

# Delivery Plan 2022

---

## Actions to deliver our Learning Without Walls strategy

Our mission: Ufi supports the development of digital technologies that help us all obtain the vocational skills we need to get more out of our working lives.

# Change for a Better Future

## Grant Funding

In 2022 there will be two VocTech Seed grant funding calls. VocTech Seed is our test bed where the first spark of an idea can be scoped and tested in the supportive environment that Ufi funding provides. We fund projects that are at a relatively early stage, helping to prototype ideas and work out the next steps necessary on the journey to long-term success. You can find out what other organisations have done with a VocTech Seed grant on our [website](#).

### How much funding is available?

VocTech Seed provides grants of between £15,000 and £50,000 for projects lasting from three to 12 months.

#### Call Dates

##### #1 Fund guidelines published and workshops open for registration December 2021

Call opens: Weds 12 January 2022

##### #2 Fund guidelines published and workshops open for registration May 2022

Call opens: Weds 15 June 2022

Details of the scope of each call will be available on the Ufi website as part of the communications for each call. Sign up to our [Community Newsletter](#) to receive more information as it is released.

We will also continue to offer opportunities for projects and organisations that have great ideas but are less experienced in developing project funding proposals through our [VocTech Ignite](#) scheme, by invitation following our Seed calls.

## Investment Funding

**Ufi Ventures** will continue to make investments in early-stage companies that build our portfolio towards 20 mission-aligned investments. We look for companies that are targeting positive impact on VocTech in three ways:

- Helping adults in the UK to access and progress in work through improved skills
- Helping employers in the UK to improve their business performance through improving the skills of their workforce
- Growing the VocTech sector by demonstrating attractive financial returns from investing in it

We help our portfolio companies in four key ways:

- We provide further financial investment and fundraising support
- We are a mission-driven investor, aligned with the mission of our portfolio companies
- Engaged support from one of our Venture Partners, with access to regular market intelligence insight
- Access to the Ufi expert pool, and wider VocTech network

In 2022 we will extend our deep dives into specific sectors to expand our market intelligence in key areas, including innovation in assessment and the role of data in improving outcomes for learners. To stay informed sign up for our [Ufi Ventures Bulletin](#).

We will continue to evolve our 100% for impact investment strategy by working with our fund manager to find aligned opportunities for investment.

## Building the VocTech Community

Our long-term goal is to catalyse change by reaching out, influencing, engaging and working with others who can help us achieve our vision of change at scale.

In 2022 we will advocate for the development and adoption of VocTech, engaging with key influencers to showcase and demonstrate how the very best in digital technologies can help tackle the UK's skills crisis.

We will engage more deeply with thought leaders across the sector internationally to highlight opportunities for VocTech to make an impact.

This will include partnering up on the 'digital for learning' agenda with the RSA to inspire leadership-level engagement, the VocTech Podcast and the 2022 Week of VocTech - the UK's only dedicated event focused on the role of digital technology in vocational education, taking place in November 2022.

We will continue to create opportunities for the sharing of knowledge. Our projects and ventures will continue to be centre stage as demonstrators of practical ways in which change can be supported.

Ufi's Evaluation programme will continue to develop insights into the real experience of projects and learners engaged with digitally supported VocTech solutions. For more information on what our different funding calls are all about please read **our strategy document**.

## Making Change Now

The VocTech Challenge 2021 process will lead to new investments in Impact and Activate projects that will begin to make a real difference in the lives of those most significantly affected by the digital divide, as identified in our **2021 White Paper**.

In 2022, as well as actively learning more about those user groups and their learning needs through the Define phase that each project will undertake, we will revisit the wider work we undertook to create the Challenge.

We will work with our projects and our partners to create a '12 months on' review from the point of publication of the White Paper, using our experience of running the grant call to look again at the challenges that our applicants highlighted in their submissions. We cannot fund everyone that applies to us, but we can learn from the barriers and issues that they bring to our attention.

Our **Impact 2019** cohort of projects will come to an end during 2022 and we will evaluate the success of the overall programme and see where we can learn lessons to transfer into future calls.

## Supporting the Market

Our strategic partnerships will continue to be of great importance to us in 2022, building on the work already started and adding new relationships to help transfer innovative practice and support the sector through strengthened networks and communities of practice.

Organisations that share a mission aligned with Ufi's goals are already working alongside us to support our long-term goal of equipping the sector with the skills and confidence needed to develop and adopt the very best of VocTech.

We will seek to strengthen those links with further projects, programmes and shared advocacy across the communities that we collectively represent, for example with the Association of Learning Technology, Jisc, iDEA Foundation and the Resolution Foundation.

Each of those partnerships offers a different pathway to create better understanding across the VocTech sector of the opportunities that digital technologies offer for better, faster, cheaper solutions to some of the longstanding issues that we collectively are trying to address.

The **VocTeach** and **#AmplifyFE** work that was piloted in 2020 and 2021 will continue to be developed as community initiatives.



Ufi VocTech Trust, First Floor, 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BE

[info@ufi.co.uk](mailto:info@ufi.co.uk) | [ufi.co.uk](http://ufi.co.uk)