

HMRC extend deadline for Customs Training Grants

ACT NOW TO SECURE YOUR FUNDING

Businesses who will become involved in completing customs declarations, carrying out customs processes such as importing and exporting and/or helping other businesses with import and export processes can apply for grants now.

HMRC will fund up to £1,500 per employee to receive training



Training grant

An application for a training grant must be submitted to PricewaterhouseCoopers, who administer the scheme on behalf of HMRC, prior to any training being supplied.

The application is straightforward and requires details of who will be supplying the course, where and how it will be provided and its content, and an outline of why the training is required, along with any expected growth (e.g. increase in customs involvement due to Brexit). A copy of the quote must be available for inspection to verify that the training took place.

If accepted, the company will be notified by PwC. On payment of the invoice for the training, the company submits a copy of the invoice and bank statement to confirm completion of the transaction. The grant is paid to the company.

The training must enable the business to:

- Complete customs declarations;
- Carry out customs processes; or
- Help other businesses with import and export processes.



IT improvements grant

IT improvement funding is available to existing customs intermediaries who currently complete customs declarations on behalf of importers and exporters, or those who wish to begin performing this function for its customers.

Funding is toward purchasing the first year's licence of a packaged software solution to increase the automation or productivity of your business in completing customs declarations. Up to 100% of costs can be funded but all expenditure must be reasonable, appropriate and at normal commercial rates.

If your company is intending to invest in software to make its own customs declarations, via Customs Simplified Freight Simplified Procedure, then this should be considered along with the training grant.

Recruitment grant:

Available to all customs intermediaries who complete customs declarations paperwork on behalf of their clients.



A grant of up to £15,000 covers:

- Indirect costs involved with recruitment which include (but are not limited to) advertising and marketing, application review and interview time, employment agency fees, and on-boarding processes for external hires.
- Gross direct salary costs for a newly employed member of staff or apprentice with a minimum of a 12-month contract of employment, up to a maximum of £12,000.

The recruitment grant should be considered if you are a customs agent who makes declarations for clients.



Our fellow association member, MHA MacIntyre Hudson, is an approved HMRC trainer.



Pricing

The cap per trainee per training course is £1,500 (externally provided) and £250 (internally provided). The training doesn't have to lead to a formal qualification.

The application for a grant isn't limited to companies. You can also apply for the grant if you're self-employed.

ACTION REQUIRED - APPLY NOW

On 12 June 2020 further funding of £50 million was announced. Be aware that applications will close on 30 June 2021, or earlier if funding is fully allocated. We recommend that action is taken soon as requests for this funding will be immensely popular as attention returns to Brexit.

Contact our team to request further details on the grant and training MHA MacIntyre Hudson can provide.

Please contact us to discuss your training requirements:



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Once grants are approved, which we will help you with, we'll discuss options to tailor the training to meet your business's needs.