.

For instance, this includes experiments that test different models to encourage technology transfer from universities; estimate the impact of accelerators on entrepreneurial success; or study different approaches to managing innovation processes and scientific research. See the request for proposals for additional examples and full eligibility criteria.

2. Q. I don't want to do a randomised controlled trial, should I apply?

- A. While there are many approaches to generate good evidence, randomised controlled trials (RCTs) have been particularly underutilised in the area of innovation and high-growth entrepreneurship, in comparison to other fields like development, health, education or social policy. This grants programme aims to change this, and therefore it will only fund projects that use a randomised controlled trial or offer design grants to researchers in the early stages of developing an RCT.

3. Q. I want to run an experiment in a developing country, should I apply?

- A. The IGL Grants Programme welcomes applications from researchers and programme delivery organisations from anywhere in the world. However, experiments that produce generalizable lessons that can also be applied in different settings will be viewed favourably.

While projects on business growth support or SME support in developing countries will be of interest to the call, projects focused on reducing poverty in developing countries by helping

individuals to become self-employed and supporting “subsistence entrepreneurship” would not fit within the thematic focus of this grants programme. There are already several initiatives, such as the Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL) and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), which are focused on running experiments on poverty alleviation, typically in developing countries. One of the aims of this call is to incentivise the transfer of some of this best practice to advanced economies trying to support innovation and high-growth entrepreneurship.

4. Q. How do I apply?

- A. Please read the ‘Call for proposals’ document on the [right hand side of the open call page](#). You will need to fill out the online application form of maximum 2000 words, including general information, details on the proposal, details on the programme partner and research team and preliminary budget estimate.

5. Q. What budget is available?

- A. We have not mentioned specific amounts with regards to budgets in the call as we would like to see the range of trials and funding requirements that come back, and once a specific figure is mentioned proposals tend to gravitate towards it.

For reference, in previous years awards have ranged from \$10.000 to \$100.000. If you are unsure about what budget to request, it is possible to include two budget options in your proposal (i.e. include the cheapest version that would still provide some meaningful results as well as your ideal version).

6. Q. What are the key budget items that are eligible for support? Is the cost of the pilot programme eligible for funding?

- A. In terms of eligible costs, the grant is intended to fund the cost of the research (including researcher support) but not the cost of the actual intervention/programme/scheme, which should come from other sources (unless this is a marginal amount). Beyond this there are no strict restrictions on what expenses are covered and not covered by the grant (as long as they are reasonable), but value-for-money is an important criteria. Therefore, while it is possible to use the funding for Principal Investigator time, this may impact the value-for-money assessment.

7. Q. Will you fund the entire project, or will co-funding be required?

- A. Depending on the nature of the project and its budget, we may only provide partial funding to the project, and make the grant conditional on you obtaining from another source the necessary co-funding to take the project forward.

Additionally, applicants should note that the IGL Grants Programme will generally not fund the actual intervention/programme (unless the cost is marginal), and therefore co-funding will be

necessary to cover these costs. While it is desirable if this co-funding is already in place when submitting a proposal (since it signals the feasibility of the project), this is not required and funding can be raised afterwards (but note that no payments will be made unless all the funding required to undertake the project is in place).

8. Q. Will you only fund new trials, or will you also fund the extension of existing RCTs?

- A. One of the aims of the IGL Grants programme is to develop a portfolio of randomised trials that showcase the potential of RCTs in this space. Because of this, our preference is to fund new RCTs (either implemented on new interventions or on existing ones), rather than to fund the extension of on-going RCTs. Nevertheless, we have funded extensions in the past, and we will consider funding proposed extensions if they fit particularly well with our interest areas.

9. Q. Can a project have more than one Principal Investigator?

- A. Yes, we accept proposals with more than one Principal Investigator. Note that value-for-money will play an important role in proposal assessment and having multiple Principal Investigators may therefore affect this assessment if you intend to use the grant to fund Principal Investigator time (but otherwise proposals with multiple Principal Investigators are welcome).

10. Q. Can I submit more than one project proposal?

- A. There is no restriction on the number of project proposals that a researcher, research team, programme delivery organisation or operator can submit to the IGL Grants programme. We are interested in funding interesting trials, so if you have several good ideas for RCTs please submit them. For the same reasons, current IGL Grants recipients are also eligible to apply for funding with new projects.

11. Q. Is there a restriction regarding the time frame of the trials?

- A. There is no restriction on the duration of the trials and the research. We understand that the impact of some interventions may be appreciated quickly while for others it may take a few years, so we expect proposals to provide reasonable and realistic timelines that are in accordance with the intervention being proposed.

12. Q. Are the grants aiming to fund only field experiments, or are laboratory experiments also eligible?

- A. The focus of the grants programme is on field experiments, given that it is difficult to address the questions set up by the call in a laboratory experiment. However, if you have ideas on how to do so, please do not hesitate to submit a project proposal.

13. Q. What is meant by 'a programme delivery partner' and a 'research partner'?

- A. A RCT typically (but not necessarily) involves an organisation that runs a particular programme, scheme or intervention (the programme delivery partner), and a research team that designs the research hypotheses and undertakes the analysis. So trials typically require the collaboration of a research partner and a programme partner (but this ultimately depends on the particular project and the team behind it).

14. Q. What types of partners are eligible, and what happens if I cannot find them?

- A. Partners can be both public and private entities, including for-profit and not-for-profit organisations. When the project involves multiple partners, one partner will have to be designated as the lead organisation, and will be the one signing the grant agreement with us.

If your project requires a research or a programme delivery partner and you are missing one, you can still apply and be offered a conditional grant as explained in the call for proposals. We can then help you to find the required partners.

For instance, we can connect delivery organisations seeking research partners with researchers in our research network if their research interests are aligned with your proposal. Similarly, we are also building a network of programme delivery organisations interested in running trials with some of their programmes, so we would connect researchers with interesting ideas with them.

15. What costs should I include as programme costs, and which costs should I classify as research costs?

- A. The programme costs include any costs related to the intervention/scheme/programme, i.e. any costs that the programme delivery operator incurs to run the programme as a whole. Under research costs we would expect you to classify any costs relating directly to the research, such as research time or data collection costs.