NOCN Group Foundation FAQs

Question	Answer
When do I need to apply by?	By 15th December 2026, 23.59pm.
How do I apply?	Please log into: https://nocn.grantplatform.com/
Will you be running another grant programme?	We hope to run another innovation funding round in the following academic year at a similar time, but will be informed by the success/learnings from this round.
Who will be deciding on what grants to accept?	The Foundation Committee is made up of some of our Trustees and Charitable members. Full details can be found on the Foundation microsite.
Are centre fees included as going towards the minimum £2,000 purchase eligibility requirement?	No, centre fees are not included toward the £2,000 minimum purchase requirement for grant eligibility. The £2,000 threshold is based on active spend on NOCN products or services that directly support skills delivery, not routine or administrative fees. This ensures that grants go to centres that are actively investing in learning, assessment, or training activity.
Are there any particular ideas/solutions that NOCN would specifically like to see or are likely to support via funding?	We are open to all ideas that tackle one or more of our three themes. We don't want to be prescriptive as it is about your ideas. We are particularly interested in proposals that are targeted at assisting economically disadvantaged groups under these three themes We are generally looking for practical, actionable solutions rather than purely theoretical ideas - things that can make a real difference in skills development and employment opportunities. This could be scaling-up innovative approaches that you have already found impactful or trialing new innovative approaches.

Would other organisations, for example learners 16-24+ SEN not NEET be acceptable	At this stage, we would be looking at proposals that meet the three themes. Although, we are open to considering proposals that are pre-NEET, in terms of reducing likelihood of becoming NEET.
Why is this dependant on spend and not simply open to all NOCN customers who have the best ideas?	The grant is linked to a minimum £1,000 purchase requirement over the last 12 months up to the end of November because the Foundation needs to ensure that the funding is supporting active centres who are already engaged with NOCN products/services. This approach: • Helps us manage potential demand given the volume of our customers. • Helps make the grant programme financially sustainable. • Encourages centres to continue using NOCN services while also innovating with additional support.
Is the target audience for green skills retraining those who are already in employment, or could it be the unemployed too?	It certainly could be the unemployed, and that would be something we'd encourage.
Are we able to apply with multiple project proposals?	We'd look for just one application per centre.
Is there a requirement to provide a budget for expenditure as part of the project proposal? Is there guidance on eligible and ineligible costs?	Within the application form there's a simple form to note your costs, which provides guidance for what to include in each section. More details about eligible and ineligible costs can be found in the presentation slides from the webinar.
Can two different centres (not from the same college) apply for funding to support different aspects of a joint project?	Collaborations are welcome but the contracting organisation must be an NOCN Group customer.
Are we able to claim audit fees please? Also you noted we cannot claim staffing costs, however are these business as usual staffing costs or can we claim additional resource costs allocated solely for the project delivery?	Audit fees can be included in the cost, within reason. Please note them separately in the application. If there are non-business as usual staffing costs that wouldn't have already existed without your project, then we will support with funding those.