

Edge Foundation Overview

Edge is the independent education charity dedicated to shaping the future of education to meet the demands of the 21st century global economy and ensure opportunity for all.

Technical and creative skills are critical to our modern digital economy. Edge believes that high quality technical and professional learning should be a key part of a coherent, unified and holistic education system to support social mobility and enable all young people to fulfil their potential.

Visit www.edge.co.uk to find out more.

Grant Fund Overview

The Edge Grant Fund is a programme of three rounds of grant funding. This is the second round and the third round will open in 2020. Each round will have up to £1million of grant funding available.

Applications for funding are invited to support both short and long term projects that build on proven models of success or test new approaches within education and learning. Projects must support Edge's plan for education, and must support innovation or development within technical and professional learning. Projects can support practical delivery or be research based to build evidence and/or support the understanding and dissemination of best practice.

Applications are welcomed from all educational establishments or not-for-profit organisations working within the education sector.

Edge's Plan for Education

- Create a broad, balanced and relevant 14-19 curriculum
- Make school work relevant to the workplace; get employers involved
- Give teachers more support and freedom; encourage collaboration between institutions to share best practice and resource
- More high quality apprenticeships for young people to help them earn and learn
- Ensuring a flexible, dynamic and value for money higher education system that helps prepare young people for the real world

Our plan for Higher Education can be downloaded at:
www.edge.co.uk/OurPlanforHE

Our plan for 14-19 Education can be downloaded at:
www.edge.co.uk/Ourplanfor14-19Education



How to Apply



There are three clear steps for applicants considering applying to the Edge Grant Fund.

Step One

Check that your organisation is eligible for a grant (page 6) and that the project is in line with the Funding Themes (pages 4-5) through reading this Prospectus and referring to our Previous Beneficiaries (page 7). If you are eligible and you wish to apply, go to www.edge.co.uk/GrantFund and complete the Initial Application Form.

Step Two

Complete and submit an Initial Application Form by the **deadline of midday on 3 May 2018**.

We aim to assess applications within six weeks of this deadline. Successful applicants will be forwarded a Business Plan Application Form and Budget Form to complete, providing further details regarding your project and its outcomes.

Step Three

Complete and submit a Business Plan Application Form, Budget Form and Risk Register by the **deadline of midday on 13 September 2018**.

Edge intends to run application webinars for projects selected to submit Business Plan Applications. Dates and details will be provided nearer the time.

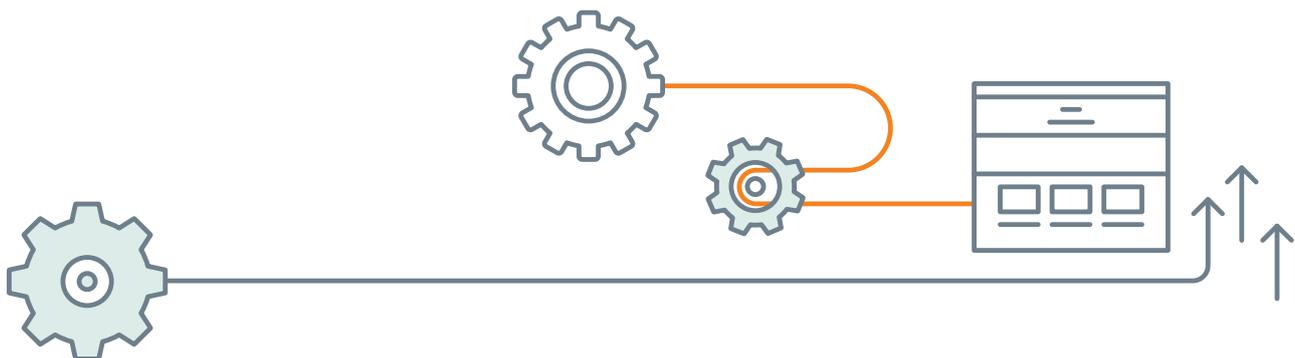
Business Plan Applications will be assessed by Edge staff and Trustees. We aim to make decisions on Business Plan applications within six weeks of the submission deadline.

Please note all applications must be submitted via the Edge website. We cannot accept additional supporting documents other than where specifically requested. If you have any issues accessing the forms, please contact us.

Following the Innovation and Development Grant Fund, Edge commissioned NFER to produce a document called "How to deliver an effective grant-funded project on technical and professional education". We recommend all applicants to review this document which can be downloaded here:

www.edge.co.uk/projects/the-edge-grant-fund

If you have any questions regarding the application process you can contact us at grant@edge.co.uk.



Application Criteria and Guidelines

About the Grant Fund

The objective of the Grant Fund is to support the creation and/or development of innovative projects within the area of technical and professional education and learning, building on previously effective models or testing innovative methods. Projects can be research based or support practical delivery or be a mixture of both.

The Grant Fund will support projects that create best practice models that have the potential for being scaled up or are suitable for replication through dissemination across the sector.

Projects are required to have a direct impact on young people both during the funded period and longer term.

All projects are required to address areas of skills shortages for the UK and address in detail at least 1 of the following Funding Themes. Due consideration will be given to applications that address a number of the funding themes.

Funding Themes

- **Improve the design and delivery of engaging and relevant Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance**

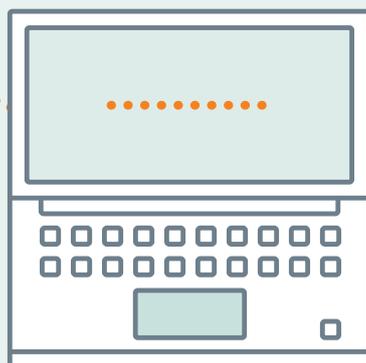
Projects that support young people to understand the full range of curriculum options, routes to further and higher education as well as career options available. Areas we are interested in include but are not limited to:

- How to make young people aware of the “hidden” jobs within organisations
- How to address gender bias for some career opportunities
- How to improve careers guidance within Higher Education

- **Support the development of Project Based Learning (PBL) and associated profound employer engagement**

Projects that support the development and use of PBL within the curriculum. Areas we are interested in include but are not limited to:

- Using PBL within and across a range of curriculum subjects
- Providing teacher training/CPD to develop the use of high quality PBL
- Supporting the development of both broad and deep employer engagement in the curriculum



- **Support the development of a 14-19 curriculum which integrates both academic and technical/professional subjects**

Projects that support the development and delivery of a 14-19 curriculum that integrates academic subjects with work-relevant technical and professional learning opportunities. Areas we are interested in include but are not limited to:

- Making technical options available from 14 (such as young apprenticeships)
- Holistic curriculum routes that treat 14-19 as a single phase
- Providing a blended academic/technical curriculum post-16

- **Support the development of innovative approaches to higher education at levels 4, 5 and 6**

Projects that support the introduction and development of innovative approaches to the delivery of high quality higher education. Areas we are interested in include but are not limited to:

- The provision of accelerated, compressed and part-time degrees
- Innovative work based higher education such as higher and degree level apprenticeships.
- Projects that expand Level 4 and 5 provision

- **Measuring the performance of technical education**

We are interested in research projects which look at ways to measure the performance of technical and professional education. Areas we are interested in include but are not limited to:

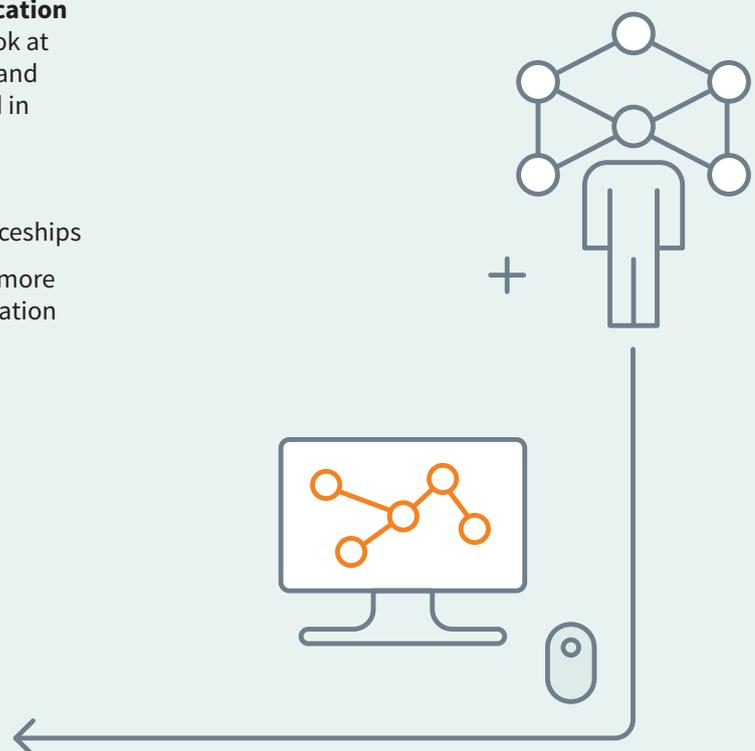
- Measuring the destinations of young people
- Measuring the economic impact of apprenticeships
- Alternative performance measures that are more suitable for technical and professional education

Grant Amounts

In 2018/19 the Fund has £1million to grant to suitable projects, with applicants able to apply for between £30,000 and £100,000. Any grant awarded must be spent within 24 months of the project start date.

Match Funding

Edge will give particular consideration to applications for projects that have already secured match funding or intend to use the Edge grant to obtain further match funding.



Application Eligibility

Eligible Organisations*

Edge is keen to receive applications from a wide range of organisation types including the following:

An education establishment, such as any:

- School or Academy
- Further Education College
- University

A not-for-profit organisation, such as a:

- Registered Charity
- Company limited by guarantee
- Community Interest Company limited by guarantee

This list is not exhaustive and if you are unsure if your organisation is eligible please contact us for clarification.

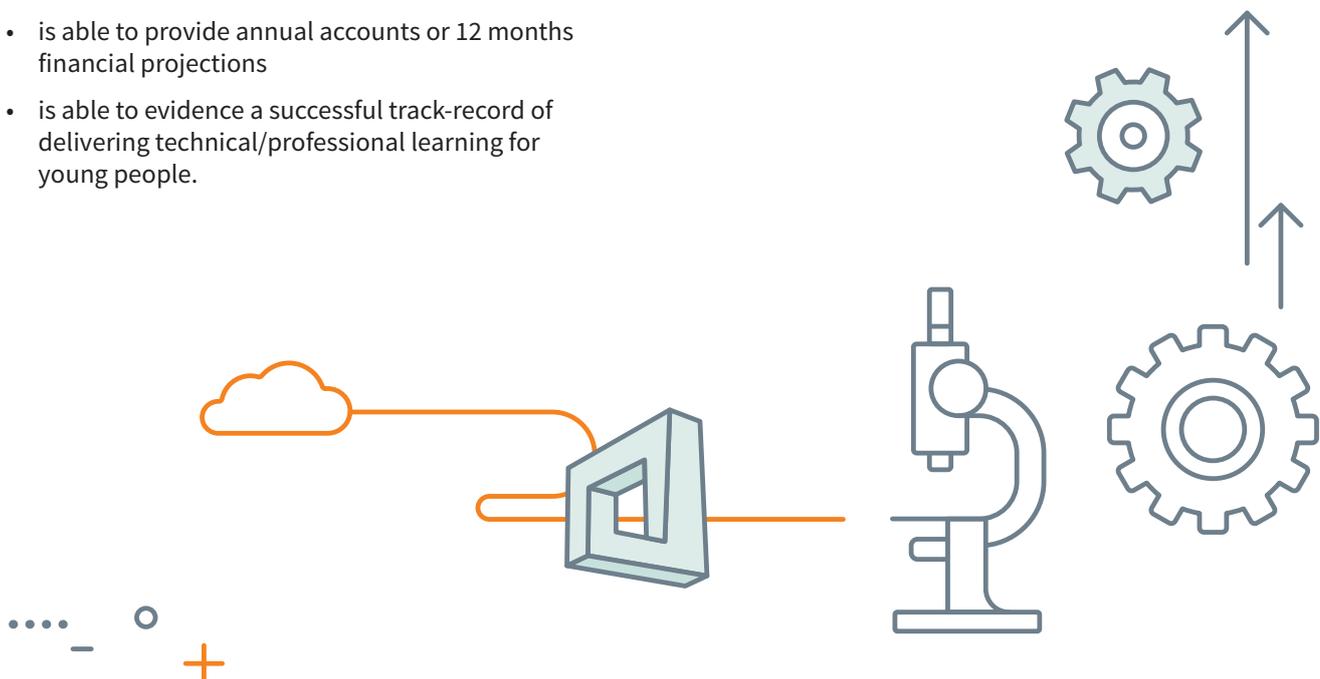
Edge will only fund an organisation which meets the following criteria:

- is a not-for-profit organisation
- has its own bank account with at least two signatories
- is able to provide annual accounts or 12 months financial projections
- is able to evidence a successful track-record of delivering technical/professional learning for young people.

* Exclusions

Edge will not fund applications which:

- are for activities or organisations that are outside of the UK
- are submitted by individuals or profit-making organisations
- are submitted by organisations whose financial history shows serious financial deficit or are non-compliant with their regulatory body
- promote religious beliefs or political opinions
- request money for
 - contingency costs
 - retrospective costs
 - recoverable VAT



Previous Beneficiaries of the Edge Grant Fund

Detailed below are examples of the type of project funded in the first round of the Edge Grand Fund. These are provided to give potential applicants a feel for the type of projects supported by Edge.

Blackburn College is using their grant to develop an Environmental Construction Careers and Skills Academy. The college is working with local companies to shape the curriculum, which will include electrical, gas, plumbing and bricklaying, and create 50 scholarships providing an opportunity for secure employment.

Bridgwater and Taunton College is one of six strategic partners which form the new National College for Nuclear (NCfN). The Edge grant is helping the college to provide teaching and learning via project-based tasks using cutting-edge technology and virtual reality simulation to replicate the nuclear workplace.

Career Ready, a national charity, is using their grant to develop its new Think Build programme for 16-19 year olds. Working with employers such as Wates, Arcadis and Wilmott Dixon, Career Ready is providing mentoring, masterclasses, work visits and placements to introduce students to opportunities in the construction sector.

Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise is using its grant to help young people in Doncaster get into STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers. Working with Doncaster Borough Council and Sheffield Hallam University, the project offers 18,000 students aged 15-18 work experience, careers advice, mentoring programmes and 'have a go' experiences.

Education and Employers is being supported to expand its Primary Futures programme which aims to reach 240,000 children. It enables world primary schools to engage with volunteers from the world of work who, through a range of activities such as 'What's My Line?' and classroom talks, help to bring learning to life.

The Edge Hotel School is using their grant to attract youngsters into the hospitality industry addressing a growing skills gap. The funds will help develop learning materials and support a programme of visits and workshops in 200 schools and colleges to highlight the opportunities in hospitality and encourage young people into the sector.

The Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education is receiving support for a project using Business Ambassadors to advise young people about careers and job opportunities, encourage them into careers in construction and increase the number of apprenticeships locally by five per cent to address the county's higher than average NEET figure.

The Studio Schools Trust (now Studio Schools Network) is being supported to commission an evaluation of the CREATE Framework used in Studio Schools.

St Helens Chamber is using the grant to support its Inspiring Educators programme which will develop teachers' knowledge and understanding of careers in the Liverpool City Region, with a particular focus on Advanced Manufacturing, Visitor Economy and Digital and Creative sectors where there is a skills shortage.

St Joseph's Catholic Academy in Hebburn is being supported to build on its Future Ready programme. St Joseph's links with Sunderland University to develop courses which enables students to spend two days each week working with industry professionals in the workplace, alongside academic and technical learning.

Teach First is being supported to train teachers in careers and employability learning and improve prospects for their pupils, as part of Teach First's work to challenge educational inequality across England and Wales. The charity gives teachers working in low-income areas the training to develop careers programmes for their students.

The Studio Liverpool is using the grant to create a network for young budding digital entrepreneurs. The Digital Entrepreneurship Network, or Studio DEN, is helping students develop and market digital products with support from industry mentors. The Studio DEN aims to attract 2,500 young people giving them a good understanding of digital skills and enterprise.

Details of all Edge Foundation supported projects can be found on our website: www.edge.co.uk

Grant Fund Timeline 2018/19

Open for applications	Thursday, 22 March 2018
Deadline for Initial Applications	Midday on 3 May 2018
Notification of Initial Application decisions	Week of 11 June 2018

The following dates only apply to those projects selected to progress to phase two of the process

Deadline for Business Plan Applications	Midday on 13 September 2018
Notification of grant decisions	Week of 22 October 2018
First grant payments made	January 2019

Edge reserves the right to change these timescales and dates as appropriate.



What Happens Next?

Grant Offer

If successful, applicants will be made a conditional offer with a grant agreement and terms & conditions drawn up and agreed before an initial payment is made.

Monitoring

As part of the terms & conditions grantees will be required to complete monitoring reports using templates provided by Edge. Information required will be financial, quantitative and qualitative.

Support

Once initial grants are made Edge will work with grantees to maximise the impact of their grant and facilitate awareness and dissemination of best practice.

Evaluation

All applications must include a plan and a budget to carry out an evaluation of the project at the end of the 24 month grant term. Grantees are also required to complete an evaluation template provided by Edge within the last quarter of the grant term.

Frequently Asked Questions

In order to help potential applicants below are answers to the common questions asked regarding the Grant Fund.

Will the Grant Fund be open every year?

It is our intention to open the Grant Fund in alternate years namely 2018 and again in 2020 after which the performance of the fund will be reviewed.

What sectors are classed as having a skills shortage?

Rather than specify sectors with skills shortages Edge requires applicants to demonstrate why a sector is being targeted. This may be evidenced for example through national research or local consultation ie local labour market information data.

What supporting documents do you need/can I provide?

As detailed within the Prospectus and Application Advice, Edge require copies of your governing documents and annual accounts during the Business Plan Application stage. Please do not submit any further supporting documentation as this will not be considered during assessment.

Can I submit a hard copy of my application?

No. All applications are required to be completed on the official Grant Fund application forms and submitted electronically via the Edge website.

What age group is the Fund targeting?

Projects must focus on young people up to the age of 24, however projects which support the development and delivery of higher and degree level apprenticeships or other degree level provision have no upper age limit for beneficiaries.

How are decisions made?

Applications are assessed using an externally developed assessment framework with both Edge staff and Trustees involved in decision making.

I have a question that isn't answered above, what shall I do?

Please contact Edge directly at grant@edge.co.uk

