

Commonly asked questions

Q. Why won't this scheme pay for people to improve their farming skills?

A. RABI's Gateway Project is responding to the need of farmers who want to supplement their income from outside the farm.

Q. I have seen a position advertised for an HGV driver but I don't have a licence. Might RABI help me gain one?

A. This is exactly the type of scheme that RABI's Gateway Project aims to support.

Q. Because of my low income, I am on state benefits. Might I still qualify for RABI support?

A. Just because you are entitled to state benefits, you should not be put off applying. However the main aim of this scheme is to help people become self-sufficient.

Q. My farm business has reached such a critical stage that I think the only option is to leave farming. Will RABI help me develop a new career?

A. We encourage you to put forward a case for gaining qualifications in alternative employment. Our aim is to help people continue to farm but we recognise that sometimes leaving the industry is the only answer.

Q. My wife and I both drive our forklift on the farm. She has seen a job advertised as a warehouse operative. Could she apply to the Gateway Project to fund a FLT licence, CSCS card and skills certificates?

A. Close family members who contribute towards your household income are also eligible to apply.

Q. Will the Gateway Project fund travel costs?

A. All reasonable requests will be considered.

Q. What if I cannot complete the course?

A. If there is a genuine reason, such as illness or a family crisis why you were unable to complete the course, your situation will be viewed sympathetically. Lethargy does not apply, however! In cases where courses were abandoned for no good reason, RABI will require the funding to be returned.

RABI operates an equal opportunities policy.



RABI Gateway Project

What is it?

The Gateway Project is a funding scheme that aims to unlock people's potential. It will help suitable applicants to achieve recognised accreditation for their skills to provide them with better prospects for a more stable financial future.

People who work on the land have a vast range of skills. Operating complex machinery, welding, carpentry, plumbing, roofing, not to mention motor mechanics, bookkeeping... the list is endless.

These skills could be the key to improving the financial stability of low income farming families if they were used to generate extra funds from outside the farm. When lack of money prevents people from gaining the formal qualification needed to take these skills to a wider market, RABI's Gateway Project can open up new opportunities.

How does the scheme work?

Applicants will first need to identify a recognised training or accreditation opportunity that will help them to supplement their farm income and improve their financial situation.

They will then put forward a business case that will be assessed by RABI's grants committee. When an application is successful, the training organisation will be paid direct and will be asked to verify that the course has been completed.

Who can qualify?

Farmers, farm workers and, in certain circumstances, members of their families, who can demonstrate that gaining formal recognition of their skills will make a lasting difference to their futures. Applicants must currently have low incomes and this scheme will add value to what they are already doing.

What are the eligibility criteria?

Farmers and farm workers with limited personal assets (savings and investments) and low farm incomes can apply for funding. The applicant's house and farm are not counted.

What will RABI fund?

RABI's Gateway Project will provide funding if it is not available from any other source. The following examples are just a few of many transferable skills that most farmers possess. This scheme is flexible – bring us an idea and we will consider it.

A few ideas

Driving farm machinery	→ HGV licence
Tractor servicing	→ Motor mechanics
Buildings maintenance	→ Bricklaying/roofing
Welding (machinery, gates etc)	→ CO ₂ /ARC welding
Dry stone walling, hedge laying	→ Contracting
Fork lift driving	→ Warehousing
Countryside stewardship	→ Parks maintenance
Farm accounts	→ Bookkeeping
Cooking	→ Catering

Need more inspiration?

If you are not sure about what courses and/or certificates are available, or need help deciding, the Learn Direct website (www.learnirect.co.uk) provides a wealth of information on a vast range of skills opportunities. If you would prefer to speak to one of their advisers, the helpline – 0800 100 900 – operates seven days a week from 8am to 10pm, providing free, confidential and impartial advice.

How to apply

Our staff are just a phone call away and are happy to discuss informally and in confidence whether an application is likely to fit our criteria. To ensure the best use of charitable funds, a form will need to be completed which will necessarily contain information about the applicant's financial situation. This information remains confidential at all times and is never shared with third parties.

Applicants will be notified of the result in writing. If successful, from that point on, the prospects of a brighter future are on the horizon. Good luck!

How to contact us

To discuss your ideas, please call 01865 727888. Further information about RABI can be found at

www.rabi.org.uk