

NWRC BUSINESS SUPPORT CENTRE (BSC)

The North West Regional College (NWRC) BSC manages the College's engagement with industry providing training, upskilling and sourcing funding for research, development and innovation projects. Our experienced technical consultants and academic staff deliver tailored solutions, and over the past four years has provided more than £1million worth of business development funding and mentoring support to more than 350 local businesses across the North West region.

Industry Funding

Our main funding sources come from the following:

- ***InnovateUs***

The Department for the Economy (DfE) fund InnovateUs programme enabling small businesses with up to 50 employees to acquire the skills necessary to engage in innovation activities to help them grow their business.

The Programme provides up to 30 hours skills training, which is **fully funded by the DfE** and delivered around the needs of the business. Innovation support can be given in the areas of Financial, Business & Professional Services, Digital & Creative Industries, Agri-Food, Construction & Materials Handling, Advanced Manufacturing, Material & Engineering, Life & Health Sciences and Tourism & Hospitality.

- ***Skills Focus***

The DfE Skills Focus programme enables businesses with up to 250 employees to upskill or reskill employees in accredited training programmes at Level 2 or above. **DfE will fund 75% of the training costs** with the business paying the remaining 25%. Training delivered will be based on employers needs and can be delivered flexibly.

- ***Invest NI Innovation Voucher***

£5,000 Invest NI funding to develop innovative solutions, new products, new services or enhance existing products for your business through technical mentoring and R&D support from the NWRC (must be an NI company with less than 250 employees). These are fully funded with the company having to pay the VAT.

- ***Connected***

Connected is a DfE funded programme to encourage, ease and increase potential knowledge exchange links between academia and industry, particularly small and

medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The aim of Connected is to foster closer partnerships between our region's businesses, both large and small, and the university/college departments who are keen to work with you.

▪ ***Assured Skills***

The Assured Skills programme aims to support the development of a skilled workforce for companies interested in creating jobs in Northern Ireland. The Department for the Economy can provide **up to a maximum aid intensity of 70%** of the eligible costs of bespoke training programmes. Applicants should be an Invest Northern Ireland client considering new inward investment or an expansion of their current business which will ultimately create new jobs.

▪ ***Invest NI Technical Development Incentive (TDI)***

Up to 50% Invest NI funding (max £5,000) for Invest NI client companies help with issues relating to product development, production and process operations (open to all businesses with up to 250 employees).

▪ ***Invest NI Grant for R&D***

Funding to help your business with its reach and development activities, and facilitate development of new products or services (must be Invest NI Client or can demonstrate potential to become one).

▪ ***Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)***

Funding to help improve your business competitiveness and productivity through a high-tech graduate R&D programme. This ensures the better use of knowledge, technology, and skills that are found within the UK academic sector.

▪ ***EU Funding***

The NWRC is up-to-date with EU funding programmes and can attempt to assist your business with funding bids, where the NWRC can be your academic partner for R&D.