

digitalXtra fund enabling digital creativity across Scotland

Digital Xtra Fund opens its seventh round of grant awards for initiatives that inspire young people to engage in tech.

Funding applications are now open for this year's grants programme from Digital Xtra Fund to increase the number and diversity of young people learning key digital skills.

Digital Xtra Fund was launched in 2016 with the purpose of boosting young people's interest in computing and technology through extracurricular activities. Shortly thereafter, the Fund became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) enabling it to collaborate with a wide range of industry partners and stakeholders. Since then, the charity has been backed by businesses, government, and individuals with a common will to help young people succeed in a digital world. The Fund's goal is for every young person in Scotland to have access to inspiring and meaningful digital tech activities regardless of their gender, background, or where they live.

The Fund's aims are to:

- Enable high-quality, exciting digital skills activities for young people across Scotland
- Inspire the next generation to understand, create, and innovate with technology
- Give industry experts and young people an opportunity to connect in informal and creative settings

Since its inception, the Fund has awarded £725,000 to over 100 tech initiatives which have engaged nearly 36,000 young people with skills such as computational thinking, coding, robotics, cyber skills, and data science while also highlighting the future career opportunities these skills provide. Only by inspiring



young people through exciting and relevant activities can Scotland inspire a generation of developers, designers, and digital leaders who will understand and create with technology, rather than simply use it.

The Fund's model is straightforward – using an application process, they identify, finance, and assist extracurricular tech initiatives across the country. Current partners include AWS, Baillie Gifford, CGI, Chroma Ventures (4J Studios), JP Morgan, Scottish Government, and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) as well as Accenture, BT, Cirrus Logic, Fujitsu, Incremental Group, Micro:bit Educational Foundation, ScotlandIS, and Skyscanner.

How and when to apply

Applications for the next round of grant awards (Round VII) are now open. Applications are welcome from UK-registered companies, charities, chartered bodies, local authorities, schools, colleges, or >>



universities actively involved in the provision of computing education or digital technology related activities, especially for audiences from excluded groups or backgrounds (such as learners from areas of high deprivation and/or rural isolation, girls and young women and/or minority groups).

Supported activities must be completed between **1 July 2022** and **30 June 2023** and delivered entirely in Scotland. Activities must also focus on engaging young people aged 16 and under. Eligible organisations can apply for grants from a minimum of **£500** to a maximum of **£5,000**.

Whether you are just starting out with a new micro:bit coding club or participating in a global competition such as FIRST® LEGO® League, Digital Xtra Fund is keen to support any exciting and stimulating

extracurricular activities that appeal to young people. This year, applicants will be required to submit their applications via an [online form](#) found on the Digital Xtra Fund website. To help applicants with the grant application, Digital Xtra Fund will also be delivering 2 webinars while the funding is open.

Deadline for submissions
The final deadline for submissions of the grant application is **Tuesday 5 April 2022 at 15:00**. To find out more about eligibility criteria, online application and details about the webinars, please visit: <https://www.digitalxtrafund.scot/apply/>.

Where possible, Digital Xtra Fund also encourages applicants to incorporate other programmes such as Young STEM Leader Programme, Digital Schools Awards, or iDEA badges as part of the proposed initiative. To help contextualise

the skills being learned, applicants may also benefit from involving volunteers from Digital Xtra Fund partners or the STEM Ambassador Programme as they can provide positive role models, first-hand examples, guidance, and support with the delivery of the project. <<

Find out more...

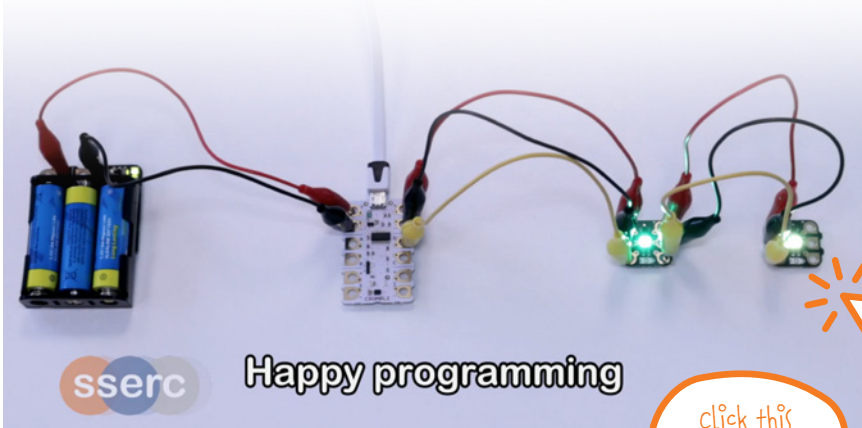
For more information and updates, please follow Digital Xtra Fund on:

- **Twitter**
- **Facebook**
- **LinkedIn**

Or sign up to their newsletter on the website [here](#).

Let's get ready to Crumble!

Embracing digital learning can enhance learning and get learners engaged provided the right tasks are chosen. Initially fast feedback is essential so learners can see they are succeeding or can correct their program quickly and get it working.



The Crumble controller is a cheap, very user friendly microprocessor, with endless extension projects that will enable learners to get started without any previous programming experience. This project gives instant feedback, thereby facilitating formative assessment and building confidence. The software used for the programming is FREE and is based on the drag and drop system

inspired by the highly acclaimed MIT Scratch. All that is required is a Crumble controller, a sparkle and the power supply for the Crumble. Purchasing the Crumble starter pack is an affordable and good way to begin. This project will address the learning outcomes and takes into account Education Scotland's guidelines, "What digital learning might look like," January 2021.

Download the Crumble software from: [Crumble Software | Redfern Electronics website](#).

Having mastered the basics many projects are available at very affordable prices, see [Redfern Electronics](#). These will be covered in later bulletins. <<