

Specialist Upskilling Fund Webinar FAQs

Question		Answer
1	Does the training / assessment itself need to deliver an NVQ outcome? Or can it be to prepare people for OSAT at a later date?	If the OSAT was completed during the funded period that would be fine, the fund is not there just to prepare someone, but to upskill someone.
2	The focus for evaluation seems to be on the number of NVQs that can be achieved, but many of these specialist sectors do not have a suitable NVQ. How does this get resolved?	We would look at what other alternatives are available in that specialist sector. We welcome your input into what would be appropriate for your specialist sector.
3	Can we apply for multiple sectors?	Yes, if you feel you can demonstrate the knowledge and network for multiple specialist sectors then there is nothing preventing you from applying multiple times.
4	Could the funding be used for admin time to facilitate?	Yes, we would like to see what you achieve during that admin time.
5	Are there any restrictions on these applications being part of wider funded programmes?	No, but you must be able to demonstrate how the work for this fund is in addition to the work already funded.
6	Does this fund only support achievement of NVQs?	We are looking for upskilling, particularly linked to competence.
7	Could you clarify if the employer is CITB registered and a £600 NVQ achievement payment would be applicable to the completion, can this be claimed?	Yes
8	When you stated apprenticeships would not be considered did that mean we could not use this to upskill apprentices who have completed their apprenticeship already	If an apprenticeship has been completed and they want to take part in further training in the specialist sector then we would consider this upskilling.

9	Project Delivery Costs - is this included in the £35,000? Or is this something funded from the SU Group	Yes, £35,000 is the maximum available for each specialist sector and would have to cover all delivery costs.
10	Will the fund be back dated to 1st April 2026	No, funding will commence on the 1 st of July 2026.
11	Would the funds support training to run alongside the NVQ?	The fund is not covering the training costs. It is about having conversations with employers to tackle the sector barriers and upskill individuals to plug any gaps.
12	Is the NVQ only for skilled occupations or does that include Supervisory and Management?	No, this is about competence in the skilled occupations, not general upskilling.
13	Our sector is floorcovering and a specialist trade, but CITB currently only provide grant and funding for apprenticeships and completed NVQs not any additional training outside of these. This is due to the current levy order and certain flooring types not being recognised as 'in scope'. Could we still access this fund?	We can only support areas that are in scope to CITB and we will consider any applications that focus on the areas that are in scope.
14	If you currently hold a level 2 in roofing could this fund be used to train in a specific are i.e. solar?	If it's within CITB scope, then yes.
15	You have stated 600 VQs - I take it this is for all 10 priority sectors - How do you anticipate the split for each sector?	Yes, the 600 is across all 10 specialist sectors. We don't expect an even split but would like the responses to indicate how many NVQs would be appropriate for your sector over the coming 12 months.
16	If successful, when would we receive the grant. 1st July?	This is not a grant, funding agreement and payments will be made on a quarterly basis, subject to satisfactory evidence. The first payment will be made in October 2026.

17	To clarify - all nations does this include Northern Ireland - NI was not mentioned in response.	No, Northern Ireland is not covered by this fund. However, all the specialist sectors are expected to cover England, Scotland and Wales, apart from the two Civils, Infrastructure and Highways sectors.
18	Construction Management and Site Supervision are construction-specific NVQs but would be classed as supervisory & management also. Would these be supported or only the level 2/3 skilled occupations?	These are not specific to a specialist sector and therefore we would not consider this upskilling. It may come up in TNA discussions but should not be the focus.
19	Are there more details around the roles the upskilling is required within each sector?	No, this is what we are looking for in the responses to this fund. The applicants should bring their specialist knowledge to drive the employers in the right direction to address any skills gaps within the sector.
20	To clarify - does this grant cover any of the costs towards the 600 NVQs.	No, this is not covered through this fund.
21	Sorry - still a little confused, the output / outcomes are competence and qualifications, but the training will NOT be funded, only the engagement with employers and demonstration that we have encouraged employers to undertake the training? So the funding doesn't pay for any training - just the administration of this?	Yes, that is correct. The fund does not fund training, the aim is to have conversations with employers to address issues within the specialist sector. The NVQ grant is still available for any completions through the normal routes.
22	Where will we submit our application? Which platform Delta etc.	All information can be found on our website, https://www.citb.co.uk/funding-support/funding/funded-projects and completed applications should be submitted by email to commissioning@citb.co.uk
23	Can you give examples of the type of evidence you would be looking for in relation to question 6 on the application?	We are looking for evidence of any upcoming projects within the sector that are driving additional resources being needed in the sector. We are not looking for just an opinion that your sector should be considered, but

		factual evidence that supports there being a need for additional support.
24	As this is about engagement to drive take up of NVQs, realistically that works where there is adequate provision already in place. Are there separate funds to remove potential barriers to uptake e.g. provision of assessors, capital outlay to create appropriate specialist training infrastructure?	There are no additional/separate funds to address these barriers. CITB can link you to the training provider network that are already looking at some of these barriers. This is also the type of information that we would want to understand through the quarterly progress reports so we can form a picture of all the issues faced by the specialist sectors.
25	Do TNA outcomes need to be shared with CITB? Final report etc?	We do not need to see all the TNA, but we may spot check some on a quarterly basis. The quarterly pack also asks for an overview of the outcome of TNAs.
26	Is the quarterly report in Excel?	There are two quarterly templates to be completed. The quarterly progress report is in word, and the quarterly report pack is in excel.
27	Can we access a recent list of providers in the CITB TPN in advance. Is this information readily available and accessible?	Yes, we are working on a way for this information to be shared effectively
28	If a barrier for employers was lack of literary skills or IT skills would the fund supporting running course to develop these skills?	No as this is not specific to a specialist sector, and we are not funding course delivery costs. This is something that could be included as a barrier in your quarterly report.
29	Does the booking for training go through ENs?	Some of it might, but not necessarily everything.
30	Can groups previously accessing training group grant apply here to allow continuation of their work?	Yes, if you feel you have the specialist knowledge to represent a specialist sector then you can apply for the fund, but you may need to adjust your work to meet the fund aims.
31	Would the employers/installers who eventually commit to completing an NVQ have to be CITB levy registered?	Yes, companies booking training need to be CITB registered.