



Prospectus

# The Edge Innovation Fund

Supporting Innovation  
in Education

**2021 Funding Round**



Making Education Relevant

[www.edge.co.uk](http://www.edge.co.uk)

# What is Edge about?

## Making education relevant for:

- everyone – promoting greater equity in our society
- the real world – making sure that learning is engaging and exciting
- employability – ensuring that all young people are ready for work
- communities – tailoring solutions to diverse nations, regions and localities
- the future – preparing young people for our changing world and economy

## The world is changing fast – education needs to keep up.

The world is changing fast and education needs to keep up. Edge is an independent, politically impartial education foundation. We want education to be relevant to the twenty-first century. We gather evidence through research and real world projects and partnerships and use this to lead the debate and influence policy and practice.

Edge believes all young people need to be equipped with the skills that today's global, digital economy demands, through a broad and balanced curriculum, high quality training, engaging real world learning and rich relationships between education and employers.

Visit [www.edge.co.uk](http://www.edge.co.uk) to find out more.

## The challenges we face:

- Curriculum, pedagogy and assessment are narrow and inflexible
- Professional and vocational education is underfunded and undervalued
- Education is not systematically and reliably connected to the real world

## What we stand for:

- A broad, flexible and engaging education
- High quality respected professional and vocational education
- Education connected to employers and the community

# About the Edge Innovation Fund

The Edge Innovation Fund (EIF) is a new approach to grant funding for the Edge Foundation. The EIF will open in September 2021 and will stay open until December 2025. The Fund will be refreshed with new grant funds every January. Applications for grant funding can be made at any point and completed forms will be assessed for suitability every month. We will communicate with applicants by email, using the contact details supplied, to inform on progress and/or request additional information.

The Edge Innovation Fund (EIF) will focus on projects which are viewed as “disruptive” in their thinking and approach, challenging current norms of thinking.

The EIF will focus on enabling organisations to create proof of concept of new and innovative approaches. This could include new areas of work for Edge as long as the approach relates back to our core mission of **“Making Education Relevant”**.



**In 2021 the EIF has a total fund of £300k to grant to suitable projects**

## Criteria

All potential projects must meet the following criteria. The project must:

- Be innovative.
- Be disruptive and challenging to the current education system approach.
- Address the need for a broad and balanced curriculum containing both vocational and academic learning.
- Address Edge's strategic priorities – namely:
  - support making education relevant, empowering young people to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviour needed for success as adults, workers and citizens to play a role in society and address challenging global issues; supporting employers to feel that young people have the qualities they are looking for in a changing economy
  - support a broad, flexible and engaging education
  - support high quality, respected professional and vocational education
  - support education being connected to employers and the community.

Applications are expected to meet all or a substantial majority of the criteria. Edge reserves the right, in exceptional circumstances, to fund projects which directly meet only some of the criteria. Such projects will be encouraged to review how they can address any remaining criteria through the development of the project.

Edge reserves the right to change or add to the Fund criteria at its discretion during the life of the EIF.

# Grant Amounts

In 2021 the EIF has a total fund of £300k to grant to suitable projects.

**The minimum funding amount is £20,000 for a single year project.**

**The maximum funding amount for a single year project is £100k.**

Maximum funding amount for a multiple year project (between 2 and 3 years) is up to the total amount available in the fund at time of application.

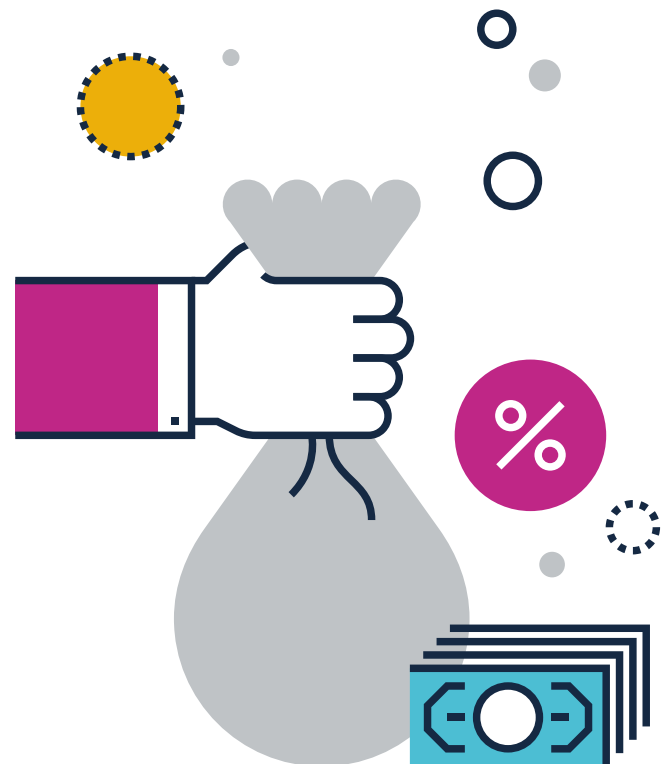
The Edge Foundation reserves the discretionary right to change both the minimum and maximum amounts for individual grants if felt appropriate.

# Match Funding

At least 20% of the total project costs must be match funded.

Applications will be accepted from projects who can demonstrate, within 6 weeks of notification of selection for potential funding, match funding of at least 20% of total project costs. Match funding can be sourced from applicants' reserves or from third party funding. Match funding must be financial funding not in-kind support.

Edge reserves the right to waive this requirement, in exceptional circumstances.



# 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 financial projections for a minimum of a 12 month period.
- is able to evidence a successful track-record of delivering professional/vocational 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 for projects which are **entirely** for capital and/or infrastructure costs, or for projects which are **entirely** staff salary based.
- 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
  - retrospective costs and/or
  - recoverable VAT.

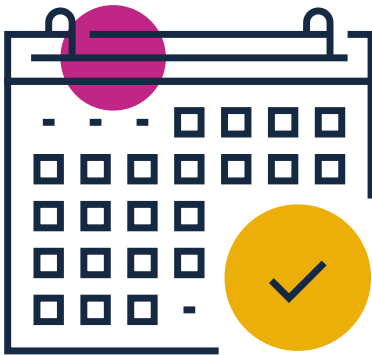


# Timeline for 2021

The EIF will open to applications from Monday, 13th September 2021. It will remain open until the end of 2021 or until the funds to grant are exhausted whichever is the earliest.

The EIF will be refreshed on 1st January 2022 and will then re-open for applications. Details of the amount of funding available at that point will be announced on the [Edge website](#).

Should applications which meet the funding criteria be received at a point where all available funding has been allocated, applicants will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a reserve list for when the funding has been refreshed. If this is more than four months from the date of the application, applicants will be contacted once the Fund has been refreshed and invited to review and resubmit their application.



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

## How to Apply

### > Step One

Check that your organisation is eligible for a grant (see [Eligibility Criteria](#)) and that the project meets the Fund's criteria (see [Criteria](#)).

If you are eligible and you wish to apply for a grant click here to [register](#).

**Confirmation of registration should only take a few minutes. If after 15 minutes you have not received any confirmation, please try the following:**

1. Check for the verification email in your junk/spam folders.
2. Check your browser hasn't auto-filled your login and password with incorrect details.
3. Check you have entered your email and password correctly.
4. Repeated failure to enter a valid user name and password may result in users being blocked from their accounts. Your account will be automatically unblocked after 24 hours.

If after checking all of the above, you still have issues, please email [crm-admin@edge.co.uk](mailto:crm-admin@edge.co.uk).

### > Step Two

Complete and submit your application as soon as possible.

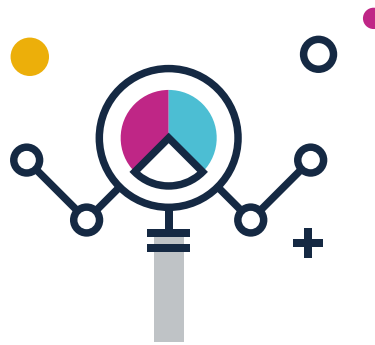
Please note all applications must be submitted via the Edge website on the PDF application form and we cannot accept additional supporting documents other than where specifically requested. If you have any problems with the application form, please contact us at [grant@edge.co.uk](mailto:grant@edge.co.uk).

# Application Assessment Process

At the end of October 2021 and then at the end of each calendar month until 31st December 2021, completed applications received will be assessed against the Fund's criteria. Applications which are found to be a good match to the criteria will be recommended to Edge's Projects and Delivery Committee comprising Edge Trustees and Executive. The Committee will meet every two months to agree which, if any applications will be offered a grant.

Dependant on the project duration and funding request, applicants may either at the initial review or following review by the Committee, be requested to provide further information. The information may be requested via additional documentation or by provision of a short video presentation. Full details will be provided at the appropriate time.

Applications for multiple year projects and those requesting in excess of £100k will be invited to attend the Committee review meeting either in person or virtually to present their project concept and answer questions.



## Evaluation

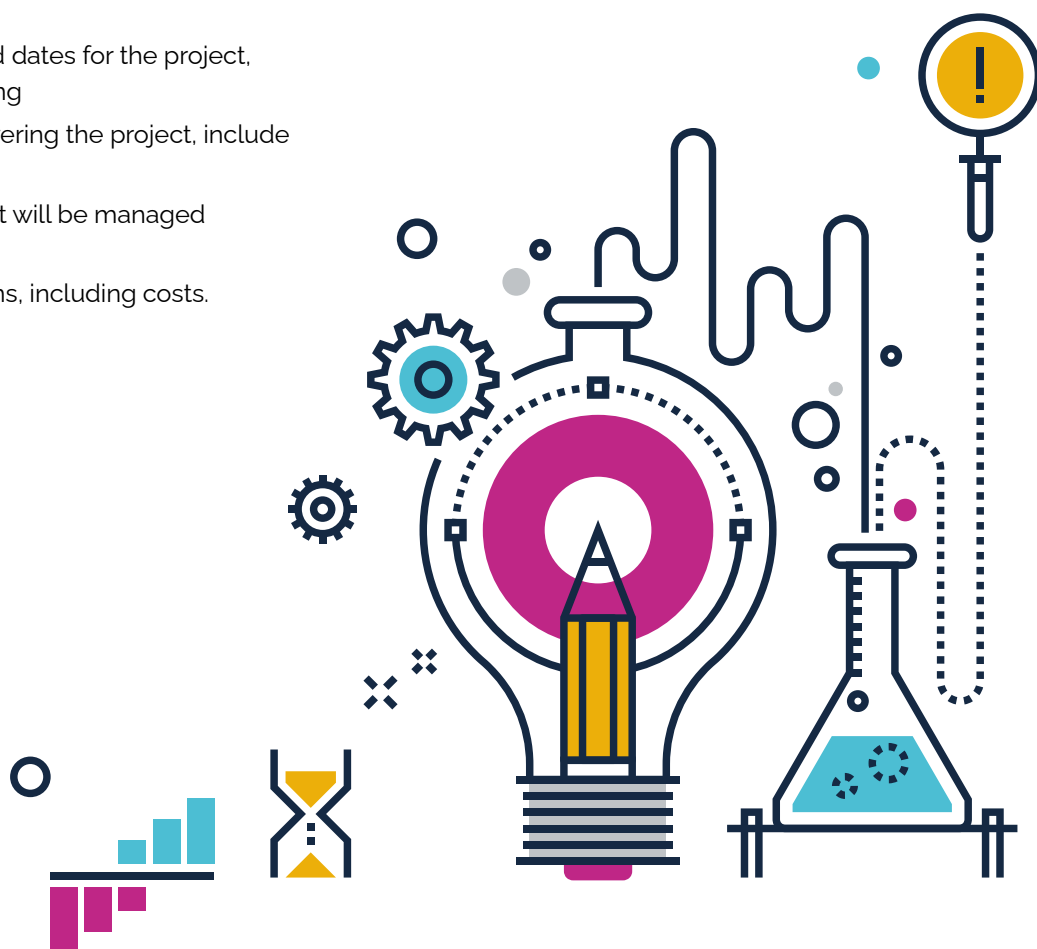
**All applications must include all of the following evaluation activities and the associated costs MUST be included within the project's budget:**

- To carry out internally or commission externally a full evaluation of the project, including impact, level of success, potential for replication and/or dissemination and lessons learned.
- To complete the Edge Evaluation Questionnaire.
- To participate in the Edge commissioned overarching evaluation. A sum equivalent to 10% of the total grant awarded will be with-held by Edge to fund this evaluation which will be commissioned and managed by Edge.



# Application Guidance

- Answer every question on the application as fully as possible.
- Make sure you give a clear and concise description of the project.
- Make sure you cover the following:
  - Explain what the project is
  - Explain how the project meets the Fund's criteria
  - Explain why the project is needed
  - Explain how the project will operate
  - Detail the outcomes and outputs of the project
  - Explain who the project beneficiaries are, and how they will benefit
  - Explain how the project will inspire, engage and challenge its beneficiaries
  - Detail the impacts of the project – include both quantitative and qualitative measures. Who benefits, how and for how long.
  - Explain what geographical reach the project will have
  - Detail the start and end dates for the project, or indicate if it is ongoing
  - Detail who will be delivering the project, include any partners
  - Explain how the project will be managed and monitored
  - Include evaluation plans, including costs.
- Where there are word count restrictions, make the best use of available word count.
- Make sure you fully complete the Finance/Budget section. All projects are expected to have at least 20% of the total project budget covered by match funding. Please also indicate clearly where match funding is being sourced from and whether it is already secured. Please clearly state what the Edge funding will be spent on.
- Include all relevant information in the application form – supporting documents are not accepted at the initial stage.
- Ensure you are requesting the right amount from the EIF – check the grant amount section for details. Applications made for amounts outside the specified limits will not be considered.





# My application has been approved - what happens next?

## Grant Offer and Due Diligence

If a decision is made by the Projects and Delivery Committee to offer a grant, a process of due diligence will be undertaken.

### Applicants will be asked to provide:

- A detailed project plan with timeline, KPIs including milestones, outcomes & outputs and internal/external evaluation. This must be agreed with Edge before funding is released.
- A detailed budget and cash flow for the life of the project.
- Evidence of match funding.
- Details of two organisational references which will be taken up by Edge before any funding is released.
- Risk register.
- Other due diligence documentation including:
  - Annual accounts
  - Evidence of legal entity
  - Safeguarding policy.
- Details of bank account.

## Grant Agreement

Once the due diligence process has been satisfactorily completed, applicants who have been made a grant offer will be required to sign a formal grant agreement which covers the duration of the project:

### The grant agreement with terms and conditions will include but will not be limited to:

- Agreement to provide quarterly monitoring reports on an Edge provided template.
- Agreement to facilitate regular monitoring visits from Edge.

- Agreement of a payment schedule setting out activities/outputs to be achieved in order to release tranches of grant funding (KPIs).
- An agreed plan to carry out an internal or external evaluation of the project and to complete Edge's Evaluation Questionnaire.
- Agreement to participate in an Edge commissioned overarching evaluation of the EIF.
- Agreement to work with Edge to disseminate learning and products arising from the project.
- Agreement to participate in any media or other events organised by Edge in relation to the project.

## 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. Grantees will also be required to facilitate visits to the project by Edge staff to monitor progress and increase understanding of the project.

## Support

Once initial grants are made Edge's Communications Team will work with successful applicants on the production and release of a mutually agreed press release. Over the life of the project Edge will work with grantees to maximise the impact of their grant and facilitate awareness and dissemination of best practice. This may include media opportunities and/or invitations to participate in Edge or other third party events and conferences.

# Who have Edge funded in the past?

Details of all Edge Foundation supported projects can be found on our [website](#).

We also advise potential applicants to read our Impact of Grant Funding report available [here](#).

If you have any questions regarding the application process you can contact us at [grant@edge.co.uk](mailto:grant@edge.co.uk).



# Frequently Asked Questions

In order to help potential applicants below are answers to the common questions asked regarding Edge's Grant Funding Programme.

## **Will the Fund be open every year?**

It is our intention that the Edge Innovation Fund opens in September 2021 and remains open until December 2025. The amount of grant funding available will be refreshed every 1st January from 2022 to 2025. The continuation of the EIF is subject to internal performance reviews and Edge reserves the right to close the EIF at its own discretion.

## **How much money is available?**

For 2021 the fund has £300k available to fund projects. The fund will be refreshed on 1st January 2022 when the total amount available will be confirmed.

## **How big a grant can I ask for?**

The minimum funding amount is £20,000 for a single year project. The maximum funding amount for a single year project is £100k. Maximum funding amount for a multiple year project (between 2 and 3 years) is up to the total amount available in the fund at time of application.

## **What supporting documents do you need/ can I provide?**

As detailed within this Prospectus, the initial application requires only the completion of the application form available on [registration](#). During the assessment process applicants may be requested to provide other documentation. Should an application proceed to a grant offer, further information will be requested as part of the due diligence process. Please do not submit any supporting documentation unless specifically requested 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 specified application form and submitted via the Edge website.

## **Is the EIF looking for projects aimed at a specific age group?**

The EIF is looking for innovative and disruptive projects across the vocational/technical/professional education landscape. However particular attention will be given to projects which focus on young people up to the age of 24.

## **Is the EIF looking for projects aimed at specific industry sectors?**

The EIF is looking for innovative and disruptive projects across the vocational/technical/professional education landscape. However projects aimed at industries/sectors experiencing specific skills shortages will be of particular interest.

## **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](mailto:grant@edge.co.uk).



Visit [www.edge.co.uk](http://www.edge.co.uk) to find out more.

Join us on Facebook/UKedge,  
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