



Factsheet

Incubator Support Initiative

Overview

The initiative assists new and existing incubators to improve the prospects of Australian start-ups, including first-generation migrant and refugee founders to achieve commercial success in international markets.

Funded incubators will deliver a range of activities to Australian start-ups to develop the capabilities required to realise their economic potential in international markets. It will also help to develop Australia's innovation ecosystem, including in Australian regions.

The initiative provides funding through two streams:

- New and Existing Incubators
- Expert in Residence

What does it offer?

New and Existing Incubators

- a minimum grant amount of \$13,000 and a maximum grant amount of \$250,000 per project
- a maximum grant period of 24 months

Expert in Residence

The grant amount will be up to 50 per cent of total eligible project value.

- a minimum grant amount of \$5,000 and a maximum grant amount of \$100,000 per project
- a maximum grant period of 12 months

Who can apply?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be an incubator that can foster and facilitate the development of innovative start-ups focused on international trade

and be one of the following entities:

- a company, incorporated in Australia
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust

- an incorporated not for profit organisation
- a publicly funded research organisation (PFRO) as defined in appendix A of the program guidelines
- a local government agency or body as defined in appendix A of the program guidelines.

What activities are eligible?

Eligible activities must contribute to the initiative's objectives and directly relate to the project:

New and Existing Incubators

- providing or facilitating access for start-ups to new resources (such as purchase of technical equipment) to promote or facilitate international trade
- providing or facilitating access for start-ups, including first-generation migrant and refugee founders, to new knowledge (such as customer acquisition and/ or business development methods) to promote or facilitate international trade
- facilitating start-ups' access to new international networks (e.g. investors and customers).

Expert in Residence

- a workshop where an expert gives advice on developing business activities, for example in international markets
- engaging a national or international expert (with knowledge in start-up related technology and international experience) to assist start-ups address key challenges during an incubator program
- national or international exchanges with an expert from another incubator either in Australia or overseas.

What is the role of the Regional Incubator Facilitators (RIFs)?

This initiative offers the services of skilled facilitators to assist regional incubators engage with the initiative and increase their chances of success. These facilitators will be allocated to particular regional areas. However, they may

operate outside their regions where there is capacity and demand. This service is available to all applicants with a particular emphasis on regional incubators.

What are the assessment Criteria?

New and Existing Incubator projects:

You must address the following assessment criteria:

1. Management and business capability (50 points)
2. Benefit to your incubator, start-ups and the broader innovation ecosystem (40 points)
3. Impact of the grant on your project (10 points)
4. (If applicable). How your project will support first-generation migrant and refugee founders to expand internationally (10 points).

Expert in Residence projects:

If you are applying for a grant of \$50,000 or less we will assess you against the eligibility criteria only and this section does not apply to you. If you are applying for a grant greater than \$50,000 you will need to address assessment criterion two in your application.

How will my application be assessed?

You will need to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) and answer a series of questions. If eligible and suitable to apply for an Incubator grant you will be invited to submit an application and receive feedback from a Regional Incubator Facilitator.

When we receive your application, we first assess it against the eligibility criteria and then against the merit criteria. Only eligible and competitive applications will proceed to the merit assessment stage. We review these applications against the merit criteria and refer them to an Innovation and Science Australia committee. The committee will assess your application against the merit criteria and compare it to other eligible applications. They will give your application a score out of 100.

Innovation and Science Australia will then make recommendations to the Minister. The Minister will make the final decision on which applicants will be successful.

Expert in Residence projects:

We first assess your application against the eligibility criteria. If you are applying for a grant of \$50,000 or less we will assess your application against the eligibility criteria only. For grants greater than \$50,000, we will also assess your application against assessment criterion two.

The program delegate will make the final decision on which applicants will be successful.

When can I start my project?

You can start your Incubator Support activities (project) from the date a grant agreement is executed by the Commonwealth. If you choose to start your project before this any costs incurred are at your own risk. You must incur your project expenditure between the project start and end dates to be eligible.

You will not receive any funding if your application is unsuccessful.

What will I need to do if successful?

You must enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

How will the grant be paid?

For Expert in Residence grants up to \$50,000 and where projects are less than six months, we will pay 100 per cent of the grant on execution of the grant agreement. You will need to provide a final report at the end of your project.

For all other grants, we will make an initial payment on execution of the grant agreement. The initial payment and subsequent payments will be up to six monthly in advance, based on your forecast eligible project expenditure and adjusted for unspent amounts from previous payments.

Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project. We set aside a minimum of 10 per cent of the total grant funding for the final payment. We will pay this when you submit a satisfactory final report.

How do I apply?

To apply, you must:

- complete the online application form on business.gov.au
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria
- include all necessary attachments

Where can I find more information?

For further information refer to the grant opportunity guidelines on business.gov.au or call 13 28 46.