

# Women in Business



Royal Bank  
of Scotland

TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY

# Introduction

**As long-standing supporters of Women in Business, we understand the challenges women might face when setting up or running businesses. And we're committed to making Royal Bank of Scotland part of the number one banking group for enterprise by supporting UK businesses to start, scale and succeed.**

Part of this commitment is to provide support to women who've faced even more barriers to starting or growing a business. Through our Women in Business programme, NatWest Group has provided tailored support and expertise for female entrepreneurs by doing the following.

- Committed to supporting 35,000 businesses across the UK through our enterprise programmes in 2023, with 50% of support going to females.
- Established a Women in Business programme, with more than 1,000 independently accredited Women in Business specialists (accredited by Chartered Banker Institute and certified by everywoman).
- Launched The Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship in March 2019 by Alison Rose at the request of the UK Government, which examines the barriers that women in business face and what can be done to overcome them.



**We have three key areas where we can offer you help and support.**

**Access to finance**

**Access to expertise**

**Access to business support**

# Access to finance

## An additional £1bn of funding for Women in Business.

The pandemic triggered exceptionally high demand for financial support for women-led businesses. And in 2021, NatWest Group announced a further £1bn of ring-fenced debt funding for female entrepreneurs, doubling the £1bn provided in 2020.

## Looking to kick-start your business?

Whether you're looking for a funding boost or need a helping hand to recover after the pandemic, a small business loan could be just what you're looking for.

- Borrow from £1,000 to as much as £50,000, subject to approval.
- No arrangement or early repayment fees.
- Choose to pay us back over a term of one to seven years, subject to credit status.
- Up to 10-year terms may be available on request.
- A fixed rate of interest.
- All business customers are eligible, and applying online is quick and simple.

A personal, director or member's guarantee may be required. Over 18s only. Subject to status. Business use only.



**Find out if we can help with a small business loan**  
**If you're an established business we could support you too**

## UK Enterprise Fund

Coutts, a private bank of NatWest Group, has teamed up with BGF, the UK's leading growth-stage investor, to launch the UK Enterprise Fund and help power the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The fund invests in diverse and high-potential businesses, and provides a support programme for female investees.

[Explore your funding options](#)



## Swoop

This is a free business support tool that enables businesses to find grants based on government initiatives. It also covers grants for business expansion and new ideas and innovation.

[See if Swoop can help you with funding](#)



# Access to expertise

## Women In Business specialists

We understand all the challenges that women face when setting up or running their business, which is why NatWest Group has more than 1,000 Women in Businesses, specialists across the UK who provide tailored support for women looking to start up and succeed in business.

[See if our specialists could help you](#)



## Expert in Residence

In 2019, The Rose Review set out the potential for the UK economy if women started and scaled new businesses at the same rate as men. The review demonstrated that up to £250bn of new value (equivalent to one million SME businesses) could be added to the UK economy if women started and scaled new businesses at the same rate as UK men.

The Rose Review also highlighted that a key enabler of helping female entrepreneurs overcome barriers to succeed in starting, sustaining or scaling their business is to improve access to expertise in both national and local communities together.

Our Expert in Residence programme is delivered by Local Enterprise Managers (LEMs). They work collaboratively with enterprise partners across the UK, proactively spending time supporting local businesses, sharing advice, creating networks, leveraging the local ecosystem and hosting events to boost businesses and help them grow.

[Get in touch with your Local Enterprise Manager](#)





## MentorMatch

Our dedicated mentoring programme supports women in business in Scotland, empowering you in your professional careers by redefining the world of mentorship. Partnering with online mentoring platform Digital Boost, we've created a new digital matchmaking service – to help connect women with their perfect mentor. We'll connect you with volunteer mentors who could help you overcome your challenges – from marketing and social content, right through to business strategy – and all entirely free.

[Book a mentoring session, it's easy](#)

## WEConnect International

Joining the WEConnect International network allows women-owned businesses to register and connect with more than 12,000 women-owned businesses across the globe. When you join the WEConnect International network, your business profile can be accessed through our WECommunity platform by member buyers, certified Women's Business Enterprises and other WEConnect International members.

[Join the WECommunity](#)

# Access to business support

## Accelerator programme

Our free Accelerator programme is aimed at high-growth businesses looking to scale. It provides access to coaching, mentoring, events and co-working hubs. The programme covers a wide range of business areas.

It could help you:

- access new markets
- attract new talent and build effective teams
- get access to growth funding
- build leadership skills
- develop a scalable infrastructure.

## It's open to all business owners and you don't have to be a Royal Bank customer.

You can also access:

- one-to-one coaching with our experienced acceleration managers
- a programme of thought leadership and events
- a network of like-minded peers, supported by our ecosystem managers
- focused support with experts from across your specialism
- modern co-working spaces in one of our nationwide hubs.

**Register your interest today**





## Business Insights Hub

Our free online thought leadership hub gives you access to business insights, market trends and other thought leadership content to help you maximise your business's potential.

[Find out more](#)

## Business Builder

If you've got a business idea and you're looking to take it further, faster, Royal Bank Business Builder could help. This free, bite-sized programme gives you access to modules, events and an online community to help you bring your business ideas to life. It's also suitable for businesses and entrepreneurs at all stages.

[Sign up free today](#)

## CareerSense Dream Bigger

CareerSense Dream Bigger is a fully funded programme focused on developing transferable entrepreneurial skills in 16-18 year olds to excel in business and in life. Our aim is to help females build confidence for the future world of work, including starting a business. Our digital and live sessions are practical, interactive and designed to support a range of abilities and learning styles.

[See if our programme could help you](#)

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