

FAQS – BFI VK CONNECT

1. What stage should my startup be at to benefit from BFI VK Connect?

Your startup should have a functional prototype and early validation and typically fall within the TRL 4–9 range, with readiness to explore entry into the European healthcare market.

2. What types of healthcare innovations can I apply with?

You can apply with healthtech, biotech, medtech, diagnostics, digital health, or deep-tech healthcare innovations that demonstrate relevance and scalability in the European healthcare ecosystem.

3. I have an innovative healthcare product, but I don't yet have a registered startup or company. Can I apply for BFI VK Connect?

No. You must have a formally registered startup or company to be eligible to apply for BFI VK Connect.

4. Will I have to pay any fee or give up equity to participate in the program?

No. There is no application or participation fee, and BFI VK Connect is a 100% equity-free program. Startups are selected purely based on merit and the relevance of their solution to the European healthcare market. For details on other program costs refer to Questions 11-13.

5. How many people from my startup are required to participate in the program?

At least two individuals from your startup (preferably founding members) are required to participate in the online phase of the program. One representative from your startup will participate in the immersion phase in Barcelona.

6. My startup is registered and my product is at TRL 5, but I have not raised any public or private funding and am fully bootstrapped. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes. You do not need to have raised external funding to apply. Bootstrapped startups are eligible, provided all other eligibility criteria are met.

7. Will I receive one-on-one mentorship during the BFI VK Connect program?

Yes. You will be assigned a lead mentor with expertise in the European healthcare and innovation ecosystem, and you will receive structured one-on-one mentoring sessions aligned with your product and market focus.

8. Do I need prior experience in international or European markets to apply?

No. Prior international exposure is not mandatory. However, you should demonstrate intent and readiness to explore the European healthcare market.

9. I have a healthcare innovation at an early prototype stage and have not yet completed validation. Am I eligible to apply?

No. You must have a functional prototype along with early validation to be eligible for the program.

10. Will participating in BFI VK Connect guarantee funding or partnerships in Europe?

No. While the program facilitates exposure and connections within the European healthcare ecosystem, funding or partnership outcomes are not guaranteed.

11. Will my travel and accommodation expenses for the immersion phase be covered by the program?

Yes. Your round-trip air travel and accommodation in Barcelona for the duration of the immersion phase will be covered by BFI.

12. Will the program also cover the cost of my visa application and travel insurance?

No. Any costs associated with visa application and travel insurance, including application fees and related expenses, must be borne by you.

13. Will the program support me with visa documentation for travel to Europe?

Yes. You will receive an official invitation letter and supporting documents from the program to assist you with your visa application. However, you will be responsible for applying for the visa and ensuring timely completion of all formalities.

14. When will I be informed about the dates and duration of the immersion phase?

Confirmed dates, duration, and logistical details for the immersion phase will be shared with selected startups well in advance to allow sufficient time for travel planning and visa processing.