

# Cylchlythyr | Circular

## UK Research Partnership Investment Fund: 2018-19 to 2019-20

**Date:** 17 December 2015  
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**To:** Heads of higher education institutions in Wales  
**Response by:** Noon on Friday, 15 April 2016  
**Contact:** Name: Linda Tiller  
Telephone: 029 2068 2228  
Email: [linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk)

This circular alerts universities to arrangements for a fifth round of the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) and invites institutions with a significant track record of research excellence to submit expressions of interest.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please telephone us on (029) 2068 2225 or email [info@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:info@hefcw.ac.uk).



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## **Introduction**

1. This circular alerts universities to the arrangements for a fifth round of the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) from 2018-19 to 2019-2020.
2. This is a two-stage process. While funding for this scheme has been announced by the Westminster government, funds have not yet been formally allocated to HEFCE by BIS. Higher education institutions (HEIs) with a significant track record of research excellence are invited to submit expressions of interest to apply for the capital grants on a competitive basis. Successful HEIs at the expression of interest stage will then be invited to submit a full bid once funding allocations have been formally agreed.

## **Background**

3. The UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) provides funding for capital investment in major new research facilities in universities which have a significant track record of research excellence. The funding for the scheme is made available on a UK-wide basis through the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, to be distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) acting in conjunction with the other UK higher education funding bodies.

## **Funding and Eligibility**

4. In the 2015 Budget, the Westminster government announced a further £400 million for UKRPIF. The current call for expressions of interest relates to funding of up to £200 million that HEFCE expects to be available to 2020. A further round of the competition will take place for funding beyond this period.
5. The minimum award from the fund will be £10 million per project, and the maximum has been increased to £50 million. As in previous rounds, there is a requirement for universities to obtain co-funding from private sources (business, charities or individual philanthropy) in the ratio of two:one to the sum requested from the Fund. Exceptionally, projects that do not meet the required lower level of UKRPIF investment of £10 million (£30 million including co-funding) may be considered by the panel, if it can be shown that they meet the objectives of the fund and would extend the reach of the fund beyond the balance of sectors and disciplines achieved so far. However, co-funding from private sources in the ratio of two:one would still be required.
6. For this round of UKRPIF, eligibility has been extended to include those Institutes which are core-funded from the Science budget and wholly owned by the Research Councils, and to the UK Atomic Energy Authority,

but only where those organisations are bidding in partnership with a HEI, and the HEI is leading the bid.

7. Due to the increased amount of funding available, and reflecting feedback that some HEIs have felt constrained by application timescales, the panel will reserve the right to consider bids in two tranches:
  - Tranche 1: The panel will consider bids that are at a more advanced stage of development.
  - Tranche 2: The panel will consider bids where the expressions of interest have indicated that they are at an earlier stage of development, or where the panel believes this to be the case. The panel may also invite bids that require further development in tranche 1 to resubmit to tranche 2.
8. The full call for proposals is available on the HEFCE website at [www.hefce.ac.uk/rsrch/ukrpif/submissions/](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/rsrch/ukrpif/submissions/)

A link has also been published alongside this Circular under Secondary Documents.

### **Applying for Funding**

9. Awards will be made through a competitive bidding process.
10. HEIs are invited to submit expressions of interest using the template provided alongside the call for proposals by **noon on Friday 15 April 2016**. Please email [researchpartnership@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:researchpartnership@hefce.ac.uk) to discuss your bid and for further information on how to apply.

### **Further information**

11. For policy queries, institutions in Wales should contact Linda Tiller, at HEFCW (email: [linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk); tel 029 2068 2228). For queries about the UKRPIF process, institutions in Wales should contact Steph Lynch at HEFCE (email: [s.lynch@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:s.lynch@hefce.ac.uk); tel 0117 931 7048).