University of Glasgow

MEDTECH INNOVATION FUND

Applicant Briefing

ABOUT THE FUND

The MedTech Innovation Fund (MT-IF) is an exciting new initiative to provide funding to academic staff at the University of Glasgow (including post-doctoral researchers and PhD students) who have entrepreneurial spirit and ambition to transform health and patient care.

This early-stage fund enables staff to accelerate the development of **innovative medical device / healthcare ideas** that have significant potential for a spin-out venture or worthy of further exploration through other commercialisation routes and have real world impact.

This new fund is open to a wide range of MedTech and Health care areas and will assist project leaders to validate and mature their ideas / inventions, identifying gaps that need to be filled in the journey to commercialisation and realising potential of new groundbreaking discoveries.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA?

This call is open to staff members or PhD students at the University of Glasgow who have salary support in place until March 31, 2025, and with proposed projects meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate ambition to commercialise an idea or product offering / create spin out venture that has a positive change in the medical technology / healthcare market
- An unmet healthcare need / customer demand
- Protection of Intellectual Property (unpublished data / filing know how)
- Some evidence of a large market opportunity
- Sustainable competitive advantage
- Some form of early prototype with preliminary proof of concept data

WHAT FUNDING AND SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

We encourage all applicants to contact the MT-IF team via the innovation@glasgow.ac.uk mailbox to discuss their ideas and the support required in advance of starting an application.

The funds can be used for a range of different purposes, depending on the technologies / innovation readiness and how close the solutions or offerings are to the market and welcome applications of various funding quantities. For more advanced proposals or projects over £50,000 we require applicants to contact the MT-IF team before beginning an application.

WHAT ARE ELIGIBLE COSTS?

Examples that would be eligible for funding include:

- Buy-out of staff time to generate evidence and validate the scale of the market for the innovation proposed via engagements with clinicians, investors, corporates, healthcare providers and other stakeholders

- Funding a consultant to evolve a development and regulatory plan including timescales and costs to take an innovation to its first clinical or user trial or preparation for investment

- Funding for a commercial champion to develop a business plan, financial model and investor pitch deck targeting potential investors and corporates

- Up to six months of salary costs for new temporary staff are eligible for inclusion (direct appointments only) where it can be demonstrated that appropriate staff can be recruited in the timescale and/or that contractual arrangements for current staff on temporary contracts can be reasonably altered.

WHAT ARE INELIGIBLE COSTS?

The fund **will not support** the following costs for any partner:

- Shortfalls from research funded by other grants
- For internal staffing costs: estates and indirect costs are not included (as per costing template)
- PhD fees
- Publisher costs associated with Open Access
- Costs associated with academic conference attendance
- Costs of undertaking experimental proof-of-concept studies

HOW TO APPLY?

If you are unsure about any aspect of this process, please contact innovation@glasgow.ac.uk and ask. We want your application to be as strong and competitive as possible, and our team can advise on applications and help identify potential partners for your project ideas. We will also host virtual/in-person Q&A sessions, where you will have a chance to ask questions. This will be announced on the Training and Events webpage shortly.

- The deadline for applications for all calls is **09:00am on August 19, 2024**. Late applications will not be considered.
- All applications must include a completed and signed Application Form. If applicable, please fill out the MedTech Costing Template to assist with costings for University of Glasgow staff buy-out/appointments and attach this to your application. The Application Form and Costing Template can be downloaded from the website. For detailed costings for NHS staff, please

contact NHS R&D Finance (r&d.finance@ggc.scot.nhs.uk). For all other external costing (e.g., consultant, product designer, CEO designate etc) please attach relevant quotes to your application if applicable.

- Application forms (in **Microsoft Word** format) and Costing Template for University of Glasgow staff costings (in **Microsoft Excel** format) as well as relevant quotes, if applicable, must be submitted electronically to innovation@glasgow.ac.uk.

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

All applications will be checked for eligibility before being assessed by an expert panel comprising commercialisation expertise from the University, and industry experts from across the MedTech sector. Applications will be shared in full with the panel members and subject to appropriate NDA arrangements. The panel will assess and prioritise applications with respect to:

- Evidence of an unmet healthcare need being addressed and the potential impact of the proposed solution on patients
- The intellectual property position of the project
- The stage of prototype development and proof of concept data
- Evidence of any clinical or healthcare provider endorsement for the solution
- The market/impact opportunity
- The potential for scalable spin out venture creation

Successful applicants will be notified of the outcome beginning of September 2024. Projects will normally commence around October 1, 2024, but can start earlier if all financial/administrative arrangements are in place. Projects should plan for around six months of activity. All project budgets must be committed by March 25, 2025.

WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

- Successful applicants should provide brief informal reports on request throughout the delivery phase; this will be on a bimonthly basis to ensure timely project delivery.
- Award recipients will be required to submit a succinct summary report detailing expenditure and project outcomes by April 30, 2025
- Applicants are required to attend a project closing event to present main outcomes to the panel. This is planned for Spring 2025 and details will be confirmed with successful applicants.

APPENDIX: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Principal Investigators must be the main budget holder for project funds at the University of Glasgow and are fully responsible for all project reporting and leading the delivery of project activities.

- All awards must acknowledge their funding support in all publications, press releases and other communications materials as follows: funded by the University of Glasgow's MedTech Innovation Fund as part of the Entrepreneurial Campus Program (funded by the Scottish Funding Council University Innovation Fund and the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund).

- It is the responsibility of the applicant(s) to ensure that all proposed activities are in accordance with the University's ethical guidance and Code of Practice for Research. All projects must ensure appropriate project risk assessment have been completed before beginning any funded activity (including where activity is not being completed by UofG staff or students). Applicants must apply best practice in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion according to University policies, please also refer to courses housed on the Equality and Diversity Unit's Moodle portal.

- The University of Glasgow is committed to take proactive measures to address the climate crisis, please consider sustainability goals when planning and performing project activities.

- All applications selected for funding are additionally subject to all other research assurance processes at the University of Glasgow, including due diligence checks, purchasing and procurement guidelines, and ethical approval.

- A privacy notice on how The University of Glasgow will process your personal data in relation to your application can be found on our webpage.

- It is a requirement that the applicant(s) gains approval for any internal costs associated with their application prior to submitting their application and for project related time commitments from their line manager.

- Early Career Researchers would usually be defined as those who are currently on fixed-term contracts or who are within 5 years (excluding any career breaks) of their first lectureship appointment.

- No additional funds will be made available to projects that exceed their budget, including those associated with unforeseen VAT charges. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their requested budgets are sufficient for all project-related costs.

- Successful applicants should immediately begin preparing any necessary subcontracts, hiring processes and budget set-up upon notification of success (please DO NOT underestimate how long these processes might take).

- Decisions on funding award are final and not subject to appeal.