

Test and Learn Project Year 3 (2025-26) Question and Answer Summary

Question	Answer
What is the Test and Learn Project?	The Test and Learn Project is a small-scale project aiming to support Scottish institutions and Community Learning and Development (CLD) providers to develop stronger international partnerships. The learning from the Test and Learn Project will help develop the exchange programme moving forward.
Who can apply for the grants?	Applications can only be submitted by Scottish colleges and universities.
What is the funding criteria?	<p>The Test and Learn Project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage international partnerships and alliances which support the key actions in Scotland's International Education Strategy and CLD priorities ➤ Provide grants for university, college and CLD led applications. ➤ The project scope includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ outward learner mobility for projects of no more than two weeks – who are exempt from UKGOV Turing Scheme funding. ○ match funded inward learner mobility – subject to supporting evidence ○ outward staff mobility ○ match funded inward staff mobility – subject to supporting evidence ○ mobility within higher education, further education, vocational education and training, schools, CLD, and sports education and training. <p>The Test and Learn Project will not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ provide funding for any project which is eligible for UKGOV Turing Scheme funding. ➤ fund any inward mobility where the applicant is unable to provide evidence of match funding from the international partner(s). ➤ duplicate funding given (even partially) to applicants from the UKGOV Turing Scheme, Wales' Taith Programme, Erasmus+ funding any or other Scottish Government funding sources. ➤ Provide funding for any shortfall in other funding applications. For example, where a Turing application was allocated 50% of requested funding, the Test and Learn project cannot be used to 'top up' shortfall.
What types of projects will the Test and Learn Project fund?	All projects must map to at least one of the ten actions in Scotland's International Education Strategy (IES) or CLD priorities.
How much money can I apply for?	Scottish colleges, universities and CLD providers are invited to bid for short term grants for a minimum of £1,000 and maximum of £25,000 to undertake international projects within the 2025/2026 financial year. Applicants can apply for an additional £10,000 for projects which include partnerships covering multiple strands of Scotland's education system. For example, partnerships which include Scottish schools, and sports organisations.

<p>How many applications can I submit?</p>	<p>There is no limit on the number of applications each institution or CLD provider can submit. However, the combined total must not exceed £25,000 (£35,000 for cross sector applications) for each applicant.</p>
<p>When can I apply?</p>	<p>The key dates are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application process opens May 2025 • The closing date for applications is 31 July 2025 • Grant offer letters will be issued to successful applicants in September 2025 • Project start dates are flexible, but as set out in the grant application, projects must be completed by 31 March 2026 • The date for submitting end of project report will be set out in the grant award letter
<p>How are applications scored?</p>	<p>Applications will be assessed using a competitive scoring process mapping to the IES, wider Scottish Government international ambitions and CLD priorities.</p>
<p>How can others benefit from the grants?</p>	<p>Opportunities for college and university led collaborative grants are open to Scottish recognised learning organisations from across the education and training sector, including schools, and sport.</p> <p>Applicants can request funding to support reciprocal match funded inward mobility of international participants to Scotland - capped at a maximum of 30% of the of the total grant.</p>
<p>Other points for consideration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals can not apply. Applications can only be made by colleges, universities and CLD providers with the ability to undertake international projects. • There is no set project length, however, all projects must have an end date of 31 March 2026. • Applications may include more than one Scottish partner. Inclusion of a diverse range of domestic and international partners, cross sector or organisation type is strongly encouraged. • All partnerships must include at least one international partner. • There will be no limits on participant numbers in respect of destination or the type of mobility undertaken.
<p>Where can I get more information?</p>	<p>Contact the Test and Learn Project team to find out more. ExchangeProgramme@gov.scot</p>