

# FROM HARD SLOG TO TOP DOG.

Enterprise Ireland's **Graduate Competitive Start Fund** can turn your business ambition into an international success. **It can:**

- Develop your business
- Provide business development support
- Provide funding up to €50,000

The call for applications is for those active in the Manufacturing & Internationally Traded Services sectors including the following subsectors:

- Cloud Computing
- Enterprise Software
- Internet
- Lifesciences
- Games
- Food
- Apps
- Cleantech
- Mobile
- Industrial Products
- SaaS



# HOW THE GRADUATE COMPETITIVE START FUND CAN SUPPORT YOUR START-UP BUSINESS

The fund enables companies to reach key commercial and technical milestones, for example:

- Evaluate overseas market opportunities and reach firm conclusions regarding the viability of the proposed business.
- Build a prototype.
- Secure a reference site.
- Develop a market entry plan for exploiting international opportunities.
- Secure partnership deal or strategic alliance.
- Identify suitable channels to international markets.
- Secure third party investment e.g. business angel, Venture Capital.

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

**The Graduate Competitive Start Fund is open to:**

- Existing or potential clients of Enterprise Ireland's High Potential Start-Up Department.
- Be a graduate within the last 3 years (from date of application) of a third level qualification with NFQ Level 8 accreditation or higher.
- Individuals who, prior to Enterprise Ireland's investment, will register a company which will be active in these sectors.
- Individuals who, prior to Enterprise Ireland's investment, will have a headquarters registered and be based in Ireland. All intellectual property and assets must reside in the Irish entity.

**In addition applicants must:**

- Be a manufacturing or an internationally traded services business.
- Not have received equity funding of more than €100K prior to the competition closing date i.e. Ordinary shares, Convertible Preference Shares, Convertible Loan Notes and Directors Loans. Sweat equity does not apply.
- Be pre-trading or recently commenced trading, i.e. does not have annual revenues in excess of €60k in the current financial year to date or in any previous financial year.
- Be less than five years old from date of registration.
- Be capable of creating 10 jobs in Ireland and realising sales of €1m within 3 years of starting up or, where a company is required to have FDA or CE approval, within three years of approval to sell.
- Not be involved in activities that fall within gambling or "gaming" as defined in the Gaming & Lotteries Act 1956.

## FUNDING & DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

**Applications are considered on a competitive basis.**

The maximum support available is €50,000 for a 10% ordinary equity stake in the start-up company.

Successful applicants will be appointed a mentor who will work with the company for up to 10 sessions and be awarded a place on SPRINT, a specifically designed 6 month development programme for start up companies.

## HOW TO APPLY

**Applications must be made via the Enterprise Ireland Online Application System.** If you are a first-time applicant you will be required to register on the Enterprise Ireland Online Application System.

The application process involves a written online application including a video pitch.

## START THE JOURNEY FROM CAMPUS TO CEO WITH THE GRADUATE COMPETITIVE START FUND

**To find out more about:**

- Eligibility criteria
- How to apply
- Evaluation process

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