Better Business Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

General questions	
What is the Better Business Grant?	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?	The Better Business Grant offers up to 50% matched grant funding for eligible businesses to support various initiatives 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?	Productivity Grants Visitor Economy Development Grants Skills Grants Apprenticeship Grants
How much are the grants for?	Skills, 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. **NB – It's important to remember that the 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 £5000, and the grant will fund the other £5000.** There are also: Apprenticeship grants: A £2000 grant per apprentice is available to all eligible businesses who pay their apprentice to attend regular training from approved 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 • Beauty therapy

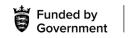|	
	• Retail operations • Culinary skills • Early years educator • Youthwork • HNC in construction • BSc (Hons) construction management • HNC in civil engineering • Playwork **Non-Highlands Apprenticeships** • Health and social care (RQF) • Hairdressing – Neon • Dental nursing • Veterinary nursing • Health and social care • CMI management • BSc digital & technology solutions
What are the qualifying criteria?	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 Project/Skills/Apprenticeships	
What happens if a non-visitor economy business applies for Visitor Economy Development Grant?	The application will be rejected unless they can clearly demonstrate why they believe they are part of the visitor economy.
Can I apply this year for an apprentice on a course that started in 2024?	No, to apply for an apprenticeship in 2025 the apprenticeship must start in 2025.
Are skills grants allowed to be used to fund training for non-entitled employees?	Yes.
My company is registered in Jersey, but manufacturing is off-island, can I apply for machinery for my off-island site?	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 acknowledgment 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?	Individuals on fixed term contracts do qualify as an employee 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?	Yes, they can already be an employee. We encourage you to apply for the grant as soon as you register your apprentice for a course. For existing apprentices (started pre-2025) you cannot apply for the grant retrospectively. However, you are eligible to apply for the grant when those apprentices start each new level of their apprenticeship in 2025 and 2026.
Can I use the grant to travel to off-island trade shows or expos?	No.
Can I apply for the Skills Grant to send my employees to off-island training?	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?	A project is considered started when a contract is signed or payment 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?	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.

Application process	
If I have apprentices on different courses, can I make one application?	Yes, you can.
If I have lots of apprentices, do I need to apply for each of them individually?	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.	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. You will receive 50% of the verified project costs after uploading receipts.
Can Jersey Business help me fill in my application form?	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 will be a digital "how to guide" that shows the application form step by step, with examples of what type of information is required.
What is on the application form?	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. A step-by-step video guide will be available once the application goes live.
Can I apply for multiple courses for my team in a single application?	If the courses or training are part of a connected skills building project for your business, you can apply for multiple courses. For the courses or training to be eligible for a grant application, they must not have started before the application is made. Additionally, they must start in the year of your grant application, and you must be able to provide all relevant receipts when your application is approved in order for the courses to be included in the application.
If you're eligible for all four grants, can you apply for all four at the same time?	Yes, if each project is different you can apply for one grant for every eligible grant per year, and at the same time.
How do you evidence the number of employees in the business?	The applicant enters the number of zero-hour, part time (defined as a contracted 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 last return if not submitting monthly.