



NESTA

a funding information leaflet from *funderfinder*

NESTA (The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) was established to support and promote talent, innovation and creativity in the fields of science, technology and the arts. It was set up with an endowment of £200 million from the National Lottery and uses its income from this endowment to fund its work. Its main role is the support of individuals through financial or non-financial means.

The individuals supported need to demonstrate their exceptional talent or promise, with the potential to generate new ideas and new intellectual property in one or more fields within science, technology and the arts. Individuals can be of any age, but must be resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes and have been for the last three years. Applicants under 18 must be sponsored by an adult who should be named as a co-applicant.

NESTA is in the process of developing a new five-year strategy and new programmes of activity. Check their website for further details. As a result of the review most of its old programmes have closed for application, however, a few are still operating. These are:

Insight Out, Creative Pioneer Programme

- a five-week training programme developed to help individuals set up creative businesses.

Starter for 6 (applications open in November 2006)

- a major three-year project that led by NESTA in Scotland, in partnership with the Six Cities Design Festival and Highlands & Islands Enterprise. It will build the enterprise skills of up to 300 budding entrepreneurs working in Scotland across science, technology and the creative industries, as well as providing start-up grants.

Crucible (opens for applications in 2007)

Crucible is a year-long programme that offers 30 promising researchers (from universities, industry, or research institutes, and with at least three years of postdoctoral experience or equivalent) the opportunity to attend a series of residential weekends called Labs.

Further information

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), Fishmongers' Chambers, 110 Upper Thames Street, London EC4R 3TW, tel: 020 7645 9500, e-mail: nesta@nesta.org.uk, website: www.nesta.org.uk

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