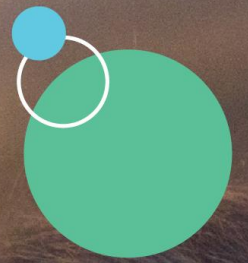


**All About Business**  
Entrepreneurs Fund



**Stop dreaming.  
Start building.  
Get a £20,000  
boost for your  
startup.**

**Reed**  
...

# All about business: Entrepreneurs Fund

## Commitment

We have launched the Entrepreneurs Fund to help young people aged 18-26 to build their own businesses.

Our founder, Sir Alec Reed, started the Reed business at 26 in 1960 with just £75. Six decades later, Reed is the biggest family-run recruitment company in the UK. And Reed is not alone. We're constantly inspired by the stories of determination, innovation and entrepreneurialism shared each week on our CEO & Chairman, James Reed's podcast, All About Business. The UK is alive and kicking when it comes to starting and scaling new companies.

That's why we want to give back and support other young entrepreneurs. Inspired by our group purpose, *improving lives through work*, our new All About Business Entrepreneurs Fund will award £20,000 to 66 young people, providing expert mentorship and a national platform to expand their business.

## Eligibility

In order to apply for the grant, applicants must fulfil the below criteria:

- Be aged 18-26 at the point of submitting the application
- Be a UK resident and have the right to work
- Have an existing business which has been trading for less than three years with at least one paying customer, at the point of submitting the application
- Have a UK business bank account
- The type of business and expenditure must be eligible for a grant under the terms of the scheme below

## Providing proof

Upon a successful grant offer, you will be asked to provide some documents relevant to your applications. Some examples are outlined below.

- **Proof of Identity:** Passport or driving licence
- **Proof of Address:** Utility bills dated within the last 3 months
- **Proof of Bank Account:** Bank statement showing your address and account details

## Business Type Eligibility

- Limited Company
- Business Partnership
- Community Interest Company

We are unable to offer grant funding to Charities.

## Expenditure Eligibility

The Fund is intended to finance the initial costs of scaling a small business. The grant can be used for capital expenditure, tangible or fixed assets such as equipment or operational expenditure to aid the growth of the business, such as marketing campaigns or liability insurance.

The grant must be used in-line with this purpose to fund capital investment in tangible or fixed assets such as equipment or fixtures and fittings identified as necessary for the growth and development of the business, or to fund newly committed operational expenditure, such as, but not limited to, marketing campaigns or specific activity to either develop a new service or product, or promote and enhance an existing service or product.

As the grant should be used for a forward-looking purpose or activity, it must not be used to fund the day-to-day overheads for which the business already

has an obligation to meet. As such, the grant cannot be used to cover the costs of staff employed at the date of the grant's award or for property and related overheads where the obligation to pay was in place on or prior to the grant's award. The grant cannot be used for the repayment or servicing of any financing arrangement, such as lease obligations or bank loans.

## **Ineligible Businesses**

This grant cannot support certain types of businesses, these include (but are not limited to) the following.

- Illegal activities e.g Weapons/Firearms
- Drugs/Pharmaceuticals/Chemical manufacture
- Adult content/product/Pornography
- Franchises or Charities
- Property investment
- FCA regulated activities i.e. Lending/credit/gambling and betting services or debt recovery/crypto currency
- Video game streaming
- Agents for third parties, where a third party earns most of the revenue, or you would only be earning a commission i.e. Multi-Level Marketing /Door to door sales/ telemarketing

# Application Process

All applicants will follow the below steps to apply for a grant.

## How to apply

- Step 1 – Visit [reed.com/entrepreneurs](https://reed.com/entrepreneurs) and sign up with your full name and email address
- Step 2 – Complete the first stage application form, which you will receive via email
- Step 3 – If shortlisted, complete the second stage application form, including your business plan and financial forecast
- Step 4 – Pitch your business plan to a decision panel

## When to apply

The Fund will be open for applications on 7 May 2026 and will remain open until the 7 July 2026.

## Application Timeframes

- Once first stage applications have been received, shortlisted businesses will receive details for the second stage application. We estimate sending these by the end of July. Unsuccessful applications will not be contacted, and no feedback will be offered to unsuccessful applicants.
- If shortlisted from the second stage application, applicants will be invited to a pitch meeting in London. We estimate sending the invitations by mid-September. No feedback will be offered to unsuccessful applicants. You will receive news of the grant decision no later than 1 week after the panel.
- Grant decisions to receiving funds will be subject to successful completion of due diligent checks, which we will aim to complete within 4 weeks.

## **Assessing applications**

All applications will be reviewed by a panel who will be responsible for assessing the application, ensuring that it meets all the eligibility criteria and that the business is suitable to receive the grant.

The overall grant assessment will consider the strength and viability of the business, demonstrated through the application, business plan, financial forecast and pitch.

## **Due diligence / credit check**

As part of our due diligence, the Reed Group will conduct several checks on applicants and their businesses, where applicable. These checks will include activities to verify identity, risk screenings, and financial and personal background checks.

The specific checks carried out will depend on the type of business. For example, businesses working with vulnerable groups may be subject to a check from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

## **GDPR/Data use**

Data will be used for the purpose of assessing grant applications and data will be stored in accordance with the privacy notice.

# Post Grant Reporting and Evidence

## Monitoring report

Six months after receiving the grant, all grant beneficiaries will be sent a monitoring report to be completed, this will be a series of questions about the grant and the business.

## Impact reporting

One year post receiving the grant (and then annually), you will receive an Impact survey. This short survey is a way for us to keep in touch with all the businesses that we have been able to support.

## Adjustments

If you have any accessibility needs that we can support with in relation to the application process, please email [entrepreneurs.fund@reed.com](mailto:entrepreneurs.fund@reed.com).