

Business to Academic Engagement – A view from Interface



Howell Davies
12th January 2023

The Interface service – How it works



Businesses come to Interface directly, or through referrals from business support organisations throughout Scotland, looking to create and develop their ideas.



The Interface Team work to understand their goals and objectives; searching through all of Scotland's higher education, research institutions and colleges to find the right partner to address their needs.



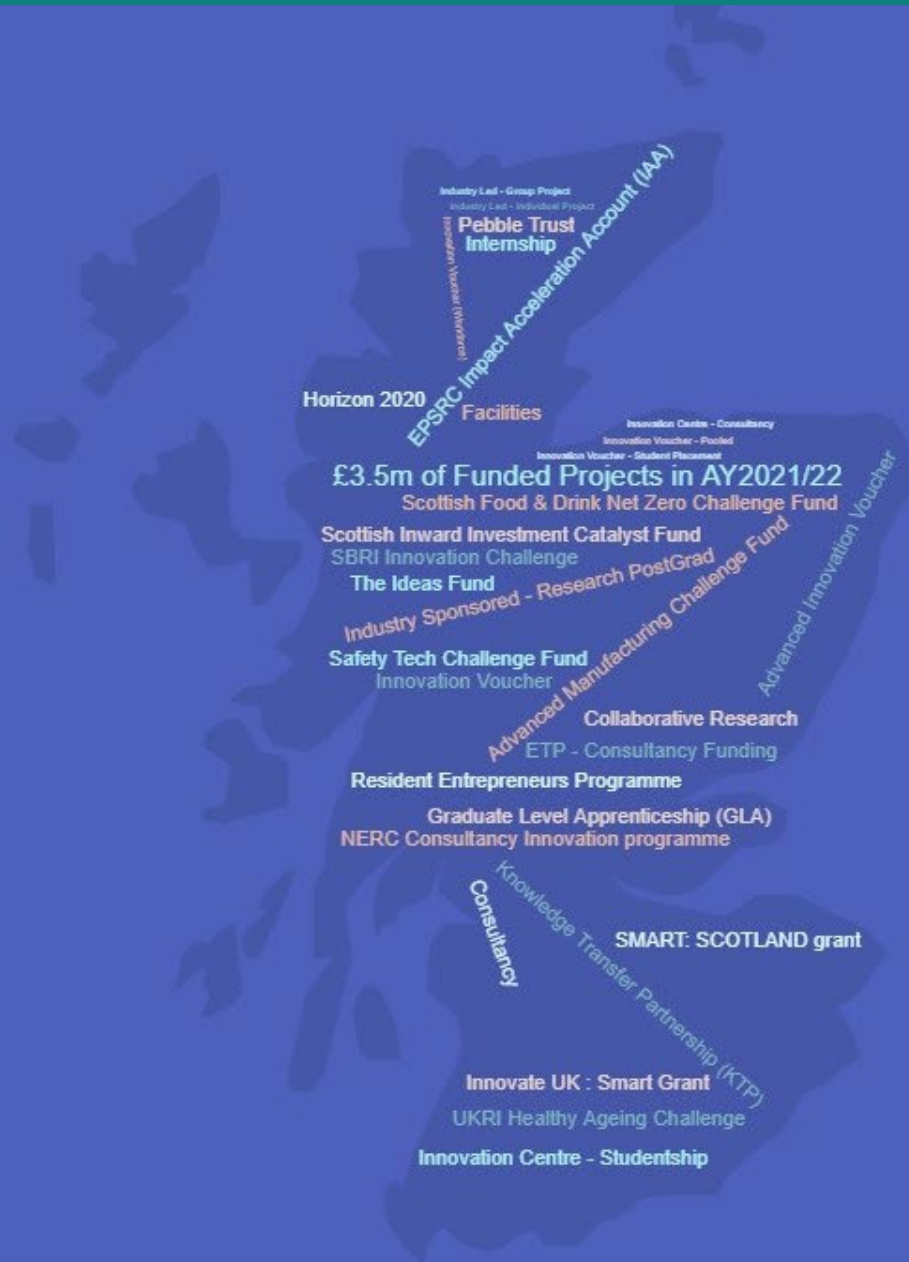
Once a match has been made Interface remain on hand to provide continuous support until a project is agreed.

The types of projects available for business



- **Research & technology capabilities**
- **Access to equipment & facilities**
- **Training, support & development**
- **Strategy, marketing & planning support**
- **Specialist expertise**
- **Contract research**
- **Consultancy**
- **Industrial placements**

Project Funding – More than just Innovaiton Vouchers



Funding Opportunities Through Interface

**STANDARD
INNOVATION
VOUCHERS**



**STUDENT PLACEMENT
INNOVATION
VOUCHERS**



**ADVANCED
INNOVATION
VOUCHERS**



**THE SCOTTISH
INWARD INVESTMENT
CATALYST FUND**



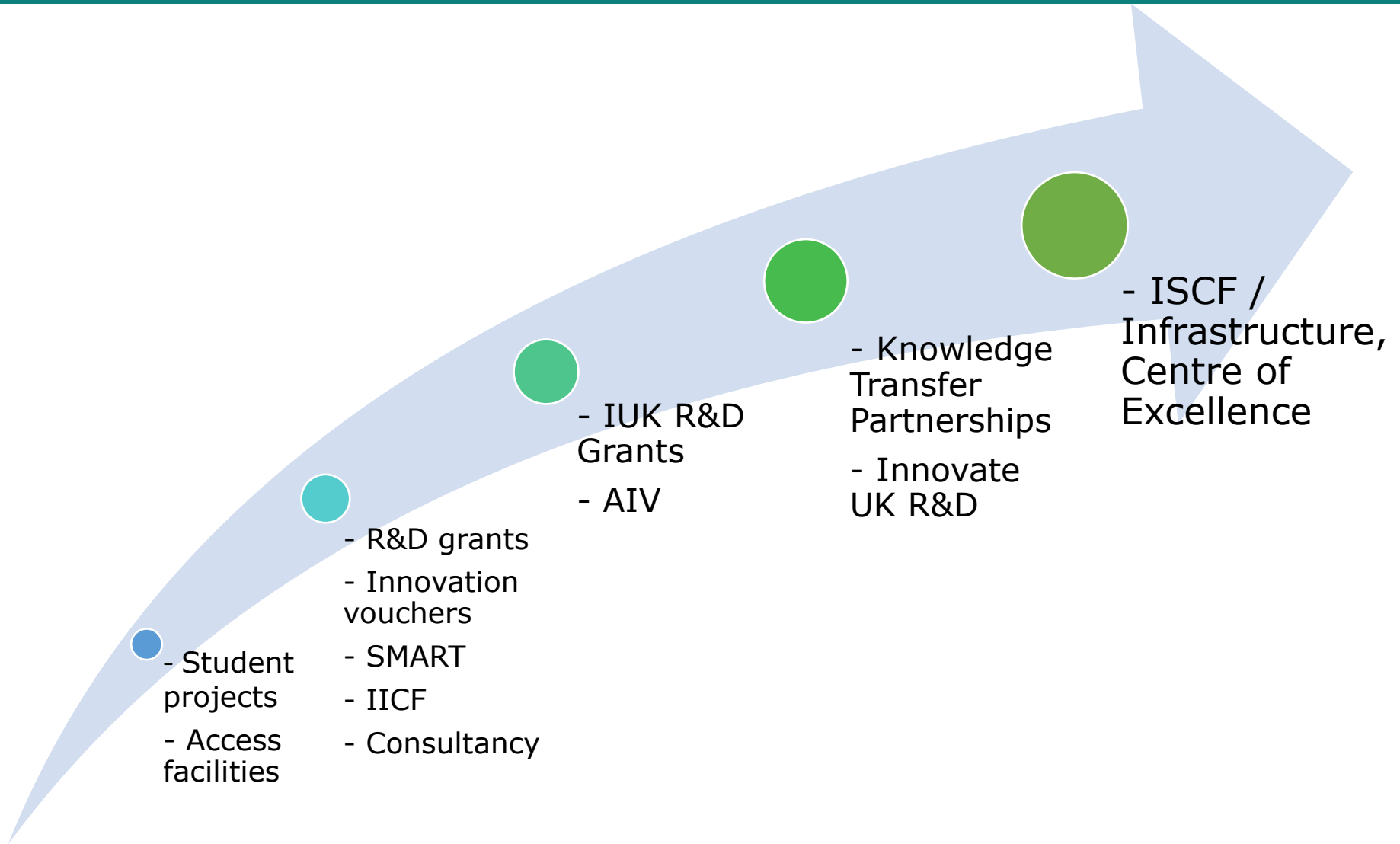
 **Interface** The knowledge connection for business **SCOTLAND
FOOD & DRINK**

**The Net Zero
Food and Drink
Challenge Fund**

Apply for funding awards of
between £5,000 and £10,000



Engagement Ladder



Hints and Tips




Home > Funding and grants > Innovation funding

Starting a business? | Business grants | Accessing finance and attracting investment | European funding | Innovation funding



Funding for innovation

Looking for funding to develop innovative practices or create new products, services or technologies? Our innovation funding database pulls together innovation funding opportunities from across the UK and worldwide. And if you're thinking of applying for innovation funding, we can offer support to help you get there.

Reset Filters



Text Search (finds exact matches only; not suitable for general search)



Show only Innovation/R&D Calls

☐ Yes

Show only Business Growth Calls

☐ Yes

Show only Low Carbon / Energy calls

☐ Yes

Call Name	Call Description	Funding Mechanism	Opens	Closes
Fast Start: Innovation	Innovate UK is offering small and micro businesses a share of up to £30 million in grants alongside tailored business support delivered by Innovate UK EDGE. You can apply for up to £50,000 for highly innovative ideas that have a clear route to commercialisation through business growth	(01) Grant	11/07/2022	26/07/2022
SBRI: MRV tools and techniques for land based greenhouse gas removal phase 1	Organisations can apply for a share of £375,000 over 2 phases, inclusive of VAT, to develop tools, technologies and techniques to assist and enable the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of land based greenhouse gas removal (GGR) methods.	(01) Grant	27/06/2022	07/09/2022
VocTech Seed grant fund 2022	This grant fund supports the development of new ideas that use digital tools and approaches to transform how people gain skills for work.	(01) Grant	15/06/2022	13/07/2022
Young Innovators Awards 2022/23	Young people can apply for an award to make their business idea a reality. The Award includes a £5,000 grant, tailored business support and a living allowance.	(01) Grant	13/06/2022	27/07/2022
Industrial Hydrogen	The IHA is an innovation funding programme to support the	(01) Grant	28/04/2022	07/07/2022



Investment Solver has developed a digital platform called Inbest that aims to democratise the access to wealth management.

- The company approached Interface with the concept around developing a platform that would help users learn and understand their finances, empowering them to make better financial decisions.
- Interface matched them with Edinburgh Napier University who supported them in applying for a Royal Society of Edinburgh fellowship, hosted by the University.
- Interface then connected Investment Solver to The University of Edinburgh Business School to help them develop a sound and innovative marketing strategy.
- They were subsequently awarded funding from The Data Lab to part fund an industrial doctorate to analyse banking data and user data and preferences.

“It was great to see how this collaboration developed from student project to a research collaboration with the benefit of seeing how our research directly impacts the company, helping them to develop and enhance their offering.” Dr Raffaella Calabrese, The University of Edinburgh

What does good KE look like for an SME?



Crover Ltd has developed the world's first robotic device The CROVER that can monitor the condition of grains, such as wheat and barley, that are stored in sheds and silos for long periods of time.

- This break-through technology is revolutionizing the agri-food sector helping identify early onset of spoilage from infestation by insects and moulds, thus reducing food waste, improving grain management, and saving money.
- Interface has connected Crover Ltd to a wide range of Scottish academic partners to support their business growth, various projects include:
 - Quantifying monetary benefit through risk reduction for users' insurance premiums
 - Enhancing product design through investigating; cable suspension design, water-proofing design, design of a remote charging station and investigating manufacturing improvements of the CROVER.
 - Enhancing product capabilities through improved accuracy of device location and detection
- Since inception in 2019, Crover Ltd has grown from 2 employees to over 20 employees, has raised significant investment and secured over £600K in innovation prizes and funding.

"As a small start-up with little resource, working with Interface was like having my own R&D team, they regularly sent on funding opportunities, opportunities to undertake further engagement with universities, sought connections into other commercial applications for our tech and overall widened our networks both academically and commercially." Lorenzo Conti, Co-founder, Crover Ltd

Contact Us

w: interface-online.org.uk

t: 07979 871404

e: Howell@interface-online.org.uk

or

info@interface-online.org.uk



@InterfaceOnline



InterfaceOnlineUK



**Interface - The knowledge
connection for business**

