

Converge College Creators Fund T&Cs 2025

20 November, 2025

Converge College Creators Fund Terms & Conditions

Converge (“Converge”) hosted by HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY, a Scottish charity registered under SC000278 and having its principal offices at Riccarton, Edinburgh EH14 4AS (“HWU”) is running a competition entitled Converge College Creators Fund (the “Fund”).

The purpose of the Fund is to support the establishment of new companies bringing to the market innovative ideas developed by the Scottish College community. **DEFINITIONS**

Converge Code of Conduct	Means the Converge team, hosted by HWU, who manage the Converge College Creators Fund Programme and associated activities. Means the Code of Conduct issued by Converge and available on the Converge website.
Entrant	Means the individual or team applying for the Converge College Creators Fund.
Enterprise	Means a corporate entity, registered at Companies House.
Panel	Means the panel appointed by Converge for the purpose of the assessment of the programme applications and selection of the awardees of the College Creators Fund.
HWU	Means Heriot-Watt University, a Scottish charity registered under SC000278 and having its principal offices at Riccarton, Edinburgh EH14 4AS who host Converge.

Panel	Means the panel appointed by Converge for the purpose of the assessment of the programme applications and awardees of the College Creators Fund.
Fund	Means the Converge College Creators Fund.
Student	Means any student currently matriculated at a Scottish College.
Staff	Means any person currently employed by a Scottish College by a contract of employment.
Terms & Conditions	Means these Terms & Conditions.

ELIGIBILITY. The Fund is open to applications from all enrolled students at any Scottish College.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must intend to establish and retain the headquarters of their businesses in Scotland.
- Applicants must have the right to reside in the UK.
- Enterprising activity must not involve political campaigning or the advancement of religion.
- If the enterprising activity depends on having premises or land, applicants must already have a lease agreed.
- JOINT/TEAM applications will be accepted. Only one member of the team must satisfy the condition of eligibility. One team member must be named as the lead Entrant and all other members of the team must be individually named. The Lead Entrant

will be the point of contact and the assumed prize winner (if applicable), unless otherwise agreed. It is a requirement of the Fund that the Lead Entrant should have a significant input in founding the business.

- **APPLICATIONS.**

- Entrants must, before the advertised closing date, submit the application online at <http://www.convergechallenge.com> and complete each part of it fully. A brief, clear and convincing outline of the business idea on which the application is based shall be detailed. Applications which are not fully completed before the advertised closing date will not be accepted into the Programme.
- The same business idea cannot be entered by a person both individually and as a member of a team.
- Applications must be submitted via the Converge website. The CLOSING DATE for all applications is **Monday 16th February 2026** at 12pm GMT. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Entrants must either own or have the right to use and to commercially exploit all INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, including know-how, related to/involving in the business idea on which they base their application.
- Converge shall have the right to require any applicant to the Fund to provide evidence of the right to use and to commercially exploit intellectual property. Failure to provide such evidence may have a detrimental effect on the eligibility of the participant to receive a prize from the Fund.
- Converge and/or HWU shall have no responsibility for applications lost or delayed in transmission.

PHASE 1: Assessment of Applications. A panel constituted of representatives of a panel chosen by Converge (the “Panel”) shall evaluate the business ideas outlined in the applications. The Internal Panel shall select up to ten (10) Entrants (the “Candidates”) to award funding of £2,500 to.

PHASE 2: Announcement of Winners. The Entrants will be notified of the results via email. The winners will be announced on Converge website and social media, by Monday 28 February 2026.

PHASE 3: Entrepreneurial Training. The awardees shall be invited to attend an entrepreneurial training session in Edinburgh in March 2026. Converge announce the date to all entrants by the time they submit their applications. Entrants or Candidates may not contact any member of the Panel in relation to the Fund. In the event of any unauthorised contact being made, immediate disqualification will result, as will any attempt to influence the judging process.

- All dates related to the phases/events of the Fund and details in the present document are subject to change by Converge.
- All prizes are awarded at the discretion of the judging panel and all judging decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
- By accepting the prize, each winner AGREES to make themselves available to participate in reasonable promotion or publicity events during the upcoming year, including any future iterations of the Converge College Creators Fund.
- The College Creators Fund prizes consist of Ten prizes of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pounds Sterling (£2,500). Prizes must be claimed by the end of March 2026, and it is hoped that the prizes will be used to progress the business idea.
- All payments will be managed by HWU. All prizes will be final, non-transferable. Payments shall be made by HWU to College bank accounts only. In order to be able to receive the payment of the cash prize, each winner must provide the HWU Finance Department bank account details for where the prize is to be deposited.
- By entering the Fund, each Entrant acknowledges that the names of the winners will be posted on the Converge website and published in promotional material regarding future editions of the Fund without any further prior notice. By entering the Fund each Entrant VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT COMPENSATION AUTHORISES such uses of their name for promotional and news purposes related to the Fund by Converge, HWU, sponsors of the Fund, funders of the Fund and any other party that Converge or HWU decides in its sole discretion, without further prior notice. An opportunity will be afforded for the winners to opt out of this publicity and promotion.
- By entering the Fund each Entrant VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT COMPENSATION GIVES Converge and HWU PERMISSION to take and use their photographs and any film footage of their, including voice recordings, to be used by Converge and HWU in any reasonable manner it sees fit for the promotion of the Fund without further prior notice. Use shall include use by

Converge, HWU, sponsors of the Fund, funders of the Fund and any other party that Converge decides in its sole discretion without further prior notice. An opportunity will be afforded for the winners to opt out of this publicity and promotion.

- By entering the Fund each Entrant VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT COMPENSATION GIVES Converge and HWU PERMISSION for the non-confidential summary provided in the application form, to be used by HWU in any reasonable manner it sees fit for the promotion of the Fund without further prior notice. Use shall include use by Converge, HWU, sponsors of the Fund, funders of the Fund and any other party that Converge or HWU decides in its sole discretion without further prior notice. An opportunity will be afforded for the winners to opt out of the publicity and promotion.
- Save for the provisions above, Converge may collect and process the following data about the Entrants: name, e-mail address, address, telephone/mobile number, relationship to the College, demographic data, photograph. PERSONAL DATA will be collected and processed for the purpose of the Fund. Personal data will not be sent to third parties different from the judging panels for the purpose of reaching a decision. Personal data will be processed and kept in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) and HWU's Data Protection Policy. HWU's Data Protection Policy can be accessed at <http://www.hw.ac.uk/about/policies/data-protection.htm> and may be updated from time to time to reflect the current legislation in force at any given time, in particular to reflect the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679).
- The Entrant acknowledges that HWU is a public authority under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and has statutory obligations for disclosure of certain information if requested. The HWU Freedom of Information Policy can be accessed at <http://www.hw.ac.uk/about/policies/foi.htm>.
- All Entrants agree not to disclose any CONFIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL SENSITIVE INFORMATION obtained/disclosed to them throughout the duration of the Fund to any third party who is not subject to these same terms and conditions.
- Information included in the applications, other than the non-confidential summary, will be kept confidential by HWU and Converge. It will not be used for purposes other than the Fund, without the prior written approval of the Entrant. Only a limited number of persons involved in the organisation of the Fund, including the judging panel, will have access to such information, strictly on a need-to-know basis.

- Converge or HWU reserves the right to amend, alter or cancel the Fund without prior notice. Converge and HWU shall NOT be liable to any prospective Entrant nor to any participant of the Fund for any costs, expenses, loss and/or direct, indirect or consequential damages incurred or arising out of the amendment, alteration or deletion of the Fund or its terms.
- Converge reserves the right to amend or alter these Terms & Conditions.
- The fund is supported by the Scottish Government; Converge reserves the right to disclose any information relating to the fund, to the Scottish Government who shall be bound by confidentiality requirements.
- Converge reserves the right to disqualify any Entrant if they reasonably believe that the Entrant has breached any of these terms and conditions or the Converge Code of Conduct.
- By submitting the application, the Entrant ACKNOWLEDGES that they have read the present Terms & Conditions and WARRANTS that all the information submitted in their application is true and accurate.
- The Entrant shall procure that in entering the Fund they will comply with all applicable laws, regulations and statutes relating to anti-bribery including but not limited to the Bribery Act 2010.
- This Fund and the terms and conditions are governed by Scots Law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Scottish courts.