

Refundable Research Tax Credits

Country	Explanation
Australia	SMEs are eligible for a refundable tax credit of 45% of qualified research expenses (QREs), but QREs are not deductible. SMEs are entities with gross receipts of less than AUD 20M that are not more than 50% controlled by exempt entities.
Austria	A refundable 12% volume based tax credit is available for all taxpayers to the extent the credit exceeds the amount of the company's tax liabilities (10% for fiscal years commencing before 1 January 2016).
Belgium	Excess tax deductions may be converted into a tax credit refundable after five years if not utilized.
Canada	35% federal ITCs for small Canadian-controlled private corporations (CCPCs) on up to CAD 3M of qualified expenditure per year. This limit applies to all corporations in an associated group. The corporate group of companies must have less than CAD 800K of taxable income and less than CAD 50M in taxable capital employed in Canada (TCEC) to qualify for the refundable ITCs. These caps are based on the prior year.
France	If research tax credits are not utilized within three years, the taxpayer receives a refund for the unutilized credit. Research credits are refundable for SMEs, new companies, young innovative companies and companies facing financial issues.
Ireland	Unused credits may be carried back one accounting period and carried forward indefinitely. If there are unutilized credits after the carryback, the taxpayer may apply for a refund (payable over three years), subject to certain limitations and caps.
Singapore	There is an option to convert up to SGD 100K of tax deductions into a non-taxable cash grant for each qualifying tax year from 2013 to 2018 at the rate of 60% (i.e., SGD 60K).
Spain	The requirements that must be met to qualify for refundable credits limit opportunities for refunds.
United Kingdom	Cash credits are available for SMEs in a loss position, up to 33.35% of qualified expenditure. Large companies can elect to claim a taxable credit of 10%, increased to 11% from 1 April 2015.