

Applicant Information Document: BAIUF Application Questions

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This is an information-only document. This document has been provided so that applicants can see and review the application questions ahead of completing their formal submission. Formal applications must be submitted via the **Find a Grant Platform**.

Section 1 - Eligibility Statement

Applications can be submitted by all public sector, not for profit, or private sector organisations, but may not be submitted by individuals or local authorities. Eligible organisations can also submit an application as the Lead Organisation of a consortium.

Applicants must be based in the UK. This means the applicant must be registered in the UK and have their head office in the UK. All applicants must also have been registered for at least 1 year from the date that this Fund went live, and commit to ensuring that any funding awarded is used exclusively to implement the proposed project. Proposals cannot be for applicants to deliver skills provision to their own employees.

Proposals must take place in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough area. This means that the businesses, organisations or workforce groups that are being targeted by the applicant must be based in / registered / living in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough. Organisations that do not currently have an established presence in Barnsley are encouraged to apply in partnership with local organisations (such as business networks, education providers or delivery partners) to demonstrate strong local engagement and place-based impact.

All applicants can apply for grants of £100,000 to £350,000 and should make clear the amount of funding being requested and how it will be spent.

Applications from consortiums (groups of stakeholders) are welcome. However:

- A consortium must have a Lead Organisation to serve as the main contact point through which the grant can be awarded and managed.
- All participating organisations must be identified. This may include local stakeholders such as companies, voluntary and community groups, and social enterprises.
- All members of the consortium responsible for delivering the project will be subject to due diligence checks.
- The Lead Organisation will be responsible for conducting relevant due diligence checks and ensuring that any partners who receive funding only use it to support implementation of the funded project. DSIT may request evidence of due diligence performed by Lead Organisations on the consortia members.

Applicants working with subcontractors are responsible for ensuring that these partners can meet their obligations and must carry out appropriate due diligence checks. All subcontractors must be clearly identified in the application. DSIT may also conduct its own due diligence on

Lead Organisations and consortia members. Applicants must also provide a detailed breakdown of all associated costs in their application, as well as setting out clear delivery milestones.

All eligible proposals must explain how their proposed project would:

- Meet the needs of the Fund and contribute to at least one of its primary objectives.
- Represent value for money for the taxpayer.
- Demonstrate a novel or innovative approach.
- Reach relevant target groups and / or businesses in Barnsley.
- Contribute to robust data via comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).
- Be managed effectively.
- Result in long-lasting impacts beyond the funding period.

Applicants should ensure that they submit innovative proposals. To qualify as 'innovative', the proposal must meet the five criteria for Research and Development ('R&D') set out in Annex C of the Government's Consolidated Budget Guidance 2024-25. Examples of innovative proposals in this context include:

- A brand-new idea that has never been tried before.
- A project that has been implemented before but not in the same way i.e. novel and uncertain aspects.
- A project that has been implemented before but to collect new evidence.
- A project to gather new evidence to inform existing tools or framework.
- A project designed to test new upskilling methodologies and create new tools / frameworks.

R&D is described as "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge, and use of this stock of knowledge for discovering or developing new products, including improved versions or qualities of existing products, or discovering or developing new or more efficient processes of production". More information, including the criteria that needs to be met, can be found at Annex C of the Government's Consolidated Budgeting Guidance.

Funding cannot be awarded to support the following activities:

- Any project that is ongoing or available to the public on the date that the grant recipient signs the grant funding agreement or MOU.
- To match fund a project which was already receiving government funding, whether in whole or in part.
- Staff costs unless required to deliver the proposed project.
- Installation of physical digital infrastructure projects e.g. broadband infrastructure, telecommunications, data centres. This does not include devices such as laptops and computers.

Applicants will be asked to check a box to say that they have read the above Eligibility Statement before they are allowed to continue with the rest of the application.

Section 2 - Due Diligence Checks

All applicants are asked for certain information. This information will allow you to carry out compliance and due-diligence checks, and prevent fraud. These are the questions required to complete due diligence checks and cannot be edited or removed. The information asked for includes:

- Organisation legal name
- Organisation type (e.g. limited company)
- Registered address
- Charity Commission number (if applicable)
- Companies House number (if applicable)
- Amount of funding required
- Where the funding will be spent

Section 3 & 4 - Application & Assessment Questions

Question No.	Question Text	Description / Guidance	Details
Question 1	Please confirm the name of the lead organisation for this application.	Each organisation may submit one application as a lead applicant. That application may include multiple related projects or activities where these form a coherent programme linking to the outlined objectives.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 50 words
Question 2	What type of organisation is the lead applicant?	The lead applicant must be a public sector, non for profit or private sector organisation. Applications may not be submitted by individuals or local authorities.	Type: Multiple Choice Options: Public Sector, Not for profit, Private Sector
Question 3	Basis for designated type of organisation.	Please describe the basis upon which you have classified your organisation in Question 2. This could reference your legal status, membership of regulatory body, ownership structure, governing documents and/or primary purpose.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 100 words
Question 4	Can you confirm your organisation has been registered and operating in your relevant sector for at least one year at the point of the scheme opening for applications (15th July).	To be eligible for this scheme, applicants must be registered and be operating in their relevant sectors for at least one year at the point of the scheme opening for applications (15th July).	Type: Multiple Choice Options: Yes/No
Question 5	Please specify if this application is being submitted by a single organisation or a consortium of partners.	N/A	Type: Multiple Choice Options: Single Organisation, Consortium
Question 6	If you are applying as the Lead Organisation for a Consortium Bid, please provide the following details of all the consortium partners: (1) Organisation legal names (2) Organisation types (e.g.	N/A	Type: Long Answer Limit: 300 words

Question No.	Question Text	Description / Guidance	Details
	limited company) (3) Registered addresses (4) Charity Commission numbers (if applicable) (5) Companies House number (if applicable) (6) Role of consortia member in relation to proposal delivery If you are not applying for a Consortium Bid, please answer with 'N/A'.		
Question 7	If applying as part of a consortium, please can you confirm the following: 1. As the lead organisation you have conducted due diligence on all partner organisations. 2. You have reviewed their financial soundness as part of the application process referring to the section above.	N/A	Type: Multiple Choice Options: I confirm, I do not confirm, N/A
Question 8	Please confirm the proposal will take place in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough area.	Proposals must take place in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough area. This means that the businesses, organisations or workforce groups that are being targeted by the applicant must be based in / registered / living in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough. Please refer to postcode schedule to confirm your eligibility.	Type: Multiple Choice Options: Yes/No
Question 9	When would you aim to start the project?	Please note all projects must start between 01/10/2026 and 01/01/2027.	Type: Date
Question 10	What is the expected project duration in months?	Please note all projects must start between 01/10/2026 and 01/01/2027. While projects may run for up to 12 months, all activity must conclude by 30/09/2027.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 25 words

Question No.	Question Text	Description / Guidance	Details
Question 11	How much will the proposal cost?	You must be applying for funding between £100,000.00 and £350,000. This amount should include the total estimated eligible project costs and any subcontractor costs and why they are critical to the project.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 25 words
Question 12	Confirm the application is a true and accurate reflection of your suitability.	Where there are grounds to suspect an applicant has used AI to submit a misleading or untruthful application - whether as an intentional act or through a failure to maintain human oversight of AI-generated content – applications will be deemed ineligible.	Type: Multiple Choice Options: Yes/No
Question 13	Project title	Please provide the name of the planned project.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 25 words
Question 14	Which objective(s) are you planning to achieve?	AI Upskilling Barnsley has two objectives: - Sector-focused AI workforce capability and adoption - Reaching and enabling underserved workforce groups	Type: Multiple Choice Options: Sector-focused, Underserved groups, Both
Question 15	Which priority sector are you targeting? Where you are not targeting sector focused AI workforce capability and adoption (Objective 1) please select NA.	Applicants seeking to achieve sector focused AI workforce capability and adoption should deliver targeted, high-quality AI training in sectors within Barnsley where there is strong potential for AI-driven growth, but where cost, limited workforce capability, or lack of tailored provision currently limits uptake. Priority sectors include: Manufacturing; Logistics; Health; Professional business services.	Type: Multiple Choice Options: Manufacturing, Logistics, Health, Professional business services, Other, NA Limit: 25 words

Question No.	Question Text	Description / Guidance	Details
Question 16	Where you have selected 'Other', please describe your target sector, and the basis for targeting them?	Applicants seeking to achieve sector focused AI workforce capability and adoption should deliver targeted, high-quality AI training in sectors within Barnsley where there is strong potential for AI-driven growth, but where cost, limited workforce capability, or lack of tailored provision currently limits uptake.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 100 words
Question 17	Which priority cohort(s) are you targeting? Where you are not targeting workforce group(s) (Objective 2) please select NA.	Proposals should test new approaches to engaging and upskilling priority cohorts who face barriers to accessing or benefitting from existing AI training offers, including where provision is too generic, inaccessible, or poorly targeted. Priority cohorts include: Younger / entry level workers; Older workers (40+); Women; Individuals without higher or further education qualifications; Other.	Type: Multiple Choice Options: Younger, Older (40+), Women, No higher ed, Other
Question 18	Where you have selected 'Other', please describe your priority cohort, and the basis for focusing on them?	Proposals should test new approaches to engaging and upskilling priority cohorts who face barriers to accessing or benefitting from existing AI training offers, including where provision is too generic, inaccessible, or poorly targeted.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 25 words (100 words text option)
Question 19	How will your approach meet the needs of the Fund, by responding to the challenges that DSIT has identified, and aligning to one or more of Barnsley's Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy missions?	You should refer to the objectives and challenges laid out in the Fund advert to answer this question. This includes information as to how the project will generate relevant evidence to either of the two challenges put forward by DSIT, explain which sectors and / or priority cohorts it will seek to engage, and	Type: Long Answer Limit: 500 words

Question No.	Question Text	Description / Guidance	Details
		demonstrate how the methodologies you are planning to use could potentially be scalable. Please also include both output and outcome KPIs.	
Question 20	How is your proposal innovative, and what new knowledge or learning will it generate?	Use the question to demonstrate how your proposal meets the five criteria of R&D funding. Please also tell us how you will improve on any similar innovations you have identified, and whether your innovation will focus on applying existing AI upskilling methodologies in new areas, developing new methodologies for existing areas, or a totally disruptive approach. - Novel: Aimed at new findings. - Creative: Based on new concepts or ideas to improve existing knowledge. - Uncertain: Uncertain final outcome. - Systematic: Conducted in a planned and documented way. - Transferable: Potential to be reproduced.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 500 words
Question 21	How will you reach relevant businesses or cohorts in Barnsley?	Funded proposals should have a clear route to access businesses or individuals to take part in their project. This could include: An existing Barnsley base or track record of local delivery; A clear plan as to how you would establish a local presence; Collaboration with local partners; Integration with existing local programmes and pathways.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 500 words

Question No.	Question Text	Description / Guidance	Details
Question 22	How will this proposal be beneficial to the long-term future of Barnsley, and will there be any expected wider impacts?	Describe, and where possible, measure: Any expected economic, regional, or government priority impacts. Describe expected social impacts (e.g., quality of life, social inclusion, jobs, public empowerment, health and safety, diversity).	Type: Long Answer Limit: 500 words
Question 23	How will you monitor and evaluate your project, to contribute robust data to support the Fund's overarching evaluation?	Funded projects must provide robust data. Provide SMART KPIs (targets for applications, firm participation, learners enrolled/completed, characteristics). Describe how you will meet M&E data requirements using a DSIT question set (pre/post AI confidence, knowledge, usage, and application). Set out collection methods, frequency, and risk mitigation.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 500 words
Question 24	Please outline your high-level project management strategy and governance rationale here. Your detailed week-by-week timeline, critical path, and milestone tracking must be uploaded via the mandatory Delivery Plan Template at the end of this form.	Explain the main milestones, lead partner assigned, and cost. Outline your approach to project management, mechanisms, reporting lines, links/dependencies, main risks, and mitigations. Detailed tracking must be uploaded via the Template.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 500 words
Question 25	Please outline your relevant experience.	Please describe your organisation's recent experience (1-3 years) of working to deliver AI Upskilling. What outputs have you achieved? Why are you well-placed to deliver this project?	Type: Long Answer Limit: 500 words

Question No.	Question Text	Description / Guidance	Details
Question 26	Workforce: Please confirm workforce model.	Should include: (1) Team size/structure, (2) Roles, experience, and qualifications, (3) Management/support systems, (4) Adaptability, (5) External parties/sub-contractors, (6) Recruitment needs, (7) Consortium partner details if lead.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 500 words
Question 27	Costs Breakdown - Please provide a breakdown of the costs associated with this proposal using the budget template available within the Supporting Documents section of the grant advertisement.	Cover all pay, non-pay, and overhead costs transparently. Must correlate with delivery plan. Include partner breakdown if a consortium. Must use 'Budget Management Tool' template. Alternates are ineligible.	Type: Document Upload Limit: N/A
Question 28	How does your project represent value for money for you and the taxpayer?	Please explain how the benefits of your project outweigh its costs, how funding will be used efficiently, and how the project will deliver meaningful outcomes that represent good value for both your organisation and taxpayers.	Type: Long Answer Limit: 500 words
Question 29	Please confirm that any content generated or assisted by artificial intelligence (AI) has been reviewed, validated and approved by a human within the organisation, who accepts full responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided in this application.	Where AI is used in applications, content must be validated and owned by a 'human-in-the-loop'.	Type: Multiple Choice Options: Yes, No