Activities should aim to have a positive Return on Investment, and should deliver against UoN/HEIF targets of:

- SME engagement.
- Potential to secure future income from Business Engagement (through, for example, Services Rendered, Consultancy, Contract/Collaborative Research).
- Technology development which can be evidenced by for example, application for further translational funding at the end of the programme.
- Case study material for REF or more immediate reputational benefit for UoN (press release).
- Engaging with the community for defined social/economic benefit.

If you are at all unsure whether your idea or activity is eligible, please contact David Southall (david.southall@nottingham.ac.uk, tel 0115 846 7246) direct.
Some examples of eligible activities that have been supported previously include:

(Individual awards will usually range between £5k and £25k, and in exceptional circumstances, up to £50k)

- **Secondments to industry or external stakeholder organisations** – buying out time - e.g. for up to one semester - to spend time working outside academia in order to develop or strengthen external relationships (up to £50k).

- **Enterprise fellowships** – buying out time to focus on developing a technology with training provided in relevant aspects of enterprise & innovation (up to £50k).

- **Strategic Initiative Development** – buying out academic time to focus on the development of specific initiatives which should result in the formation of new enterprises or research relationships with industry (up to £50k).

- **Proof of Concept studies** – early-stage IP-based projects (£10k-25k).

- **Commercial Accelerator Awards** – overcoming a specific technical or commercial milestone in the translation/development of a technology (£10k-25k).

- **Innovation Vouchers** – up to £5k per award available to industry to pay for 60% of consultancy fees when engaging with UoN. Additional support available for East Midlands-based SMEs

- **Germinator awards** - engagement of an external mentor to help signpost the way forward for a particular initiative, normally IP-based (£5-£10k).

- **External Engagement events** – up to £5k to support the hosting of events such as open days, sandpits, visiting lectures and the launching of specific initiatives, aimed predominately at industry (60%+ of audience for given event) or the external community (outreach).

- **Travel Bursary** – up to £3k for travel costs to support junior academics in their development of relationships with potential industrial collaborators.

- **CPD Programme Development** – buy out of academic/post-doctoral time to write/deliver modules
 Eligible costs

Funds of £500k per annum are available to support these fellowships and individual awards will range from £5k to £50k.

- As with all internal award programmes **FEC will not apply.**
- Awards must be defrayed (spent, and money left the University) – not simply allocated – in the year they are awarded.
- Equipment costs are normally **capped at 10%** of the funds requested.
- Only equipment, travel and consumables **essential** to the project will be funded. Academic conferences are not supported.

**Applications for Business Engagement Events, Business Innovation Vouchers and Germinator Awards are continuous submission.**

**Outputs:**

A final report is required delivered by 31 August (at latest) in the year in which the funding was received which focuses on how the funding has delivered against the proposed objectives.

**Assessment of proposals:**

Proposals will be assessed by two separate multi-disciplinary panels – Business Engagement and Outreach, and Innovation.
Judging criteria will include:

- Quality
- Impact against HEIF deliverables
- Value for money
- Timeliness
- Planned delivery
- Potential for development beyond the life of the project
- Benefit to applicant’s career development
- Benefit to associated research base

Application forms: There is a single Expression of Interest and Full Application Form covering all forms of fellowship.

- Applicants are required to fill out fields specific to their area of application.
- Applications will be ranked according to the criteria above.
- Applications for buy-out fellowships must include a CV and a letter of support from the Head of School.
- Applicants for industrial/external secondments must also provide a letter of support from the host.
- For innovation-based applications, you are strongly advised to contact the Technology Transfer Office in advance of submission of the Expression of Interest and before completing your application.