

## **Enter the University of Central Lancashire's Dragons' Den competition to win £10K funding**

Do you have a commercial or business idea that you would like to turn into reality but don't have the resources to get it off the ground? Make your business dreams come true by pitching your idea to the University in our Dragons' Den competition and you could win funding of £2,000, £5,000 or the top prize of £10,000.

We know the University is a hive of ideas and future entrepreneurs, and this is an opportunity for colleagues and students to put your business ideas forward. It could be a product, a service or both and you can work on your own or as part of a team. Funding will be awarded as follows:

- First prize - £10,000
- Second prize - £5,000
- Third prize - £2,000

The funding awarded to the winners is intended to provide financial support to further develop your ideas into commercial applications (products or services), with potential to deliver a financial return to the inventor and the University. Funding could support:

- market assessments including understanding regulatory requirements,
- proof-of-concept (PoC) projects where there is a proposal to assess the potential commercial application of existing research outputs; or
- business case development where a spin-out opportunity is identified.

### **Application process**

To enter the competition, please download and **complete the application form** (attached) then submit the completed form via email to [InnovationTeam@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:InnovationTeam@uclan.ac.uk) by **Friday 28 February 2025**.\*

Each proposal will be considered against the competition's objectives and eligibility criteria. If the proposal is deemed to be fundable, applicants will be invited to present to a panel of judges.

Invited applicants will give a 5–10-minute presentation to the panel of judges who will ask questions. Total time per entry is 15 minutes. Successful applicants will be those awarded the greatest number of approvals from the panel judges and all successful applicants will be informed within 48 hours following the presentations.

### **Eligibility criteria**

To progress onto the presentation stage, the business opportunity must demonstrate any of the following:

- The ability to generate future commercialisation potential.
- Commercialisation follow-on funding/investment has been identified, and the project meets the application criteria.
- Where a project needs to partner with an external organisation, a statement as to why the partner organisation is not funding the activity.

**The assessment process**

- A common review process applies to all entries.
- Each application is reviewed by the judging panel.
- Each application is reviewed against the same set of assessment criteria.
- All other applicants will be informed if they have not been successful with their application.
- Applications made by any other means including on paper will not be accepted.
- Incomplete application documents will not be reviewed and therefore not considered.

**General rules**

- The University of Central Lancashire's Dragons' Den competition is run under a competitive process.
- The University does not have to accept any proposal it feels it is not fit for purpose.
- The University does not have to make any awards under this competition and reserves the right to hold further competitive calls in order to identify successful proposals.
- The judges' decision is final.
- It is expected that each proposal will generate an opportunity for intellectual property (IP) to be generated. Any and all information should be disclosed within the application.

\*The UK Partnerships Team have requested a short extension on this deadline for partner students, please get in touch asap if you are considering applying.



## RKE Institute Application Form UCLan Dragon's Den 2024-25

### 1. Application Details:

<b>Title of your Idea</b>	
<b>Institute</b>	
<b>Lead staff member</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>If you won an award what would it fund? 200 words max</b>	
<b>Estimated amount of funding</b>	<b>£</b>

**2. Summary:**

<b>(a) Provide a detailed summary of the idea and its development to date. 200 words max</b>		
<b>(b) State the Intellectual Property rights position in relation to the idea, if known. 200 words max</b>		
<b>(c) What other funding sources, if any have been used to develop the idea to its current stage of development?</b>		
<b>Awarding body</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>	<b>Duration (Start/End Dates)</b>
<b>(d) Provide details of the team, if any, that will be undertaking the work, highlighting the skills and experience that make them well placed to deliver the proposed idea. 200 words max</b>		
<b>(e) What does the competitive landscape look like? 200 words max</b>		
<b>(f) Upon completion of the work, what will the <a href="#">technical readiness level</a> be?</b>		

**3. Outputs/Outcomes/Impact check list:**

Please highlight (with an x) which of the following are likely.

<b><u>Outputs</u></b>	
IP rights registered	
Proof-of-concept (PoC)	
Market assessments	
Prototypes	
CPD programmes developed	
Licensing agreements	
<b><u>Outcomes</u></b>	
PoC projects funded by others	
Licenses completed	
Income generated	
Spin-out established	
Investment from companies or venture capital	
<b><u>Impact</u></b>	
Policy changes	
Increased turnover, profits and exports	
Cost-savings in companies	

Confidential

New products and processes	
Jobs created or safeguarded	

**4, Declaration**

I declare that the information which I have provided in this form is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct and complete and that the contributors named are all the original creators of this disclosure.

**5. Lead staff member's signature:**

	Signature	Name	Date
Lead staff member			dd/mm/yyyy

## **Dragon's Den 2024-25** **Guidance for School, RKE Institute and University level** **Competitions**

This competition provides prize funds to facilitate the translation of ideas into commercial opportunities which could be a product, a service or both!

As a competition, we are looking to fund the best of what UCLan has to offer and we will award successful entries (for staff and for students) as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize £10k
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £5k
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £2k

These awards can be made to individuals or a team.

Funding is intended to provide financial support to further translate ideas into commercial applications (products or services), with potential to deliver a financial return to the University and inventor. Funding could support:

- market assessments including understanding regulatory requirements;
- proof-of-concept (PoC) projects where there is a proposal to assess the potential commercial application of existing research outputs; or
- business case development where a spin-out opportunity is identified.

### Eligibility Criteria

To access funds, the opportunity must demonstrate any of the following:

- The ability to generate future commercialisation potential.
- Commercialisation follow-on funding/investment has been identified and the project meets the application criteria.
- Where a project needs to partner with an external organisation, a statement as to why they are not funding the activity.

### Application Process

The competition has 2 stages.

Stage 1:

- A. School level for UG and PGT students
- B. RKE Institutes level for staff and PGRs

The top entry from each of the 10 Schools and the 13 RKE Institutes will go forward to the University competition.

Stage 2:

University competition

The top 3 student and top 3 staff entries will be awarded.

### **Stage 1 Application – School/RKE Institute**

Download an application form from the [IP&C intranet page](#). Submit your completed application to [InnovationTeam@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:InnovationTeam@uclan.ac.uk) by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. The IP&C team will **forward entries to the School or RKE Institute**.

### **Stage 1 Assessment – School/RKE Institute competition – by 21<sup>st</sup> March**

Each proposal will be considered against compliance to the competition's objectives and eligibility criteria. If the proposal is deemed to be fundable, the applicants will be invited to present to a panel of judges. Note that, where there are three or less applications per School or RKE Institute a combined panel will be set up to determine which goes through for each School or RKE Institute.

Invited applicants will give a 5-10 min presentation to the panel of judges who will ask questions. Total time per entry is 15 mins. Successful applicants will be those awarded the greatest number of approvals from panel judges.

Successful applicants will be informed within 48 hours following the presentations.

### **Stage 2 Assessment – University competition – provisionally 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March**

The top entry from each School and the top entry from each RKE Institute will compete in the university competition.

Applicants will give a 5-10 min presentation to a panel of judges and who will ask questions and indicate whether they will be happy to fund the idea. A total time per entry will be 15 mins.

The top three ideas from UGs and PGTs and the top three ideas from staff and PGRs will be decided. Prizes will be awarded according to decisions by the panel judges. Successful applicants will be announced within 48 hours of the competition event.

### The Assessment Process

- A common review process applies to all entries.
- Each application is reviewed by the judging panel.
- Each application is reviewed against the same set of assessment criteria.
- All other applicants will be informed if they have not been successful with their application.
- Applications made by any other means including on paper will not be accepted.
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- The judges' decision is final.
- It is expected that each proposal will generate an opportunity for intellectual property (IP) to be generated. Any and all information should be disclosed within the application.