




# Business Support Programmes

Below is an outline of the programmes and services that Business Support & Innovation offers to business.

Programme/Service	What is it?	What's it for?	Who's it for?
 <b>Innovation Voucher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•£5,000 to buy 62 hours of technical expertise from SRC to support innovation activity and bring new knowledge to help businesses innovate, develop and grow. Fully funded but VAT is payable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New or improved products, processes or services</li> <li>• Access to scientific research</li> <li>• Access to information &amp; expertise on new materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMEs</li> <li>• Social Enterprises</li> <li>• Third Sector organisations</li> <li>• All industries except transport &amp; agriculture</li> </ul>
 <b>Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)</b> <b>Knowledge Transfer Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company-college-graduate partnership improving business competitiveness and productivity through access to academic knowledge and expertise</li> <li>• A full-time employee for 1-3 yrs</li> <li>• Weekly assistance from an SRC staff member</li> <li>• Up to 60% costs covered; company must cover remaining 40% (£20k/year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New and existing products, services, systems</li> <li>• Improving logistics</li> <li>• Streamlining manufacturing processes</li> <li>• Business and marketing strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK-based SMEs</li> <li>• All industries</li> </ul>
 <b>Business Explorer - Explore</b> <b>Business Explorer - Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-border explore (5 days) and plan (18 days) partnerships with academic institution on Innovation projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New or improved product development</li> <li>• New or improved service development</li> <li>• New or improved business processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing or tradeable services company</li> <li>• 5-249 employees</li> <li>• 2 years trading history</li> <li>• Capacity for innovation</li> </ul>
 <b>Innovation BOOST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-border company-college-graduate partnership worth up to €67,900</li> <li>• Full-time graduate employee for 12-18 months</li> <li>• Weekly mentoring assistance from SRC academic</li> <li>• 50% graduate employment costs covered</li> <li>• 100% of other eligible costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New or improved product development</li> <li>• New or improved service development</li> <li>• New or improved business processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing or tradeable services company</li> <li>• 5-249 employees</li> <li>• 2 years trading history</li> <li>• Capacity for innovation</li> </ul>
 <b>InnovateUs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 60 hours of bespoke support for innovation and skills enhancement worth up to £6,000</li> <li>• Support provided is fully funded.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New or modified product, service or process development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small &amp; Micro businesses (£50 staff actively trading)</li> <li>• All industries</li> </ul>
 <b>Economy Geileagair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 30 hours funded by the Skills Fund aligning with Minister's Economic Vision of increasing productivity.</li> <li>• Support provided is fully funded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving productivity in the workplace for manufacturing &amp; non manufacturing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agri-Tech, Life &amp; Health Science, Adv Manufacturing, Fintech, Software, Screen Industries, Low Carbon, Hospitality, Health &amp; Social Care</li> </ul>
 <b>Skills Focus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accredited, non-regulatory training, levels 2 and above</li> <li>• 90% Funded by DfE and 10% Employer Contribution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry-specific training: Leadership and Management • BIM • Welding • Customer Service • Digital Marketing • Health and social care • Much more!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMEs &lt; 250 staff</li> <li>• Priority and emerging sectors</li> </ul>
<b>Upskilling for Business Bespoke Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accredited and non-accredited training</li> <li>• Delivered on-site or on campus</li> <li>• Tailored to client needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry-specific training</li> <li>• Leadership &amp; management</li> <li>• Customer service</li> <li>• Digital Skills</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>• Health &amp; Social Care</li> <li>• Plus many more.....</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRC partners, benefiting from reduced rates</li> <li>• Open to all organisations</li> </ul>
 <b>Assured Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-employment accredited training</li> <li>• Company and college work together to develop bespoke training academy</li> <li>• DfE covers 100% costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To fill vacancies in a company experiencing rapid growth</li> <li>• Welding</li> <li>• Data Analytics</li> <li>• Financial Contact Centre</li> <li>• Plus many more.....</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies of all sizes</li> <li>• All industries</li> </ul>
 <b>Apprenticeships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Job from Day one, working a minimum of 21hrs per week with an NI Based employer</li> <li>• Apprenticeships at Level 2 and Level 3</li> <li>• Duration 1- 4 years depending on starting level and sector</li> <li>• Opportunity to undertake Essential Skills within Literacy, Numeracy and ICT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assist businesses recruit new talent</li> <li>• To assist employers to upskill existing staff moving into a new job role</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI based employer, registered with HMRC</li> <li>• Apprenticeships available in a wide range of sectors as part of All Age Apprenticeships</li> </ul>
 <b>Higher Level Apprenticeships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employers care grow their own talent</li> <li>• Apprentices embedded within the business from day 1</li> <li>• Apprentices complete 1 day training with SRC per week</li> <li>• HLA Programmes range from a 2-3 year duration</li> <li>• Apprentice achieves Foundation Degree /Accountancy ATI Level 5 and Level 6 (Degree Level)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fill higher level skills gap</li> <li>• Attract higher calibre of staff</li> <li>• Increase productivity</li> <li>• Develop existing staff</li> <li>• Enable succession planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies of all sizes</li> <li>• All industries</li> </ul>
 <b>Connected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A network of universities and colleges in Northern Ireland set up to support businesses</li> <li>• Move along the innovation escalator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages links between academia and industry, particularly SMEs</li> <li>• Stimulates innovation to better Northern Ireland's economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership network of:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI universities - OU, QUB, UU</li> <li>• Colleges NI - SRC, SERC, NWRRC, NRC, Belfast Met, SWC</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <b>Skill Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of free accredited courses to help upskill and reskill individuals to meet the needs of the economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upskilling and reskilling individuals in a range of areas including Childcare, Computing, Engineering, Digital Marketing, Leadership &amp; Management, Green Technologies and many more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals must be 18 on or before the course start date</li> <li>• Eligible to work in NI and resident in the UK for at least 3 years or a person who has indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK</li> <li>• Candidates are only permitted to complete a maximum of 2 free courses at a time</li> </ul>