BOOST
Challenge
2023–24

4x £2000 grants available

think big

test your tech

develop your idea

make your proof of concept

submit MAR 08

Develop your idea at the Advanced Hackspace.

ADVANCED HACKSPACE

TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP ON US!

INSTITUTE OF
CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING

BOOST
Challenge
2023–24

For small teams or individuals wanting to develop their idea into a product.

The BOOST Challenge will fund 4x teams up to £2000 each.

At least one member of your team has to be part of the ICB CDT to be eligible. This is your chance to try out your idea at no cost to you; gain experience great for your CV and it might just catapult you into a startup journey!

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UKRI
**Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council**

**ADVANCED
HACKSPACE**

PROJECT BOOST GRANT
Participant Information

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REMIT OF PROJECT BOOST GRANTS

Boost grants of up to £2000 are available to up to 4 teams who have an idea for a piece of technology or a scientific discovery that they would like to develop. This technology should be novel and not linked to your PhD research.

The boost grants will fund consumable costs in the [Imperial College Advanced Hackspace](#) where successful applicants will have the opportunity to develop this new technology or scientific discovery.

The Booster grants should be treated as Proof of Concept funding to assist in the development of a prototype or to trial a new technology. This development could be:

- a new piece of science which follows the pursuit of blue skies science
- aimed at generating novel IP that could one day support a student led start-up and/or participation in student entrepreneurship competitions. This could help give candidates a competitive advantage by already validating their idea.

Each proposal will be scored out of 10, particularly focusing on whether the project is achievable, how novel the tech or idea is and the impact that its development may have.

Each team must have at least one ICB CDT student member (either directly funded or incorporated into the CDT) to be eligible to apply. To check eligibility please contact Emma Pallett e.pallett@imperial.ac.uk.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Institute of Chemical Biology EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training will be issuing grants of up to £2000 for the purpose of buying consumables and materials for awarded Boost project grants, which will be made using an Imperial College purchasing account code.

In order to qualify for the grant, applicants must:

> **1) BECOME A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE ADVANCED HACKSPACE IF AWARDED A BOOST GRANT.**

This means that any applicants are bound by the rules and regulations of Imperial College Advanced Hackspace. Any infringement of these rules will affect your eligibility for this grant (before or after being awarded it).

> **2) AGREE TO SPEND THE GRANT ON CONSUMABLES (E.G. RAW MATERIALS, ELECTRICAL OR MECHANICAL SUPPLIES, PARTS OR COMPONENTS, LAB CHEMICALS, RESIN ETC.) THAT ARE DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT.**

Any purchases that are not consumables or are under question but are required for your project must be queried with the CDT team before purchase. We may be able to allow purchases of this nature as long as:

- The Applicant can prove beyond sufficient doubt that the item is purchased for the sole purpose for use in the project
- The item purchased falls within reasonable usage requirements (i.e. not purchasing a high spec component when a cheaper, lower spec component will suffice)

As a term of the Boost grant award, we request that successful applicants write at least two blog posts for the ICB CDT and ICAH websites about the project or a particular process used in the workshops. Ideally these blog posts should reflect the team's progress through the months and reflect how the facilities and funding have helped the prototype development. Blog posts should:

- Be between 200 - 500 words
- Contain a synopsis of the project, including what you have learnt, new approaches and techniques tested, the biggest successes and challenges faced and what comes next for the project
- Detail what ICAH facilities you have used and what you have spent (or are planning to spend) the grant on
- Include a high definition photograph (this can be your project or your team or anything that helps convey the concept of your project)

The blog posts will be used not only to promote the ICB CDT and Advanced Hackspace and encourage others to apply for the Project Boost Grant Programme but will also generate external interests in the Boost projects. Writing a blog post of this nature is also excellent for refining Science Communication skills. The ICB CDT team are available to support teams with this, if required.

Photos should be of a reasonably high quality as these will be used on our website, newsletter and for Hackspace presentations

Successful applicants are also requested to attend bi-monthly review meetings with an assigned mentor and display their project at ICAH Demo days. The mentor will be able to provide advice towards the development of their technology.

The ICB EPSRC CDT and ICAH would like to reassure any applicants that the CDT and ICAH have no claim over the IP of your project.

Remember, the technology that is developed or the science that is pioneered should be independent from the research being undertaken by any team members' PhD.

HACKSPACE FELLOWS

The Hackspace Fellows all have different fields of expertise and are usually available to help you with your projects. If you need help with a subject, please approach the member of the team who has expertise in the topic or any of them if you are unsure who to approach.

Dr David Miller

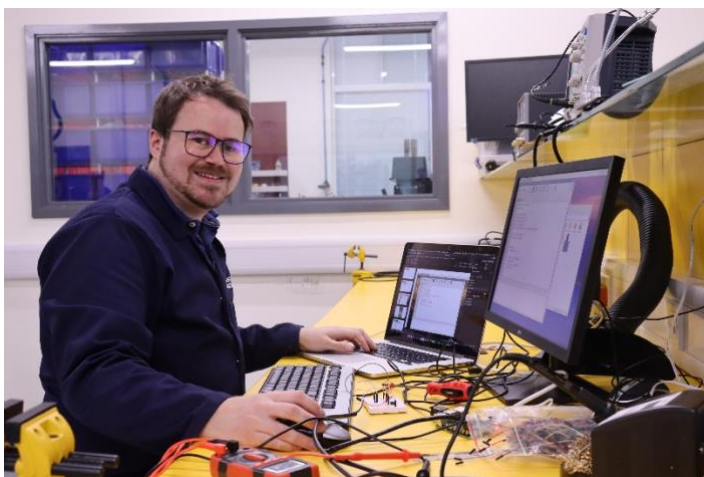Hackspace Fellow
Synthetic Biologist, Protein Engineering

Email: D.miller@imperial.ac.uk

Eifion Nightingale

Hackspace Fellow
Mechanical Engineer

Email: e.nightingale@imperial.ac.uk

Dr David Pitcher

Hackspace Fellow
Electronic Specialist, Electrophysiology

Email: d.pitcher@imperial.ac.uk

DEMO DAYS

Demo Days are great opportunities to showcase what teams have been able to achieve with their Boost grants. These Demo Days give the successful teams the opportunity to network and garner external interest from relevant partners, and also allow the Advanced Hackspace the chance to publicise projects that the Advanced Hackspace has been supporting.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE

Many of the Projects that receive funding from our Project Boost Grant go on to become start-ups and businesses. The Advanced Hackspace specialises in the prototype stages of actual builds.

Over the next year the ICB CDT will be running an exciting entrepreneurship competition during which ICB CDT students and their collaborators will have the opportunity to win seed funding to create a new start-up. Details about this competition, which builds upon the success of the CDT Den competition will be available in the near future.

This link provides a short introduction to a previous iteration of the CDT Den competition:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FU9y70dC6Ko

Novel IP generated during the Project Boost Grant scheme can also be used in competitions organised by bodies such as the Enterprise Lab which offers support when it comes to business plans, proposals, pitches and Intellectual property.

ENTERPRISE LAB

The Enterprise Lab is one of the departments with whom we work very closely. Any project that we help to develop at the Hackspace where the team are looking for further business support, we recommend a visit to the Enterprise Lab in South Kensington.

Their mission is to maximize the impact of Imperial's dynamic enterprising culture and to develop the contemporary knowledge, skills and experience to translate user ideas from science and technology into practice. They aim to bring staff and students from all disciplines together with a global community of alumni, friends, partners and business, to stimulate and support the development of the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

For more information on the Enterprise Lab or to see what support is available, please visit the enterprise [WEBSITE](#)