

Gaining CITB Grants & Funding

A MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE



For the last year Satish Patel, Training Manager for ARCA, has delivered monthly online briefings on how to claim CITB funding. So last month he caught up with Victoria Blair, Operations Director at ARG Europe Ltd, on how the briefings helped her and the business benefit.

What are your initial thoughts about CITB funding and grants?

It's the second time I've made a funding application and I found the spreadsheet application process much simpler and a lot more user friendly, than the previous process. There were no issues.

Were you filling out the application with me on the briefing?

Oh yes. I filled in the basic information beforehand, as you had forwarded a copy, and then I completed the remaining boxes live with you in the briefing session. I sent the completed form back to you to check before finally submitting to CITB. They replied by email to say they had received the application and then 3 weeks later I received an email telling me that the application was successful.

So literally, you completed and sent the form off in 1 day?

No, it was less than that, an hours work at most.

Before attending a briefing, did you know the difference between CITB Grants and Funding?

I had a basic understanding of it, as I attended a CITB seminar 3-4 years ago where they explained you could get funding for courses. However, this session helped simplify the process.

How did you find out about ARCA helping members with CITB Funding?

The first time I heard you were helping members with funding applications was during an ARCA online regional meeting. You said that there was a CITB grants and funding briefing back in January, but with one thing and another I didn't get it sorted till later. I emailed ARCA in August to ask if there was another session planned and was booked onto a briefing a couple of weeks later.

An important question for me, was the briefing helpful to you?

Yes, really helpful. It was easy to follow. You sent out the form beforehand and I completed what I could, and then followed you filling out an example form. So really, really easy to follow.

Were you successful first time with your application?

Yes.

That's brilliant, well done. It's good you didn't get any additional questions or queries.

Yes. When I completed the form, you checked it over and I sent it to CITB the same afternoon. Then 3 weeks later CITB told me the application was successful and that funds were allocated.

If you don't mind me asking, did you get the full amount you applied for and how much was it?

Yes. We got the full amount asked for, £4,826.

How is that funding going to make a difference to the team at ARG?

We are going to use it for NVQs for Supervisors and Operatives. As an industry we've all had a long 18 months and any additional funding available is a welcome addition.

What advice would you give members who that are eligible as CITB levy payers?

Attend a briefing. It's easy and self-explanatory. As you're paying the CITB levy it's important to get some of the funding back to help the business and staff development. That's what its there for!

Thank you, Victoria for taking the time to speak with me. Hopefully you and ARG will be applying for funding again in the future.