

# Made Smarter West of England FAQs



# Made Smarter West of England

## Contents

Application process	3
Match funded grant scheme	5
Digital leadership training programme	8
Student internship scheme	10
General	11
Contact us	



# Application process



## Where does my business need to be based?

The Made Smarter West of England programme supports small to medium sized enterprise (SMEs) who's manufacturing, making or production operations are located in the Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, and South Gloucestershire local authority areas.

To check your local authority area, please visit [find your local council](#) on the Government website.

Businesses in the North Somerset authority area are not eligible for this programme but may be eligible for other support provided by the West of England Combined Authority.

## Is there a minimum and/or maximum number of employees I need to sign up?

Your business must have less than 250 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.

## Do I have to consent to a credit reference check when submitting the expression of interest form?

Yes. To comply with our due diligence procedures, we must complete a credit reference check on your business. We can only accept your application if you permit us to undertake the credit reference check.

## How do I apply?

To register your interest for Made Smarter West of England programme please complete the **expression of interest form**. We will aim to respond to your expression of interest within five working days.

## Can I just apply for a support measures?

No. To make sure you get the most out of the Made Smarter West of England programme, we will check your eligibility for the programme before you apply for a support measure. You will then go through the 1:1 Digital Acceleration Sessions with the National Composite Centre (NCC) to receive a bespoke digital roadmap to support your business through the programme and beyond.

# Match funded grant scheme



## What can the grant be used for?

The West of England Combined Authority will provide a 50% match funded grant of up to £20,000 to your business to fund digital technologies such as:

- Additive manufacturing (including 3D printing)
- Artificial intelligence & cognitive learning
- Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) Tools
- Cloud based technologies
- Data servers & management tools
- Industrial cyber security
- Industrial internet of things (sensors)
- Robotics & process control automation
- System integration technologies
- Virtual, augmented & mixed realities

More information on items that you can purchase using the grant will be provided once you are onboarded.

## Is the grant fund competitive or first come first served?

The funding will be awarded on a first come first served basis until all the funding has been allocated.

## Can I purchase products, goods, services and consultancy on a non-commercial basis?

No. All items will need to demonstrate a measurable benefit to organisations.

## Do I need to invest my own funds?

Yes. You must provide at least 50% of the purchase costs in match funding. For example, if your total project costs are £10,000 you could receive a grant of £5,000 and fund the other £5,000 through your profits or reserves.

## Can the match funding come from another grant fund?

No. The match funding must come from your business's profits or reserves.

## If my costs increase, can I claim more than I originally applied for?

No. You can only claim for the maximum level of grant funding we have awarded you and confirmed in your grant offer letter.

## How long do I have to claim the grant?

You must complete your project in less than 12 months of a grant award and before the 28 February 2025 unless otherwise agreed with the West of England Combined Authority and specified in the grant offer letter.

## Can I claim for incurred/upfront costs?

No. The grant will only reimburse defrayed costs. This means you must purchase your eligible items after receiving your grant offer letter and before claiming the grant.

## Can I submit multiple claims?

No. You will only be able to claim the grant once your project has completed.

## What do I need to submit to claim the grant?

Once you have been onboarded, completed your 1:1 Digital Acceleration Sessions, and have been awarded a grant, you will need to return the completed claim document, signed claim letter and submit your bank details. Full details of evidence requirements are included in the claim guidance which will be sent to you once onboarded.

## What if I change my mind or my business circumstances have changed, and I no longer wish to spend the grant offered?

You will have to inform us in writing as soon as possible, ideally before committing to any spend or raising orders. More details will be provided once onboarded.

# Digital leadership training programme



## What is the course about?

The 'Leadership for driving technological change' training programme will not only develop your own personal skills in leadership, but also set your business up so that you are ready to adopt the digitalisation strategy.

The course includes the following:

Introduction session

Module 1: Demystifying digital

Module 2: Digital leadership

Module 3: Future technologies

Module 4: Concepts and business values

Celebratory event



## What is the cost of the training programme?

Organisations will pay a subsidised fee of £500 each, for the first two employees enrolling on the 'Leadership for driving technological change' training programme. Subsequent employees will pay the full fee of £2,500.

## Who provides the training?

The University of the West of England (UWE) has developed the unique course aimed specifically at manufacturers, producers and makers. The 'Leadership for driving technological change' training programme will be delivered at UWE's Frenchay Campus.

## How much time will I have to commit to the sessions?

There will be five days of in person learning plus a celebratory event at the end, and online self-study spread across six sessions. This includes networking opportunities, an industrial project and a celebration event. Cohort one will commence in January 2024, and cohort two will start in September 2024.

# Student internship scheme



## Who is responsible for recruiting the student intern?

The University of the West of England (UWE) will provide you with suitable candidates that have expressed an interest.

## How long do you have the student intern for?

The student internships will take place during 2023 and 2024. This will last up to 444 hours and the contract will be of a maximum of 37 hours a week.

## Is there any cost to my business?

This support is free. However, businesses will pay for the intern and then Made Smarter West of England will reimburse the businesses' cost of the student internship.

# General



## Will I need to provide the West of England Combined Authority with any data or reports?

You will be required to participate in some minor monitoring and evaluation throughout the programme. This will take place after key milestone completion dates. We will get in touch when these reports are due giving you enough time to submit them.

## What is a digital badge?

Digital badges allow individuals to easily display their certifications and education achievements online, providing valuable recognition. We will offer participating organisations a digital badge after completion of certain project milestones. This is totally optional and will be offered only to organisations that wish to participate on the scheme.

## Does my organisation need to be making its own products?

Yes. You need to be operating an in-house production continuously making physical products. This can be sustained production of the same product(s) or it can be production of custom or unique products.

## More information:

If you can't find what you're looking for on our [project website](#) or brochure or just require further information, then please email us at [MadeSmarter@WestofEngland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:MadeSmarter@WestofEngland-ca.gov.uk)

# Made Smarter West of England

## Contact us

[madesmarter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:madesmarter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

[www.madesmarter-ca.gov.uk/made-smarter/](http://www.madesmarter-ca.gov.uk/made-smarter/)

