



TBCH Business Growth Guide

Support and Resources for Handmade Businesses in the UK

Welcome to The British Craft House Business Growth Guide.

The British Craft House is an online marketplace and community rooted in the mission to support small businesses. Founded to showcase the best of British handmade talent, it has grown into a trusted platform for independent sellers, makers, and creators. At its heart, The British Craft House is committed to helping artisans not only showcase their work, but also thrive as entrepreneurs.

Whether you're just starting out or looking to grow, this guide brings together some of the most valuable support networks, learning platforms, and business resources available to small UK-based businesses. Our goal is simple: to help you flourish, connect with your audience, and grow sustainably with confidence.

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Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)

The FSB (Federation of Small Businesses) is a membership organisation designed to support small businesses and self-employed people across the UK. The FSB offers a wide range of support to small businesses, including legal advice, banking deals, and networking events.

Website: <https://www.fsb.org.uk/>

Small Business Britain

Small Business Britain is a national campaign that champions and supports the UK's 5.5 million small businesses through free resources, expert training, and digital upskilling. Small Business Britain provides free bootcamps, digital courses, and mentoring for entrepreneurs.

Courses: <https://smallbusinessbritain.uk/>

Enterprise Nation

Enterprise Nation is a vibrant community of small businesses and business advisers that helps entrepreneurs start, grow and scale through expert advice, events, and e-learning. Enterprise Nation is a hub for small business learning, funding guides, and expert advice.

Courses: <https://www.enterprisenation.com/campaigns/>

BT - Skills for Tomorrow

BT Skills for Tomorrow is a programme that helps individuals and small businesses improve their digital skills and confidence with free expert-led training. BT Skills for Tomorrow provides free digital skills training, including social media, e-commerce and cybersecurity.

Website: <https://www.bt.com/skillsfortomorrow>

Open University - OpenLearn

The Open University's OpenLearn platform provides free, accessible education on business and management topics to help entrepreneurs improve their skills. The Open University's OpenLearn platform offers free courses in marketing, finance, and entrepreneurship.

Courses:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/local/ocwglobalsearch/search.php?q=business%20courses&filter=all/all/all/all/all/all/21&sort=relevant>

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships) are regional networks that connect local authorities and businesses to stimulate economic growth and provide support tailored to each area. LEPs provide regional funding, mentoring and growth support. Locate yours here:

Map: <https://www.businessboardnetwork.co.uk/local-growth-hub-contacts/>

NatWest Business Builder

NatWest Business Builder is a free digital platform created to help entrepreneurs develop the mindset, skills and knowledge to grow a business. A free platform offering modules, webinars, and business coaching.

Website: <https://www.natwestbusinesshub.com/businessbuilder>

Creative UK

Creative UK supports creative professionals and businesses by providing funding, networking opportunities, and advocacy for the UK's creative industries. Creative UK supports creative entrepreneurs with funding and mentoring.

Website: <https://www.wearecreative.uk/support/>

Local Councils

Local councils often provide start-up grants, subsidised workspace, pop-up shop schemes, and access to business mentors and workshops. Many councils offer grants, pop-up shops, and free local training.

Start here: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/business>

Prince's Trust (for ages 18-30)

Support for young entrepreneurs includes mentoring, startup funding and business training.

Website: <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business>

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