

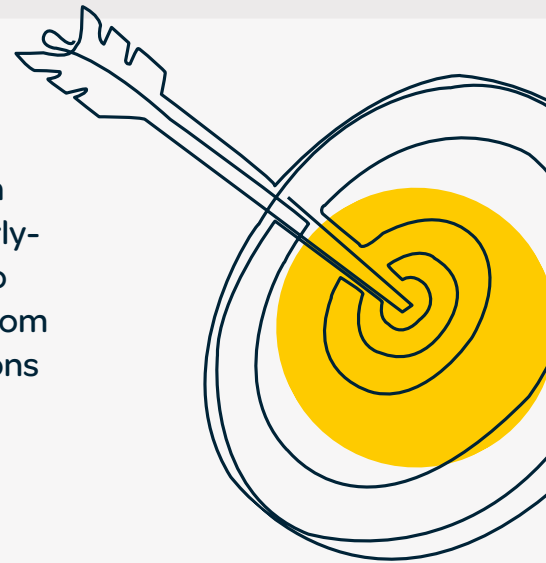
Impact Challenge

CONVERGE



The Challenge

We are collaborating with The Ventures Lab - an organisation that provides an inclusive, supportive path for aspiring or early-stage entrepreneurs to bring their purpose-led businesses to life - to launch a limited-edition programme for academics from Scotland's universities who are developing innovative solutions that will benefit the economy, society or the environment.



About us

Working in partnership with Scotland's universities, we equip staff, students and graduates with the knowledge, expertise and connections to build impactful businesses.

Through our programme, we've trained over 800 aspiring academic entrepreneurs, supported the creation of over 425 businesses, who've gone on to raise over £450m in follow-on funding.

Why Impact?

Because the world needs more than just innovation - it needs innovation with purpose. The Impact Challenge exists to empower researchers and early-stage founders who are solving real-world problems, driving change in communities, and building ventures that prioritise people and planet alongside profit. If your idea can improve lives, reshape systems, or tackle pressing global challenges, this is your launchpad.

Why take part?

Participants in this programme will benefit from:

- The opportunity to take the first step towards commercialisation
- Expert business training from real-world entrepreneurs
- Membership of a cohort of like-minded researchers and future founders
- Mentorship from The Ventures Lab team
- Opportunity to compete for a slice of a £10k cash & in-kind prize package

Who should apply?

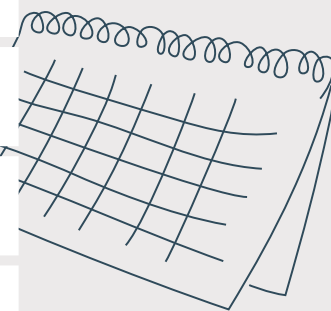
Open to staff, students or recent graduates from all Scottish Universities.

For many, participation in this programme will be a first step towards commercialisation and is designed to test and validate ideas.

Projects will be at an early stage of development, for example TRL 1-3.

What's involved?

Information Sessions	<u>12</u> & <u>19</u> November
Application Deadline	25 November
In-person training programme	7 & 8 January
Business case deadline	5 February
Live pitch to judges	5 March
Winner(s) announced	6 March



Is my project relevant?

The Ventures Lab supports all types of ambitious, impactful individuals or businesses that are addressing social or environmental challenges. You must be Scotland-based, impact-driven, and your idea, product, or service will have the potential to grow across Scotland or globally.



How to apply?

To find out more about the Impact Challenge click [here](#) or scan the QR code.

Applications should be submitted by 25 November via [MS Forms](#).

If you'd like to discuss your application in advance of submission, please book time with one of our Enterprise team [here](#).

