

UnLtd Award Application: Forming an idea

This document is intended to help you to prepare your answers to the questions if you prefer to work offline. Please note, to apply for an award, you must fill in the online form which is accessed via our award portal <https://www.unltd.org.uk/awards/>. The person who completes the online form must be the founder of the venture.

Before you start, check that you have the correct form. The questions you answer will depend on the stage of your venture. The questions that follow are for individuals who have an idea in the early stages of development. This is the 'forming an idea' stage.

We have different questions for individuals with ventures that have been trading for less than one year, or trading for one year or more, also available on our website.

If you have been established for over four years, or had a turnover of over £250,000, you are not eligible for support through our awards. You may wish to look at our investment offer. You can find information about this on our website.

Please note that character counts are shown for each question. Every character you use counts, including spaces. You can check the number of characters used in Word by clicking on the word count in the bottom left-hand corner. Formatting such as bullet points may not transfer over when copying and pasting.

Contact details

Postcode	
Address line 1	
Address line 2	
Address line 3	
City	
County	
Country	

Home phone	
Mobile phone	

Please supply at least one contact number.

Date of birth	
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We ask for your date of birth to ensure eligibility; we unfortunately cannot support entrepreneurs under the age of 16 and we also want to ensure that our awards are reaching people at all stages of life.

National Insurance number	
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We ask for your National Insurance number to ensure that we can correctly link records, should you have a number of applications with us.

Complete your details

Do you have the right to live and work in the UK?

Whilst we recognise that there are many fantastic entrepreneurs who may not have the right to live and work in the UK, unfortunately we are only able to work with those who do.

	Yes
	No

How did you find out about UnLtd?

Please select the most relevant response for how you first found out about UnLtd/our award programmes and be specific about names and organisations. This helps us track the success of our communications and our work with local partners.

	Another organisation or individual
	Another UnLtd Award Winner – please specify
	Enterprising Communities
	Event
	Leaflet or Poster
	Marketing email/Mailshot
	Not supplied
	Partner organisation staff member
	Precious Awards
	Referred for Systems Award
	Resilient Communities – please specify
	Social Media
	UnLtd Event
	UnLtd Staff Member – please specify
	UnLtd Website
	Website

Getting to know your venture

Name of venture or proposed name:

Enter the name of your venture, or proposed name, if you are at idea stage.

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Venture website:

If your venture has a website, please tell us the address.

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Location of venture:

Here we want you to tell us where in the UK your venture will be working. This could be in your local community, borough, city, or county, it could be in several locations or UK wide.

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Which sectors does your venture operate in?

You can select up to a maximum of three sectors that most closely fit.

	Access to education
	Access to employment
	Access to legal services
	Climate change & energy
	Conservation
	Digital
	Equality & empowerment
	Food, nutrition & agriculture
	Homelessness/housing
	Independence
	Life satisfaction
	Loneliness
	Physical health
	Poverty reduction & income generation
	Quality of life
	Resilient communities
	Routes to market
	Skills and training
	Social isolation
	Social purpose/purposely
	Social value
	Solutions for an ageing society
	Sustainability
	Urban environments/community
	Volunteering
	Water & sanitation
	Wellbeing
	Women
	Youth
	Other (please specify)

What is the social or environmental issue you're addressing?

(Max 2000 characters)

In your answer we want to know what your understanding of the problem is, who it affects and how. What is the scale of this problem? How deeply do you understand it? Is it a local issue, or national? Does it have a short-term or long-term impact for people or our planet? It would be helpful to back this up with some data if you have it.

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Who might benefit from your venture?

You can select up to a maximum of three types of beneficiaries that most closely fit.

	Individuals who identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic
	Carers
	Children & families
	Children/young People (<18)
	Disabled people (incl. people with a learning difficulty)
	Ex-armed forces
	Ex-offenders
	Homeless people (incl. temp accommodation)
	Informal health & social care providers - individuals (incl. friends & family)
	Individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+
	Long-term unemployed
	NEET (Not in education, employment, or training)
	People in later life (those over the age of 55)
	People recovering from addiction
	People with audio-visual impairment
	People with autism-spectrum disorder
	People with dementia/Alzheimer's
	People with mental health problems
	Refugees & migrants
	Women
	Young adults (18-34)
	Other (please specify)

What type of financial support are you primarily interested in?

An award (grant) from UnLtd is funding that is not repaid, whilst there is an expectation that an investment is repaid. Our awards and current investment opportunities are on our website. You can select the 'I'm not sure' option if you don't know which option may be right for you yet.

	Awards (grants)
	Investment
	Not sure

Getting to know you

Tell us about yourself and why you want to make a difference.

(Max 2000 characters)

What inspires you to address this particular social or environmental issue? What is your understanding of this issue and why is it important to you? What makes you the right person to address this issue?

Please note we are sensitive to the fact that many applicants have personal experience of the issues they are trying to address. Please do not feel pressure to share anything that may be upsetting for you, or of a sensitive nature. Any information you may choose to share will be treated sensitively and confidentially by our team.

Are you a leader with direct, indirect, or professional experience of the issue that your venture addresses?

We really value the wide range of experiences that social entrepreneurs bring to their venture, whether from their work or their personal experience. Please state whether you have direct, indirect, or professional experience. We have explained what we mean by these terms below:

Direct experience

Someone who uses their first-hand experience of a social issue to create positive change for and with the communities and people they share those experiences with. For example:

- *Someone who has been homeless and is working to improve homelessness services*
- *A disabled person who has set up and is running a peer-to-peer support service for other disabled people*
- *A person who experienced exclusion and unemployment as a young person and sets up and runs a service for young people not in training, education, or employment*

Indirect experience

Someone who uses their familiarity with a social issue to create positive change for the communities and people who experience the issue first-hand. For example:

- *The parent of a disabled child providing services for disabled people*
- *The carer of someone with dementia selling products to support people with dementia to live independently*

Professional experience

Someone who uses their professional experience of an issue to create positive change for the communities and people who experience the issue first-hand. For example:

- Someone who has worked in the NHS managing care services, setting up a care provider
- A former teacher setting up a service for young people not in employment, education, or training

	Direct
	Indirect
	Professional

Your experiences:

Of your direct, indirect, or professional experience, please select the social issues that most closely fit your experience by using the 'Add Experience' button on the right, you can select a maximum of three.

	Access to education and learning
	Addiction (of any kind)
	Care leavers
	Discrimination relating to protect characteristics
	Discrimination other
	Gang affiliation
	Health/social care
	Housing & homelessness
	Human rights
	Income/wage justice
	Learning disability
	Lone parenthood
	Loneliness & social isolation
	Long-term unemployment/economic inactivity
	Mental health
	Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
	Military service leavers
	Multiple complex needs
	Poverty
	Prison/criminal justice
	Skills gap and access to economic opportunities
	Victim of crime
	Violence and abuse
	Prefer not to say
	None of the above

Venture stage: Forming an idea

How do you plan to tackle the social/environmental problem that you've identified?

(Max 2000 characters)

Please give us an overview of the social/environmental problem you want to solve and how you plan to go about it for example: If you are looking to tackle the disability employment gap then you may be proposing a solution which creates opportunities to support disabled people into employment.

Your response might also include:

- *What kind of service or product you plan to offer*
- *How your product or service results in a social impact*
- *Details about the type of work you might deliver to achieve your impact and a timeline of when key activities might take place*
- *The partners you might want to involve in your work (such as a local authority or NHS provider for example)*
- *What other resources you think that you will need – these could be physical, human and/or financial*

You might have a clear idea of the difference you want to make but have not had a chance to test that your theory will work in practice. These questions are prompts to give us a sense of your plans and where UnLtd might be able to support you.

How do you plan to make a difference?

(Max 2000 characters)

We want to understand your business model, by this we mean what products or services might you be selling to become financially sustainable which in turn will allow you to create a social impact.

Your response might also include:

- *How it will be funded*
- *How you know your customers/service users will pay*
- *What's unique about your venture*
- *How it tackles a problem for people that existing products or services don't*

It may be that you have developed a product or service offering but you aren't sure how best to get in front of your target customer, or maybe you have questions around your pricing structure. These are just examples but please do indicate if you have identified areas where in which you would like some support from us.

How many unique individuals have directly benefited from the products, services, or interventions offered by your social venture in the last 12 months?

Tell us how many unique individuals your venture has directly made a positive difference for – by unique individuals we mean that if a person has, for example, attended three workshops they should only count once. If your venture is new or early stage and has not yet benefitted people, please enter '0'.

How many unique individuals do you expect to benefit from the products, services, or interventions offered by your social venture in the next 12 months?

Tell us how many unique individuals your venture will benefit in the next 12 months, and as above, one individual should only count once in your total.

Please describe the intended impact of your work on the individuals who benefit from it and how long you expect that impact might last:

(Max 2000 characters)

We would like to understand how your work will make a positive difference to people, and whether you are working with them over a short period of time or through more regular interactions.

Your response might include:

- *How people will benefit from the activities/products/services the venture will provide*
- *How often you anticipate people will engage with your work (for example once in a workshop, or through daily or weekly interactions)*

Please add the total amount you would like to apply for from UnLtd:

We can consider requests from £500 to £8,000 for ideas or early-stage ventures.

£

Please add a breakdown of the total budget including the key items you would like the award to cover.

We would like to understand what your venture costs are. When planning your budget please bear in mind that an UnLtd award can only be used to cover costs after the approval date. Any costs you incur before this date cannot count towards award expenditure. We may discuss your budget with you in more detail as your application progresses.

We can consider all costs relating to establishing or growing a venture which could include things like:

- *Company formation and registration fees*
- *Insurance*
- *Enhanced disclosures and other safeguarding costs*
- *IT costs*
- *Printing, advertising, and publicity*
- *Venue and equipment hire*
- *Materials*
- *Travel and subsistence*
- *Volunteer expenses*
- *Mentoring and support*

Please note that the following expenses will not be considered:

- *At this stage we cannot cover living costs*
- *Funding activities outside the law, against public policy or anything that fosters ethnic, religious, or commercial disharmony*
- *Funding to undertake formal qualifications (but can be used to provide short term training if critical to success of the venture)*
- *Funding to employ others to undertake the bulk of the award activity*

Item	Cost
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£

Equal opportunities

UnLtd is committed to supporting individuals from all backgrounds to reflect the diverse communities that we serve. Our ambition is for 50% of the awards that we make to go to people who are either:

- Black, Asian, or from a marginalised ethnic group
- Disabled

Having this data enables us to spot where we aren't doing enough to ensure our support is truly inclusive for everyone. Through our commitment to continuous learning we proactively use this data to drive improvements in our support. We know that some of these questions are very personal. Information provided on this form will be used to ensure that our processes are fair and

transparent. We want to assure all applicants that no information will be published or used in any way which allows any individual to be identified.

Do you consider yourself to have a disability (including neurodivergent)?

We use the definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010. We highly value lived experience and equality of opportunity and you should feel confident to share without fear of discrimination or bias. Our commitments to inclusion can be found on our website and are monitored.

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

UnLtd can make reasonable adjustments to support disabled people in completing the application process. If you have a disability and would like us to provide additional support please specify how we can help.

(Max 2000 characters)

Giving us as much information as you are comfortable with will allow our teams to better support you through our assessment process. This can include adjusting our panel process or identifying support such as interpreters. Please specify in what ways we can ensure our process is accessible to you.

Which best describes your gender?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-binary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer to self-describe

Is your gender identity the same as the sex you were assigned at birth?

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group?

<input type="checkbox"/>	White – English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
<input type="checkbox"/>	White – Irish
<input type="checkbox"/>	White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller
<input type="checkbox"/>	White – Any other White background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups – White and Black Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups – White and Black African
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups – White and Asian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups – Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian/Asian British – Indian

	Asian/Asian British – Pakistani
	Asian/Asian British – Bangladeshi
	Asian/Asian British – Chinese
	Asian/Asian British – Any other Asian background
	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British - African
	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British – Caribbean
	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British – Any other Black/African/Caribbean background
	Other ethnic group – Arab
	Any other ethnic group

What is your current marital status?

	Single (including cohabiting)
	Married (including separated, both same and opposite sex marriages)
	Civil partnered (including separated)
	Divorced
	Widowed
	Prefer not to say

What is your religion/faith?

	No religion/faith
	Christian (incl. CofE, Catholic, Protestant and Christian denominations)
	Buddhist
	Hindu
	Jewish
	Muslim
	Sikh
	Any other religion/faith, please describe
	Prefer not to say

What is your sexual orientation?

	Bisexual
	Gay Man
	Gay Woman/Lesbian
	Heterosexual/Straight
	Prefer not to say
	Prefer to self-describe

What is your current employment status?

	Employed – full time
	Employed – temporary or part time
	Unemployed/seeking work
	Retired
	Full time student
	Carer
	Long term sick/disabled
	Self-employed – full time or part time

	Voluntary/unpaid work
	Prefer not to say
	Other

What is your highest level of qualification?

	No formal qualifications
	Prefer not to say
	Other qualifications, including foreign qualifications
	Foundation Degree, Vocational Qualifications Level 4/5, Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diplomas, Diplomas of Higher Education
	A Levels (grades A-E), AS Levels, IB, NVQ Level 3, Advanced Apprenticeship/Diploma, Foundation Diploma (Art and Design)
	GCSEs (grades A*-C), O Levels (grades A-C), NVQ Level 2, Intermediate Apprenticeship, Higher Diploma, Intermediate Welsh Baccalaureate
	GCSEs (grades D-G), NVQ Level 1, Foundation Diploma, Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate
	Honours Degree (BA/BSc Hons), Degree without honours, Vocational Qualifications Level 6, Graduate Certificate/Diploma
	Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma, Masters Degree (MA, MSc, MBA, MPhil), Integrated Masters Degree (e.g. MEng), PGCE, NVQ Level 5
	Doctorate (e.g. PhD, DPhil, EdD, DCLin Psy), Vocational Qualifications Level 8

References:

Please provide details of two people who we can contact to provide a reference for you. They should have known you for a minimum of six months and should be aware of your plans for your venture. At least one of these two individuals should know you in a professional capacity (such as an employer, teacher, colleague) the second can be a character/personal referee. To avoid processing delays, please ensure that you enter the email addresses correctly.

Full Name:	
Email:	
Relationship:	
Full Name:	
Email:	
Relationship:	

Full Name:	
Email:	
Relationship:	
Full Name:	
Email:	
Relationship:	