

Cylchlythyr | Circular

UK Research Partnership Investment Fund: 2020-21

Date: 15 September 2017
Reference: W17/27HE
To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
Response by: *Intention to bid:* Noon on Friday, 10 November 2017
Expressions of interest: Noon on Friday, 12 January 2018
Responses to be submitted to directly to HEFCE

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This circular alerts universities to arrangements for a sixth 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 email info@hefcw.ac.uk.



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Introduction

1. This circular alerts universities to the arrangements for a sixth round of the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF). This round will provide funding of up to £220 million in financial year 2020-21.
2. This is a two-stage process. 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.

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, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 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. The Westminster Government has allocated £900m to UKRPIF from 2012 to 2021. So far, £680m has been allocated to 43 projects across the UK in five rounds of the competition. £220m remains available for allocation in round six of the competition. This invitation relates to that funding, which will be available in the financial year 2020-21.
5. The minimum award from the fund will be £10 million per project, and the maximum will be £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. The full call for proposals is available on the HEFCE website at www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2017/201715/.

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

Applying for funding

7. Awards will be made through a competitive bidding process.
8. Universities which wish to apply for funding are asked to inform the UKRPIF team at HEFCE of their intention to submit an EoI by emailing researchpartnership@hefce.ac.uk by **noon on Friday 10 November 2017**. Please provide an indication of the likely title of the project, the level of UKRPIF funds you will be requesting and the broad discipline area(s) for the project. Please also copy your email to linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk.
9. Universities should then submit their EoI to the UKRPIF team at HEFCE using the template at Annex A of the call for proposals document on the HEFCE website by **noon on Friday 12 January 2018**.

Further information

10. For policy queries, institutions in Wales should contact Linda Tiller, at HEFCW (email: linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk; tel 029 2085 9715). For queries about the UKRPIF application process, institutions in Wales should contact the UKRPIF team at HEFCE (email: researchpartnership@hefce.ac.uk; tel 0117 931 7281).