



University of Essex

DRIVING AN **IDEAS** ECONOMY

The University of Essex has been breaking boundaries for fifty years. Now our wealth of expertise is helping to drive business forward across a range of sectors from technology to the creative industries. We call our business community the Knowledge Gateway. It's where experts collaborate, great ideas are developed, and where businesses prosper.



Use our knowledge:

BUSINESS INNOVATION VOUCHERS

GET A £5,000 BUSINESS BOOST

We're offering University of Essex innovation vouchers up to the value of £5,000 which small and medium-sized businesses can use to pay for our experts' time - giving you access to tailored support. You can use the vouchers in a number of ways, such as to improve existing products and services or to scope new product and services, to set up new systems and processes and developing new training to help support better productivity in your business.

HOW IT WORKS

First, get in touch with us by email to: business@essex.ac.uk and we'll guide you through the application process. A University contact will discuss your company's needs so you can complete and submit your application, which will then be reviewed by our business panel - if accepted, you can reclaim projects cost up to £5,000 upon completion. We will assess applications based on the scope of the project, the value of the project to the business, and on the potential the business has to work with the University in future. We will give priority to businesses that have not previously worked with the University.

THE SMALLPRINT

Businesses wanting to apply for an innovation voucher must be an SME, defined by having an annual turnover of less than £25.9 million, fewer than 250 employees, and not having significant ownership (more than 25%) by a non-SME. Innovation vouchers can be used to fund any innovation project that involves accessing University expertise, and all projects must be delivered by the University of Essex and should result in innovation that will help stimulate business growth or unlock new opportunities. Please note, our innovation voucher scheme does not support existing business activities, functions, or capital items, but consumables may be included.

NEXT STEPS

To find out more about how our innovation vouchers can help boost your organisation, please telephone: 01206 872922 or email: business@essex.ac.uk and visit www.essex.ac.uk/business for further information.

ACCESS OUR KNOWLEDGE

- Improve business processes
- Develop new products
- Develop new training
- Conduct a feasibility study
- Exploit new ideas
- Build your internal capacity

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