

Make It Happen Fund Terms and Conditions 2023-24

The Make It Happen Fund is an equity-free fund designed to provide grants of up to approximately £1,500 to eligible individuals or teams with a clear, genuine need for finances to progress an early-stage business or diversify an advanced business idea/opportunity.

The funds are thanks to the generous support of Santander Universities UK and Queen's Annual Fund and is managed by Students' Union Enterprise and The Graduate School. This fund is open to current Undergraduate and Postgraduate students at Queen's University Belfast from all subject areas, all sectors, and all segments of the self-employed from sole traders to company builders, social entrepreneurs etc.

Please note that it is not permitted to be registered as self-employed or trade as a business on a Tier 4/Student visa, therefore any funding received through the Make it Happen Fund must only be used for research, planning or prototyping purposes.

If you have any questions about the Terms and Conditions of your Tier 4/Student visa, please visit the Home Office website <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa> or contact International Student Support at immigration@qub.ac.uk.

Terms and conditions apply. Please read this document in full prior to applying. Queen's University Belfast reserves the right to amend all details of this fund at any time.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates must be able to prove that their business or opportunity is viable, legal, and has potential through clear and measurable evidence that there is demand for the product/service. This can be achieved by providing examples of any primary market research, testing or proof of concept work that they've used to define and redefine their idea.

To apply, you:

- Must be a current Undergraduate or Postgraduate student at Queen's University Belfast
- Must have a well-developed business idea/opportunity (pre-start) or an early-stage business
- Can apply as an individual or as part of a team, but only one application per idea or business will be considered

You may be ineligible, if:

- You have previously and recently received Make It Happen funding for the same venture – but please consult a member of the SU Enterprise Team if you wish to re-apply

If you're unsure if you're eligible or at the right stage in your business journey, please speak to a member of the SU Enterprise team before you apply. Send enquiries to su.enterprise@qub.ac.uk

Application Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a judging panel against key criteria based on the viability of the opportunity you present, the commitment of you/your team, and the clearly outlined need for funding.

Applications will be based on:

- Quality of application (Have the questions been sufficiently answered in a clear and understandable manner?)
- Quality of idea/concept (Does this idea make sense? Is it a new or unique concept?)
- Whether or not the idea presented solves a problem (Is this product or concept needed or desirable in today's society?)
- Has this application thoughtfully considered current market competitors or substitutions?
- Have you thought about how this business will make money? Does this concept have potential for earning?
- Who are the customers for this business idea? Are there enough to make the business viable?
- What barriers will the funding help you to overcome, and how will this assist in achieving your business objectives? Applicants who can demonstrate that the funding will help eradicate barriers, rather than forming part of a larger capital requirement for their business, are more likely to be successful in their application.

Selection Process

Applications for the Make It Happen Fund are accepted during certain times throughout the academic year.

To be considered for the fund, students must submit an application form to su.enterprise@qub.ac.uk by the specified deadline. At which point, SU Enterprise and the Graduate School will review the application.

Feedback is available upon request. If we believe the student may be eligible to receive funding based on their application, we will then invite the candidate to partake in an informal interview with an internal panel to further discuss their idea and plans for development and expenditure.

Based on the candidate's interview, the panel will decide whether to award funding and how much.

Terms and Conditions

The Make It Happen Fund is limited and so all funding is subject to availability. Grants are awarded at the sole discretion of SU Enterprise, the Graduate School and the judging panel.

The judging panel's decision is final and there is no right of appeal.