

WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence - Network for Innovation



Skills Innovation Funds (with two pathways to apply) Practitioner Innovation Project and Organisational Innovation Project Application Form and Guidance



Funded by



Department
for Education

supported by



Skills &
Education
Group

Diagnostic insights & action learning: Practitioner innovation projects

Innovation projects, whether practitioner innovation projects or organisational innovation projects will enable active experimentation with new and innovative approaches to teaching and training, drawing on aspects of individuals CPD learning, to include international insights, enabling benchmarking and standardisation, to raise standards and drive quality improvement in further and higher technical teaching and training.

All learning and project outcomes, will be disseminated through the Centre of Excellence membership, and across education sectors throughout the UK, to ensure effective practice sharing, and the raising of standards, while helping to inform, shape and design the development of our WorldSkills UK training programmes.

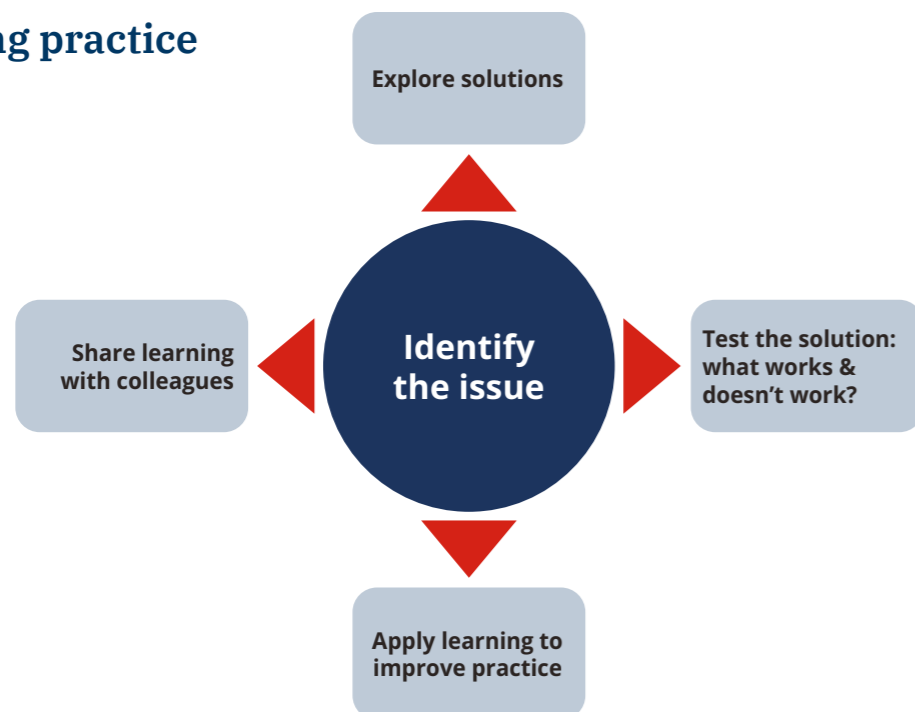
Innovation Projects

The Network for Innovation invites you to apply to undertake small scale practitioner innovation projects and larger scale organisational innovation projects to support the raising of standards, and making improvements to your technical teaching and training, aligned to priority themes, through continuous professional development (CPD) activities.

Funding of £5,000 is available to support successful applications.

The innovation projects are short-term pieces of development work which aim to improve teaching and learning by developing approaches, experimenting, and then reflecting on the outcomes, refining them, and sharing findings and learning. At the heart of the innovation project approach is the cycle of action-reflection-action, shown below.

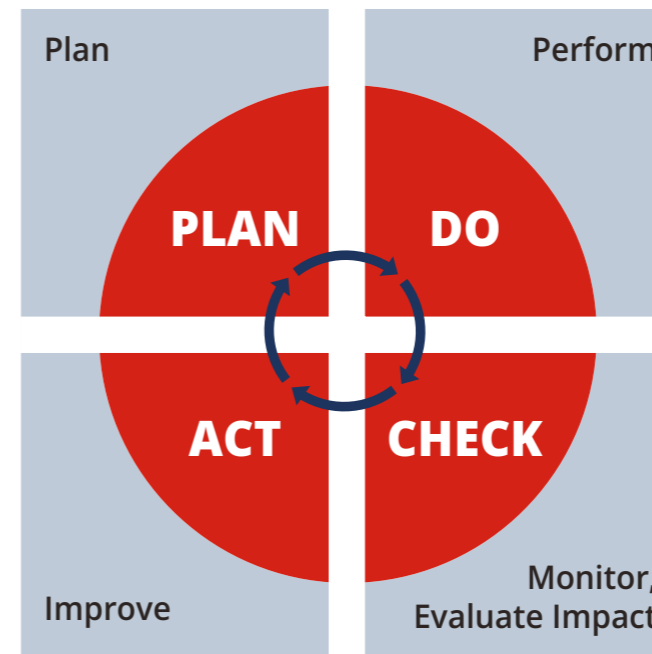
Improving practice



Innovation project proposals can contribute to your curriculum/ occupational area self improvement plan, or the organisation's self improvement plan to support a whole organisation approach to improving the quality of technical education and training, to ensure positive learning experiences and outcomes for learners and apprentices.

For example, a project could aim to maximise learning in digital, advanced manufacturing, or practical science sessions making effective use of technology, through identifying and piloting successful strategies for improvement, or a project could develop and trial curriculum resources to address a particularly tough topic. These projects enable a small, focused piece of work linked to improving the quality of further and higher technical education and training.

Applicants apply individually and must have the support of a senior leader within their organisation. The organisation, to be eligible for Skills Innovation Funding, must be registered with the WorldSkills Centre of Excellence. If your organisation is not registered with the Centre of Excellence it is possible for a member of the senior leadership team to register using this [link](#).



Key Success Factors

Successful projects are likely to:

- be focused around making improvements in further or higher technical education teaching and training, drawing on national and international best practice, particularly in the following identified key areas:
 - Digital
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Net Zero
 - Health and Life Sciences
- However, applications will be considered from all 15 technical routes.
- have clear objectives, milestones, and measurable outcomes
- have performance indicators to measure impact
- align and link into programme and organisational improvement CPD plans
- have support and commitment from senior managers, who have also registered their organisation with the WorldSkills Centre of Excellence
- have tangible outputs that can be used to share effective practice
- be collaborative in nature, so learning is shared, and impact is maximised throughout the UK, and through international partnership meetings and international exchange visits.

Project leads will be supported by expert WorldSkills UK mentors to develop action plans for activity, producing projects with clear and measurable outcomes. Project leads will be responsible for producing short interim and final reports, enabling activity to be disseminated widely across further and higher education sectors, throughout the UK, and through WorldSkills UK international partnership meetings, and international exchange visits.

Key Themes for Activity

We've provided, by way of example, some priority areas that you could explore through a practitioner innovation project, aligned to priority themes:

- Digital
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Net Zero
- Health and Life Sciences

However applications will be considered from across all 15 technical routes.

1. Curriculum and Programme Design

2. Working effectively with employers to address curriculum co-design, planning & delivery

3. Rethinking Induction

4. Initial Assessment

5. Personalising learning to meet individual needs

6. Experimenting with new teaching and learning approaches

7. Assessment

8. Standardisation and Benchmarking

9. Enrichment and Enhanced Learning

10. Support for STEM Learner Progression

Embedding careers education information advice and guidance

Developing English, maths and digital skills

Advancing equity, equality, diversity and inclusion

Embedding British values, Prevent agenda and safeguarding

Supporting learners/apprentices with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Embedding sustainability throughout the curriculum and classroom teaching and learning

Other

Please state in 150 words or less, what other topic you have chosen and how it will improve the quality of technical teaching and training delivery.



Project Approval and Support

Project proposals should be submitted on completion to:

cerianayres@worldskillsuk.org

Should you require further guidance and information please contact colleagues from the Centre of Excellence- Network for Innovation team

The closing date for applications is 19 March 2024. Senior manager support for participation in the project must be included at the outset. Your organisation will need to be a member of the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence to be eligible for skills innovation funding. If your organisation is not a member, and would like to register, please use this [link](#).

The first £2,500 payment will be made at the beginning of the project, prior to 31 March 2024, following the acceptance of a satisfactory action plan, and the final payment of £2,500 will be made on receipt of the final project report.

Successful applicants will be invited to attend a "Getting Started" briefing workshop in March. This will facilitate action planning and enable participants to discuss and identify impact measures for their projects, as well as clarifying outputs, timescales and plans for dissemination.

Guidance notes to assist applicants are provided at the end of the Application Form.

WorldSkills UK Practitioner Innovation Projects 2024:

Application Form

Guidance for completing the application form is provided on page 10.

1. Name of Project Lead

Name:

Job Title:

Employer:

Address:

Tel. No:

Email:

I confirm that my organisation has registered for membership with the WorldSkills Centre of Excellence. ([link to register](#))

YES NO

2. Senior Manager approval

Name and Signature:

Job Title:

Email:

3. Proposed project title



4. Proposed focus of activity (Maximum 150 words)

5. Context for activity (Maximum 250 words)

6. Outcomes and Impact (Maximum 150 words)

7. Costings

Please submit your project application form for your Practitioner Innovation Project to the following address below

Centreofexcellence@worldskillsuk.org

Application - Guidance Notes

1. Name of Project Lead

Please complete the contact details for the Project Lead. For joint applications include the details for all Project Leads.

2. Senior Manager Approval

Please provide the name and contact details (including email address) for your line manager or a senior manager, and their signature to confirm that they are aware of this application and support project activity. Please confirm that your organisation has registered with the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence.

3. Proposed focus of activity

Please provide a brief summary of your proposed activity. (Maximum 150 words).

4. Context for activity

Please provide a short rationale for what you want to do and why. What are the aims of your project and what activity do you propose to carry out? Which key theme(s) does your project align with? Please include information of any partners or stakeholders involved with your project. (Maximum 250 words).

5. Outcomes and Impact

What will the outcomes of the project be? How will you measure impact? Please describe what outputs and resources will be shared with the sector. (Maximum 150 words).

6. Costings

Please give an outline of how the funding will be spent. Please note that funding cannot be awarded for capital costs, equipment etc.

Please email your completed application form to Centreofexcellence@worldskillsuk.org

The closing date for applications is 19 March 2024.



WorldSkills UK Organisational Innovation Projects 2024:

Application Form

Guidance for completing the application form is provided on page 14.

1. Name of Project Lead

Name:

Job Title:

Employer:

Address:

Tel. No:

Email:

I confirm that my organisation has registered for membership with the WorldSkills Centre of Excellence. ([link to register](#))

YES NO

2. Senior Manager approval

Name and Signature:

Job Title:

Email:

3. Proposed project title

4. Proposed focus of activity (Maximum 150 words)

5. Context for activity (Maximum 250 words)

6. Outcomes and Impact (Maximum 150 words)

7. Costings

Please submit your project application form for your Organisational Innovation Project to the following address below

Centreofexcellence@worldskillsuk.org

Application - Guidance Notes

1. Name of Project Lead

Please complete the contact details for the Project Lead. For joint applications include the details for all Project Leads.

2. Senior Manager Approval

Please provide the name and contact details (including email address) for your line manager or a senior manager, and their signature to confirm that they are aware of this application and support project activity. Please confirm that your organisation has registered with the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence.

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Please email your completed application form to Centreofexcellence@worldskillsuk.org

The closing date for applications is 19 March 2024.

Practitioner and Organisational Innovation Project Timeline





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