

OXFORD INNOVATION FINANCE

HOME OF OION AND OXFORD INNOVATION EIS GROWTH FUND - CONNECTING COMPANIES & INVESTORS SINCE 1994

GUIDE – FOR INVESTORS

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OVERVIEW

Oxford Innovation Finance is the home of OION, one of the oldest and largest angel investment networks in the UK, and the Oxford Innovation EIS Growth Fund. In 2023 OION was recognised as the most active angel network in the UK, according to data compiled by Beauhurst. OION was established in 1994 as one of the UK's first business angel networks and today links carefully selected investment opportunities from Oxford and across the country with investors through regular Showcase events. In January 2020, Oxford Angel Network (OAN), part of Oxford University's commercialisation arm Oxford University Innovation (OUI), merged with OION to create one unified angel network for Oxford and beyond.

The Oxford Innovation EIS Growth Fund launched in 2021 and invested in nine companies, Fund 2 launched in 2022 and completed a further nine investments, with Fund 3 following in 2023 and completing nine investments by April 2024. The Fund now offers investors quarterly closes with each investor's investment deployed over the subsequent 12-18 months. Please note, investments in the Oxford Innovation EIS Growth Fund place your capital at risk. Please read the Information Memorandum in full and seek independent financial advice prior to making any investment decisions.

As a part of the SQW Group, Oxford Innovation Finance is well connected to the early-stage/start-up ecosystem and, through its sister companies, is able to offer connections to a wide range of support, beyond that of just access to finance. Oxford Innovation Advice offer business expertise and advice for leaders of ambitious businesses through a range business support & coaching programmes. And Oxford Innovation Space manage a nationwide network of more than 30 Innovation Centres which host and support over 1000 start-ups and SMEs.

Oxford Innovation Finance is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN 564525). Please note that under our OION angel network FCA authorisation, we act for entrepreneurs and companies seeking to raise finance. We do not act for our investor members and our investor members are not our clients, they are classified as venture capital contacts. Accordingly, we are not responsible for providing any protection to members or other investors that would be afforded to clients under the regulatory system and we are not responsible for providing advice in relation to any investment opportunities that we may draw to the attention of our members.

INVESTMENT MEETINGS / SHOWCASE EVENTS

- ▶ At least seven OION Showcase events are held every year either in-person or online, with each featuring up to ten companies pitching for investment. They are currently held in January, March, May, July, September, October and December. See www.oxfordinnovationfinance.co.uk/events for more detail.
- ▶ Oxford Innovation Finance's angel network, OION, reviews companies with OUI and selects the companies to be invited to pitch at a Showcase event. The merger of OION & OUI's angel network, OAN, provides both new and existing angels an opportunity to invest in impactful new tech companies, both from the Oxford Cluster and the wider UK, all under one roof.
- ▶ Investors interested in joining OION and receiving invitations to Showcase events should register their interest via the online [Investor Registration form](#).

Format of Investment Meetings

Investment Showcase	Overview	Follow-up
▪ Usually at least seven Showcase events each year, held either in-person or online	▪ Up to 10 company pitches at each Showcase ▪ 5 minute presentations ▪ Either Q&A or direct face2face networking with investors	Where companies that have presented at a Showcase have initial interest from investors, OION will support and arrange follow-up meetings where investors can conduct a more detailed review of the business.

ACTIVITIES & SERVICES – INVESTORS SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES

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Oxford Innovation Finance's angel network, OION, offers Qualified Investors access to selected, high quality investment opportunities that offer the potential of high growth and reward. They are investors who invest capital into innovative companies in exchange for an equity share. Qualified Investors are High Net Worth, Sophisticated or Professional Investors.

Benefits of OION membership

- ▶ High quality, screened and selected proposals
- ▶ Regular meetings and networking opportunities
- ▶ Detailed summaries of investments
- ▶ Access to Oxford Innovation Finance's online portal for reviewing investment opportunities & investor collaboration
- ▶ Support for investment process*

*This does not replace the need for relevant professional advice. Each investor is responsible for conducting his/her own due diligence prior to making an investment and is responsible for reviewing and approving relevant documentation prior to committing to an investment. Investors are responsible for ensuring the appropriate tax treatment in respect of any investment that they might make, including the availability of SEIS/EIS relief. This may require advice from relevant legal/accountancy professionals.

ACTIVITIES & SERVICES – INVESTORS SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES

How we operate

Oxford Innovation Finance screens business proposals and carefully selects investment opportunities to present to its OION angel network. Company selection criteria includes:

- ▶ a valid and scalable business proposition
- ▶ a credible and committed founding/management team
- ▶ valuation of the company
- ▶ barrier to entry/niche in market
- ▶ knowledge of market
- ▶ awareness of competitors
- ▶ explored exit strategy

Additional Support for investors

- ▶ Established strong links with professional services providers, such as accountants, solicitors and banks.
- ▶ Help to select an appropriate professional to assist investors with the funding process and business development issues.
- ▶ Good contacts within the research and higher education institutions and can provide contact details where specialist technology advice is sought.

How to join OION as an investor member

- ▶ If you wish to join OION as an investor member, please register your interest via the online [Investor Registration](#) form. There is currently no fee for investor membership.
- ▶ Your application will be reviewed and, if successful, you will receive invitations to future OION events and a personal login for access to the Oxford Innovation Finance online portal (accessed via www.oxfordinnovationfinance.co.uk).
- ▶ The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 requires investors to be self-certified as Sophisticated Investors or High Net Worth Individuals, more details can be found [here](#).
- ▶ If you wish to confidentially speak to one of the Oxford Innovation Finance team in the first instance, please [contact us](#) to arrange a time to chat.

OXFORD INNOVATION EIS GROWTH FUND

The Oxford Innovation EIS Growth Fund offers investors the opportunity to invest in a portfolio of high-potential science and technology businesses in the UK.

The Fund provides early-stage companies with the opportunity of securing co-investment, alongside that of OION angel members.

Fund 1 closed for investment in March 2021 and invested in nine innovative and ambitious companies over the course of the 2021/22 fiscal year. Further information on the portfolio can be found on the website [here](#).

Fund 2 closed for investment the following year and invested in a further nine innovative and ambitious companies. Further information on the portfolio can be found on the website [here](#).

Fund 3 launched in 2023 and fully invested by April 2024 completing a further nine investments. Further information on the portfolio can be found on the website [here](#).

The Fund is now [open for investment](#) all year offering investors quarterly closes with each investor investment deployed over the subsequent 12-18 months. Companies interested in receiving investment from the Oxford Innovation EIS Growth Fund should follow the standard OION application and [Showcase pitching process](#). This provides companies with the opportunity of securing co-investment from OION angel members and the Fund.

Investors interested in investing in the Fund should visit the [Fund webpage](#) for more information. Please note, investments in the Oxford Innovation EIS Growth Fund place your capital at risk. Please read the Information Memorandum in full and seek independent financial advice prior to making any investment decisions.

TEAM



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Kate Wright
Board Member & Compliance
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SPONSORS

Oxford Innovation Finance's angel network, OION, is pleased to acknowledge the support of its sponsors. This support allows OION client companies and investors access to professional advice that is geared to meet the growth needs of innovative businesses. More information can be found on our website [sponsors page](#).



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