

SBF Rising in Support of Enterprises (RISE) Programme Questions & Answers

How RISE works

1. What is RISE?

The SBF Rising in Support of Enterprises (RISE) Programme was established by SBF to help members tide over the challenges arising from COVID-19 and push on with transformation efforts in preparation for economic recovery. The goal of the Programme is to help eligible SBF members build up their capabilities and digitalise by making it more affordable for them to participate in capacity-building, business growth and internationalisation programmes.

2. How is RISE funded?

Under the RISE Programme, SBF has set up a \$2.5 million RISE fund by working with Enterprise Singapore (ESG) to tap on the SG Together Enhancing Enterprise Resilience (STEER) programme. Under the STEER programme, ESG will match \$1 for every \$2 contributed by SBF.

3. How long is the SBF RISE Programme?

The SBF RISE Programme will run for 18 months from 1 July 2020 until 31 December 2021, or until the fund is exhausted, whichever is earlier. SBF will announce the closure of the Programme if the fund is used up before 31 December 2021.

4. What do companies enjoy under the SBF RISE Programme?

Eligible SBF members may apply for a one-time support of up to \$500 to offset the cost of a wide range of qualifying activities, conducted by SBF, its programme partners and participating trade associations and chambers (TACs). At least 5,000 of SBF's SME members will benefit from the programme.

5. What is meant by one-time support?

Eligible SBF members may submit only one application per company.

Eligibility and qualifying activities

6. Who is eligible for RISE?

To be eligible for RISE support, the company must:

- be an SBF member
- have a paid-up capital not exceeding \$5 million
- have paid up its subscription fees up till and including the current membership year, and
- not have previously received any support from the Programme.

Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until RISE funds are depleted.

7. What are the qualifying activities under RISE?

There is a wide range of qualifying activities that help SBF members to position their businesses for Business Growth through and beyond the COVID-19 crisis and to continue their Capability Upgrading efforts. These activities will be indicated in the websites of SBF, its programme partners and participating TAC partners as either “Business Growth” or “Capability Upgrading” programmes that qualify for RISE support.

More than 400 activities will be made available eventually. The number of activities will be increased as the Government’s COVID-19 measures are adjusted for Singapore to resume activities safely.

More information on SBF’s qualifying activities may be found [here](#) and those of its programme and TAC partners may be found [here](#). SBF members are encouraged to check these links regularly if they have not applied for RISE support yet.

8. How does an eligible member register for the qualifying activities of RISE?

Qualifying activities that are conducted by SBF will be denoted by *RISE* in the list of Event Names in [SBF’s website](#) and identified by a RISE label. To register, eligible members may click on the relevant activity, sign in to the SBF members’ portal, click on the registration button, and follow the registration and payment instructions.

Qualifying activities that are conducted by SBF’s programme partners and participating TAC partners will likewise be identified by a RISE label and in their descriptions. SBF members may follow the registration instructions provided by SBF’s partners or approach the organiser for assistance.

How to apply for RISE

9. How does an SBF member apply for RISE?

Applications may be submitted using SBF's RISE e-Application Form that may be found on SBF's [RISE webpage](#). Eligible SBF members must have fully paid for and attended the qualifying activity(ies).*

Before applying, eligible SBF members should prepare the following supporting documents:

- i. Final invoice (including GST component, if applicable) for each activity to be submitted for reimbursement
- ii. Proof of payment for each activity
- iii. A signed Declaration of Attendance Form (download [here](#)), only if the activity was organised by a TAC other than SBF. This Form must be endorsed by the organiser of the activity.
- iv. A signed Enterprise Singapore (ESG) Company Declaration Form (download [here](#))

Eligible SBF members should also note the following important points:

- a. Only **one (1) application per company** may be submitted to SBF under the RISE Programme.
- b. An applicant may submit **up to three (3) qualifying activities** for RISE support in one application. Each activity may have more than one participant.
- c. All claim amounts must exclude GST.
- d. If the activity(ies) submitted is(are) partially supported under other Government programmes such as the Enterprise Development Grant or LEAD programme, the applicant must ensure that the amount to be claimed should not be already supported under another Government programme.
- e. The applicant should ensure that the company's bank account details provided in the application are accurate. SBF cannot check the accuracy of the account number as this information is not available to us.
- f. The RISE e-Application Form, ESG Company Declaration Form and Declaration of Attendance Form (if applicable) should be signed by the company's Chief Financial Officer, Financial Controller, Finance Manager or company representative in a similar role. This should also be the contact person for the RISE application.

Applications will only be processed if all required information has been provided.

* For overseas market-related activities, more details on the application process will be available soon.

10. I am a member of one of the participating TAC partners in the SBF RISE Programme. Can I apply for RISE support?

Only eligible SBF members may apply for RISE support. If your company is a member of both SBF and the listed TAC, you may apply for RISE support, subject to meeting SBF's eligibility criteria and other conditions mentioned in this Q&A sheet and SBF's [RISE webpage](#).

11. What happens to the unused portion of RISE support if the total claim is less than \$500?

If you submit an application claiming less than \$500, you will not be able to make any further claims on the unused portion of the maximum RISE support allowed per company. Unused portions of RISE support may not be reserved for or transferred to any other SBF member, regardless of whether the company is a related entity, belongs to the same group of companies or has common shareholding.

What to expect after application

12. When will applicants be notified of the application outcome? How will applicants receive disbursements under the SBF RISE Programme?

SBF will process your application in the order that it was received and as promptly as possible. If the information in your application is complete and accurate, and all the necessary supporting information has been provided, it is estimated that your application may take 1-2 months to process, depending on the volume of applications received.

SBF will contact you by email based on the contact information provided in your application to let you know the outcome of your application. If your application is successful, SBF will let you know when disbursement of the approved amount to your company's bank account can be expected. Such disbursement may take up to seven (7) working days to reach the bank account. You will receive a bank notification to your email address when the amount has been credited.

More information

13. Which other Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) are SBF's partners for the SBF RISE Programme?

For a start, SBF will work with 15 members of SBF's TAC Alliance to offer additional business growth and capability upgrading activities on topics such as digital transformation, corporate sustainability, crisis leadership and post-COVID-19 growth.

More programme partners and qualifying activities are expected to be added from time to time.

The initial list of TAC partners as at 30 June 2020 are:

- i. Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME)
- ii. [European Chamber of Commerce \(Singapore\)](#) (EuroCham)
- iii. [Global Compact Network Singapore](#) (GCNS)
- iv. [Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore](#) (REDAS)
- v. SGTech
- vi. Singapore Furniture Industries Council (SFIC)
- vii. Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI)
- viii. Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (SICC)
- ix. Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF)
- x. Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF)
- xi. [Singapore Retailers Association](#) (SRA)
- xii. Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SGC)
- xiii. The American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore (AmCham)
- xiv. The French Chamber of Commerce in Singapore (FCCS)
- xv. The Singapore Hotel Association (SHA)

14. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

For enquiries on the SBF RISE Programme, please email mr@sbf.org.sg.

For enquiries on applications that have been submitted, please contact the RISE Programme Administrator at SBFRise@sbf.org.sg.