Better Business Grant FAQs

General Questions

What is the Better Business Grant? Read More

The **Better Business Support Package** is part of a £20m package of support from the Government of Jersey to assist employers during the transition to a living wage.

The **Better Business Grant** is the £5.3m fund allocated to Jersey Business to help employers in all business sectors in Jersey enhance productivity, invest in employee training, and develop new opportunities in the visitor economy sector.

What does the Better Business Grant offer? Read More

The Better Business Grant offers up to 80% funding for Skills initiatives and up to 50% funding for Productivity and Visitor Economy projects aimed at improving productivity and skills.

With a total of £5.3 million available, this is a fantastic opportunity for Jersey businesses to invest in their future.

What grants are available? Read More

Productivity Grants
Visitor Economy Development Grants
Skills Grants
Apprenticeship Grants

How much are the grants for? Read More

Productivity and Visitor Economy Development grants are all available as:

Major Grants: £5,001 to £75,000 for businesses operating for 18+ months.
Minor Grants: £1,000 to £5,000 for businesses operating between 6 and 18 months.

Skills grants are available as:

Major Grants: £8,001 to £75,000 for businesses operating for 18+ months.
Minor Grants: £500 to £8,000 for businesses operating between 6 and 18 months.

Note: It's important to remember that the Productivity and Visitor Economy Development grants are on a 50/50 matched funding basis. This means that if you apply for a grant for an initiative that will cost your business £10,000 in total then the business will need to pay £5,000, and the grant will fund the other £5,000.

Skills grants are on a 80/20 funding basis. This means that if you apply for a grant for an initiative that will cost your business £10,000 in total then the business will need to pay £2,000, and the grant will fund the other £8,000.

There are also Apprenticeship grants. A £2000 grant per apprentice is available to all eligible businesses that pay their apprentice to attend regular training from the list of government-supported apprenticeships.

Highlands Apprenticeships

- Site Carpentry
- Brickwork
- Painting and Decorating
- Plumbing Studies
- Construction and the Built Environment
- Electrical Installation
- Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles
- Welding and Fabrication Practice
- Hairdressing - Highlands
- Beauty Therapy
- Retail Operations
- Culinary Skills
- Early Years Educator
- Youthwork
- HNC in Construction
- BSc (Hons) Construction Management
- HNC in Civil Engineering

Non-Highlands Apprenticeships

- CMI Management
- Dental Nursing
- Hairdressing – Neon
- Health and Social Care (RQF)
- Coaching and Mentoring Programme
- City & Guilds Complete Gardener

- RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth and Development
- BSc Digital & Technology Solutions KPMG
- Veterinary nursing
- Green keeping/golf course management

What are the qualifying criteria? Read More

Your business must meet the following criteria:

- Be registered in Jersey and hold a business licence
- Trading for at least 6 months
- Employ at least one person (owner/s + 1) for at least three months, with a minimum weekly wage of £128
- Be up to date with all government contributions or on a repayment plan
- To access the Visitor Economy Development Grant, you must be part of the Visitor Economy. This means that a significant amount of your revenue must come from the Visitor Economy

Eligibility: Projects

What happens if a non-visitor economy business applies for Visitor Economy Development Grant? Read More

The application will be rejected unless they can clearly demonstrate why they believe they are part of the visitor economy.

Are skills grants allowed to be used to fund training for non-entitled employees? Read More

Yes, they are.

My company is registered in Jersey, but manufacturing is off-island, can I apply for machinery for my off-island site? Read More

No, the assets purchased with the grant must remain in Jersey.

A portion of grant applications will undergo auditing, and all applicants will be required to sign an acknowledgement that assets purchased with the grant funds cannot be transferred off the island or sold without notifying Jersey Business.

Does the grant apply to seasonal workers? Read More

Individuals on fixed term contracts do qualify as employees under the grant scheme if they are paid more than £128 a week (therefore paying social security) consistently for three months prior to and during the application process.

Apprenticeships - If an apprentice is already employed can you apply for the grant? Read More

Yes, apprentices, can be an existing employee, their length of employment with you does not affect your application. To be eligible for an apprenticeship grant:

1. Your apprentice must currently be studying with Highlands or another approved apprenticeship provider, when you apply.
2. That course level, must have commenced in 2026

For example:

An electrician starts their highlands Level 3 electrical installation course in September 2025 finishing that level in July 2026. In September 2026 if they start level 4, they are then an eligible Apprentice, and you can then apply for a grant as they are on an apprenticeship course that started in the current year.

Please note for a small number of Apprenticeship courses, the course level (typically a degree course, and courses in child development) stays the same for multiple years. If this applies for your Apprentice(s), meaning their course started before 2026, add 1st February 2026 as the course start date on the application.

If your apprentice finishes their course in 2026, call us on 610300 for advice before submitting your application.

Can I use the grant to travel to off-island trade shows or expos? Read More

No. You cannot.

Can I apply for the Skills Grant to send my employees to off-island training? Read More

Yes, you can, but only for course fees. Travel, accommodation, and other expenses are not covered in the grant.

The eligibility section states that projects that have already started are not eligible for a grant. How is 'Started' defined? Read More

A project is considered started when a contract is signed or payment is made for any key component of the project.

Pre-viability studies are not classified as a started project, but this cost cannot be included in the grant application.

For skills applications, the same applies; the courses or training you are applying for must not have started.

Eligibility: Business

Why are Better Business Grants not available for single person businesses? Read More

The Better Business Grants have been designed to help employers invest in technology, skills development, and business changes aimed at improving profitability in 2025 and 2026 during the transition to a living wage.

Therefore, to be eligible for the grants, a business must be paying at least one employee a regular wage.

Can Arm's Length Bodies, States Owned Entities, or similar Government funded organisations apply for the Better Business Grant? Read More

Arm's Length Bodies, States Owned Entities, or similar government-funded organisations are not eligible due to their existing government support. Please contact the Jersey Business team for further clarification if needed.

For eligible businesses or charities that may receive other forms of Government support, such as via the Rural and Marine Support Schemes, the Better Business Grant can only be used for new and separate projects that are not already funded by Government.

Application process

What is on the application form? Read More

The Application asks for company details followed by the project details. You can save your progress after each page, enabling you to return to the form if you don't have all the necessary information to hand.

Step-by-step guidance notes are available for each type of grant applied for.

Can Jersey Business help me fill in my application form? Read More

Businesses must complete their own application form to demonstrate they have carefully planned out the project/skills development plan and can explain why it will be beneficial to the business.

There are **guidance notes** that show the application forms step by step, with examples of what type of information is required for each type of grant.

If I have apprentices on different courses, can I make one application? Read More

Yes. You can apply for multiple apprentices, across different courses all in one application.

If I have lots of apprentices, do I need to apply for each of them individually? Read More

No, you don't. The apprenticeship application form allows for multiple names to be added.

What happens if I miscalculate the costs? It can be difficult to get the exact figures. Read More

We would encourage you to think about the project step by step, get quotes, and check costs for accuracy.

It's important to consider this carefully as if particular costs are not listed in your application, they cannot be added later.

Jersey Business will check your receipts to ensure the funds were used for the items listed in your approved grant application. Here's how it works:

- If your receipts show that you spent more than the approved project cost, you'll get the remaining 50% of the approved grant amount.
- If your receipts show you spent less than the approved project cost, the final grant payment will be adjusted. This means you'll get 50% of the actual verified expenses, minus whatever you've already been paid.
- If your receipts match the approved project cost exactly, the remaining 50% of the grant will be paid to you

With a Skills grant, can I apply for multiple courses for my team in a single application? Read More

If the courses or training are part of a connected skills building project for your business, you can apply for multiple courses in one application.

For the courses or training to be eligible for a grant application, they must:

- Not have started or been paid for before the application is made.
- Must not start within two months of your application date (as we cannot guarantee to process a grant in less than two months).
- Courses/training must start in the year of your grant application.
- If approved, you must be able to pay for the full course/training fee applied for and provide a receipt within 12 months (courses can complete after that date).

Note - all course training/costs must exclude VAT, and if receiving off island training, travel and accommodation costs.

If you're eligible for all four grants, can you apply for all four at the same time? Read More

Yes, if each project is different, you can make an application for Skills, Productivity, and Visitor, Economy Development Grants, all at the same time. Apprenticeship grants should be applied for when your apprentice starts their 2026 academic study (for most this is September each year).

How do you evidence the number of employees in the business?

Read More

The applicant enters the number of zero-hour, part-time (defined as a contract below 25 hours a week) and full-time employees the business has.

This information is sent to the Government of Jersey for verification, using your last three months of manpower returns, or the last return if not submitting monthly.

Useful links

- Better Business Grant
- Better Business Grant Application Guidance
- Better Business Grant payment process
- Better Business Grant Ts&Cs for grants over £5,000
- Better Business Grant Ts&Cs for grants under £5,000
- Better Business Grant Ts&Cs for apprenticeship grants