

DRAFT



FAB FOUNDATION UK
Officially Approved by MIT's
Center for Bits and Atoms
Joining as an Associate



Future plans:

We believe the Foundation should have a governance structure that is elected by its FabLab Associates. Thus, after this founding phase of 3 to 5 years, an election will be held amongst the Associate Fab Labs (please see the Associate form attached, fill in and return). This first generation will attempt to start and/or associate up to 40 Fab Labs in 3 to 5 years and to stabilise the movement in the UK and Ireland with basic funding and administration.

The current Trustees and Executives will stand down in 3 to 5 years as soon as the stabilisation is accomplished.

1. Purposes

The main purpose of Fab Foundation UK (FFUK) is to inform and advise Fab Labs both established and aspiring ones. Please note that Fab Foundation is not a donating Foundation in the usual sense. Its main secondary purpose, however, is to raise *supplementary capital funding* for established and aspiring FabLabs (i.e. those without a major backer, sponsor or donor) and to advise on fundraising. There are other benefits listed below.

2. Who can become an Associate?

Associate membership of the Fab Foundation UK does not limit a FabLab's membership of other associations or networks.

- a. Any group established as a Fab Lab in the UK and Ireland may join or any Maker organisation that accepts the Fab Lab Charter. All groups remain independent.
- b. Individuals who wish to be Associated because of their interest in this movement or those who wish to help in establishing a Fab Lab. These individuals will not have a vote for the forthcoming democratic structure in 3 to 5 years.
- c. Obviously all groups who ask to associate must be willing to adopt The Charter (see attached). For those who might find the commercial restrictions too limiting, we can show you a simple and legal way to add this as part of your enterprise.

3. What are the benefits of being associated to Fab Foundation UK?

- a. Automatic membership of an international job marketplace for employment in the various fields of digital fabrication (including, of course, specialists in 3D printing). There are over 250 companies and individuals in 25 countries who have joined this Fab Foundation UK network.
- b. Access to publications, University papers, surveys, etc. that you might not have access to.
- c. Advice and help with fund-raising applications, PR and how other groups have started.
- d. Access to MIT's own on-line Fab Academy. This extensive certificated course is the only aspect of the Fab Lab movement where there is an extra cost, scholarships may be available.

e. For both existing and aspiring FabLabs these will be simple, quick communications and information systems (both open and closed). These will include sharing of information and resources and a Fab Foundation UK Annual Associates Conferences, if a majority of Associates want to hold one.

f. Fab Foundation UK will offer (for expenses only) a unique, short training course on how to set up your own charity or business or how to IBES? This can be done free of charge online or for a modest fee in your premises for up to 20 potential trainers in your region. Please ask for details.

g. The option to rent at a modest fee the FAB Foundation UK mobile FabLab-on-Wheels on a historic London double-decker Bus. Please enquire.

d. Member FabLabs will enjoy the benefits of a Fab Foundation UK Adviser to--

- i. Advise on raising funding locally to further develop your FabLab.
- ii. Help develop sponsorship and support from local businesses.
- iii. Help Fab Labs to advise users on gaining meaningful employment, in digital fabrication fields, or internships or short term volunteering.
- iv. Advise on the commercial viability, in confidence, of products and services developed within the FabLab.
- v. Advise on developing viable products, services and programmes for different age and interest groups prior to launching them.
- vi. Assist in obtaining regional and/or local grants/funding for new businesses, emerging from the FabLab. In this regard, Fab Foundation UK may be able to help raise supplementary capital funding nationally for Associates if they already have their overheads and staff costs covered.
- vii. Aspiring FabLabs will also need to produce an acceptable and workable budget, based on verifiable costings. Please ask for the form to fill in.

5. Joining Fab Foundation UK

a. Initial joining fee of £25 and a £25 annual fee partially to cover the costs of the above for existing FabLabs; but only £25 for aspiring groups until they are established.

The first 10 existing FabLabs in the UK will not have to pay annual dues for the first year, just a joining fee of £25.

For questions or suggestions about this draft, please email:

enquiries@fabfoundationuk.org