



British Footwear Development Trust

Footwear Education and Training Grants

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An annual Footwear Education and Training Grant programme awarding grants on successful application to Individuals and Companies to support the future growth and success of the Footwear industry in the United Kingdom.

We look forward to receiving grant applications from Individuals and Companies across the whole footwear industry including: Brands, Manufacturing, Retail, Sourcing and Wholesalers.

Background

The objectives of the BFD T (CIO Registered Charity Number: 1197009) are to advance the theoretical and practical education of persons engaged in or to be engaged in the footwear industry in the United Kingdom.

1. to provide, cause to be provided or assist in the provision of facilities and schemes for the education and training of those engaged or to be engaged in the United Kingdom footwear industry and to maintain the progress of such facilities and schemes;
2. to make grants or donations to or for the benefit of persons, firms or bodies involved or to be involved in the provision of facilities and schemes for such education and training; and
3. to co-operate with the local and central authorities or other bodies in the development of education and training in relation to the United Kingdom footwear industry and to provide funds or make grants or donations to such authorities or bodies for that purpose.



Footwear Education and Training Grant Criteria

What does the grant fund?

The theoretical and practical education and training of persons engaged in or to be engaged in the footwear industry in the United Kingdom when no other funding for training is available. The BFDT will support applications from individuals and companies that demonstrate an education and training need and their commitment and willingness to education and training.

Grant funding will relate to a defined education and training project (Individual or Company) that will be delivered within a 12 month period, and applicants must articulate how the education and training will align to their broader vision and show a clear return on investment. Company applications are required to demonstrate that the funding cannot be met from its own resources.

BFDT cannot fund

- anything that is not related to footwear education and training
- retrospectively, meaning BFDT will be unable to cover anything you have already paid for
- business start-up costs
- loss of income
- when other funding support is available and more appropriate
- commercialisation activities such as marketing and sales

Eligibility criteria, who can apply?

- Individuals and companies that
- demonstrate a footwear education and training need and their commitment and willingness to education and training within the footwear industry
- Individuals aged 18 or older, (with no upper age limit) living in and working permanently in the UK footwear industry
Or
- Applications from footwear industry companies registered in the UK

What is the application process?

- 6th July 2026 – Grant Applications Open
- 30th September 2026 – Grant Applications Close
- October 2026 – Judging Panel reaches decision, notification sent to all applicants
- November 2026 – Interviews conducted with selected applicants in person or virtual
- December 2026 – Grants distributed to all successful applicants

How do you apply?

To be considered for grant funding all applicants will need to complete the Grant Application Form. Individual applicants also require Endorsement Form completed by the endorser as specified above. Links to these forms can be found at <https://britishfootwearassociation.co.uk/BFDT>

Before submitting the application form, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure:

- they meet the eligibility criteria
- that all the information provided on the application form is correct
- all sections of the application are marked as complete and that full and specific details are given regarding how the grant will be used
- all sections of the application are fully completed and that clear, detailed, and specific information is provided regarding the intended use of the grant funding
- the application is submitted to info@bfdt.co.uk before the grant award deadline by midnight on the 30th September 2026

Grants

The grants range from £300 through to £3,000 depending on the applicant's requirements.

Individual Applications are required to

- indicate how the education and training will align to their broader career vision
- demonstrate their motivation and commitment to education and training
- highlight the barriers they face and hope to overcome
- show passion and commitment to a long-term career in the footwear industry
- obtain the support of their endorser who should be from their employer or educational institution (Director, Line Manager, Tutor etc.)

Company Applications are required to

- demonstrate an education and training need
- establish their commitment and willingness to education and training
- present and share the impact of receiving the education and training grant e.g. how your company will profit from the education and training grant, including increased revenues, growth, or cost reduction, employee retention, employee satisfaction...etc.

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How long does it take to process applications?

The Grant Application process opens on the 6th July 2026 and closes on midnight of the 30th September 2026. Working from the close of the application deadline to the payment of grants, the process will take 3 months.

How does an Applicant know if their grant application has been successful?

Applicants will be informed by email if their application has been selected for an interview. Following the interview process successful applicants will be notified and grant payments will be issued in early December. Unsuccessful candidates will also receive email notification. If further support information is required we will contact the applicant directly via email.

Previous applications

You can make a maximum of 2 submissions to BFDT with any given proposal. If BFDT judges that your proposal is not materially different from your previous proposal, it will be counted towards this maximum.

Other

In applying for this grant, you are entering into a competitive process where your chance of success in securing funding will depend on the number and quality of applications submitted.

As part of the award criteria any successful applicant should submit a report after six months showing progress of their project, which can be used for marketing purposes by the fund or British Footwear Association (BFA) if so desired. We may ask that you to “complete a follow up survey”. This may be adequate, but we may wish to add “the results of which can be used by the BFDT or BFA for marketing purposes”.

Funding will not be awarded if the Footwear Education and Training Grant terms and conditions are not complied with.

The BFDT is committed to upholding the data protection principles, and protecting your information. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and are committed to making our application process accessible to everyone. This includes providing support, in the form of reasonable adjustments, for people who have a disability or a long-term condition and face barriers applying to us.

Please contact us at info@bfdt.co.uk for further information. The BFDT is a registered Charity in England and in Wales (Reg No 1197009).

For more information, please visit www.britishfootwearassociation.co.uk/bfdt or email info@bfdt.co.uk

