

Arise ABOVE Innovation Support Grant (AA ISG) Eligibility

The Purpose of the ISA is to unlock additional Med Tech investment in Essex. Funds may be used to enhance existing/continuing projects, but applicants will need to show how the funding provided will specifically generate additional value or outcomes.

1. **Type of organisation:** AA ISG is open to businesses, not-for-profit and charitable organisations. AA ISG funding is available to organisations working in, or directly supplying to, MedTech and Life Science sectors (with reference to UK Gov's Life Sciences Vision 2021 and Medical technology strategy 2023). Such organisations may include suppliers to the NHS, developers of new medical devices or manufacturers of new medical or life science equipment.
2. **Location:** AA ISG funding is open to organisations partially or wholly, located or relocating to Essex. An eligible organisation would be expected to demonstrate some form of existing physical presence in the area or demonstrate clear intention to commence operations in the area in the near future (such as employing Essex based team members or securing physical or virtual membership of Arise Innovation Hubs or other suitable location).
3. **Size and stage of organisation:** AA ISG are open to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). While pre/startup businesses are not excluded, the applicant would need to demonstrate with a high degree of confidence that the envisaged outcomes could be achieved and, through our due diligence checks, any required match funding is available to the applicant.
4. **Innovation Focus:** Applications are welcome from organisations for projects that will create collaborative research and development projects with Higher Education Institutes, notably Anglia Ruskin University, or other businesses. In such cases at least one party must be physically located in Essex.
5. **Investment Focus:** Applications are welcome from organisations for projects that will generate or unlock additional research and development funds/investment in Essex (such as applications that show a high level of contribution from the organisation and for projects that are envisaged to lead to future Innovate UK or similar funding bids).
6. **Job Focus:** Applications are welcome from organisations for projects that will create, or safeguard Essex based jobs (for example, applications that show the creation of new job roles or mitigate a risk to existing jobs).
7. **Financial Viability:** Applicant's organisation should demonstrate financial viability and the ability to achieve the envisaged outcomes, including any further/future funding requirements for their proposed project. This may include proposed routes for further grant/innovation funding.

Note AA ISG Funding cannot be claimed for costs incurred prior to applications approval. All grants are for work yet to be undertaken.

Note AA ISG funds will be paid in arrears on production of appropriate expenditure documentation /receipts.

8. **Compliance:** Ensure that your organisation complies with all relevant laws and regulations. Any legal or financial issues could affect your eligibility.

Examples

Company 'Investor-a-bit CIC' supplies software to the NHS, they are based outside of Essex but plan to expand with new products. They recognise Essex as a good option for the London and South-East.

As an existing MedTech company they could apply for AA IAG for cost to equip a new permanent office in Essex.

Company 'Inovate-som' are developers of new medical devices, they plan to apply to Innovate UK for funding but need to commission some research to address a specific issue. They could apply to AA ISG to work with Anglia Ruskin University and undertake the research.

Company 'Employo-yo' commission the production of their new wearable device to another company. Buying a 3D printer would allow for inhouse production and the employment of 2 new members of the team. They could apply for AA IAG to fund the 3D printer.

Company 'Clinical PoC' have an existing, or near to market, product and want to supply it to the NHS and/or other markets. This would significantly grow the business and attract further investment. To do this they need regulatory approvals and/or supporting data. They could apply for AA IAG to commission specific support to progress this.

Grant Process

Allocation of grant funding to beneficiaries will follow a reviewed and approved process, summarised as:

- Identify SMEs suitable for a grant as part of the client engagement and one to one support.
- Second review of the application will make a recommendation (or not) for funding.
- Positively reviewed applications must be approved by the Arise ABOVE ISG Panel. The degree of support is at the discretion of the Panel dependant factors including, but not limited to; innovation stage, size of company, business need etc (up to £5,000)

On engaging with a beneficiary, an enrolment form will be completed, detailing business name, registration number (where applicable), address, contact details, confirmation of SME status, receipt of State Aid declaration. This will be filed securely, and the information logged on the MM CRM system.

Electronic based forms (Adobe Sign) will be used for the collection and documentation of outputs and results data, capturing the information and signatures required to confirm the output. Evidence forms, when completed, will be given unique identifier numbers and filed securely so as to be accessible as required. Outputs will not be claimed until evidence forms have been received and numbered; should the Managing Authority's claims system allow, evidence form identifying numbers will be included on the outputs reporting system. Outputs based on time support to a beneficiary will include an overview of the support provided. Outputs based on grant provision will include evidence of payment of grant to the beneficiary.

Grant beneficiaries will be required to complete a feedback form when claiming the grant, enabling the collection of additional unplanned outputs and comments.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q – Can an organisation apply for more than one AA ISG grant?

A – An organisation can only lead on one grant application to the AA ISG. An organisation can be a partner on multiple bids but in such cases, it must be clear these are separate projects with distinct resources, outputs and outcomes.

Q - Are Businesses from Southend or Thurrock eligible to apply?

A – Yes, as funder of the programme Essex County Council is pleased to be able to support MedTech businesses from across Greater Essex.

Q – Is an organisation eligible if the directors live in Essex but the organisation is based outside of the County?

A – In most cases no. The organisation will need to be partially or wholly, located or relocating to Essex.

Q – When can my project start and when must it end?

A – Projects may have already started but funding cannot be claimed for costs incurred prior to applications approval. Applications will need to show what additional value will be created by the provision of an AA ISG grant. Similarly, projects may continue beyond the end of the ABOVE programme. However, ISG funding must be spent and claimed by summer 2024.

Q – What can AA ISG funding be spent on?

A – The funding should be spent on additional goods, products, or services by the organisation in the creation of the specified outcomes. It cannot be used to subsidise the existing costs of company employment or fixed costs.

Q - Is there a match funding requirement?

A – There is no specified match funding requirement. The value, and therefore level of support provided, will be based on the level of outcomes demonstrated in the application.

Q - Do I need to consider UK Subsidy Control (formerly State Aid) compliance?

A – Yes, applicants must ensure the funding awarded to them is compliant with The UK subsidy control regime commenced 4 January 2023.

Q – When will decisions on applications be made?

A – This is a rolling programme and decisions will be made weekly by the ABOVE Panel until the funding is fully committed.

Q – How long will the application take?

A – From the point a final application is submitted, with all required documents and quotes, a decision on the grant will be made in two weeks.

Q – What type of quotes are required with the applications?

A – All quotes will be subject to due diligence; accordingly, they must include the supplier's full business details, address, website etc along with the scope of the work or products being provided.

Q – Is an academic partner required to make a bid?

A – No, While one of the objectives of the grant is to generate collaborative R&D projects with academic institutes, However, applications need only fulfil one of the objectives to be considered eligible.

Q – Can Arise Innovation Hubs facilitate introductions to Higher Education academics to create collaborative research and development projects?

A – Yes, Please contact AriseInnovation@aru.ac.uk

Q - What are the eligibility criteria to join Arise Innovation Hubs?

A – Arise is developing a collaborative ecosystem for entrepreneurs, valuing innovation and entrepreneurship with a focus on health, performance, and wellbeing. For a full conversation about Membership and the facilities and opportunities it provides please contact AriseInnovation@aru.ac.uk

Q - What opportunities might there be to provide support to Arise and the ABOVE programme?

A- Please contact AriseInnovation@aru.ac.uk