



Factsheet Incubator Support

The initiative provides funding to incubators to improve the prospects of Australian start-ups in international markets.

What does it offer?

The initiative assists new and existing incubators to improve the prospects of Australian start-ups achieving commercial success in international markets. Funded incubators will deliver a range of activities to Australian start-ups to develop the capabilities required to quickly 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 components, both of which require a funding contribution from applicants.

1. New and Existing Incubators
2. Expert-in-Residence

Who can apply?

To be eligible you must:

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

and be one of the following entities:

- an entity 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 are the project eligibility criteria?

To be eligible for funding, your project must:

- include eligible activities and expenditure
- have an eligible project value of at least \$52,000 for New and Existing Incubators projects in major cities
- have an eligible project value of at least \$40,000 for New and Existing Incubators projects in regional areas
- have an eligible project value of at least \$10,000 for Expert in Residence projects.

Eligible activities

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

New and Existing Incubators

Examples of eligible activities include:

- expanding mentor networks to new mentors with national or international expertise
- 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 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, customers peer firms).

Expert in Residence

Examples of eligible activities include:

- 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 grant amount and grant period?

New and Existing Incubators

- a minimum grant amount of \$26,000 and a maximum grant amount of \$500,000 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

What are the merit criteria?

New and Existing Incubators projects:

You must address each of the following merit criteria

1. Management and business capability (40 points)
2. Benefit to your incubator, start-ups and the broader innovation ecosystem (50 points)
3. Impact of the grant (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 merit criteria two in your application.

How will my application be assessed?

New and Existing Incubators projects:

When we receive your final application, we first assess it against the eligibility criteria and then against the merit criteria. Only eligible 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 merit criterion two.

The Program Delegate will make the final decision on which applicants will be successful.

What will I need to do if successful?

You will need to sign a grant agreement with the Australian Government. The terms and conditions of the grant agreement are not negotiable.

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?

Before applying you should read and understand the program guidelines. You can submit an application at any time. Applications can be found on the Incubator Support page of the business.gov.au website.

Regional Incubator Facilitators:

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.

Where can I find more information?

Visit www.business.gov.au/ep or call 13 28 46.