



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Annex B: University Innovation Fund Plans for AY 2021-22

SFC Guidance

Issue Date: 31 August 2021

Guidance for Outcome Agreements for Colleges and Universities AY 2021-22

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Reference: SFC/GD/22/2021

Summary: This guidance outlines the steps required to ensure an agreement is in place between SFC and each university, college or college region during this transitional period which captures, at a high level, contributions, impact and outcomes and provides assurance on use of allocated funding in AY 2021-22.

This annex sets out requirements for submitting an AY 2021-22 University Innovation Fund Plan.

FAO: Principals and Chairs of Scotland's universities.

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University Innovation Fund (UIF)

1. As part of their Outcome Agreement submission, universities should submit a UIF plan for AY 2021-22 that outlines the specific activity that UIF supported resources will be directed at, and identify proposed in-year progress measures. The UIF plans should meet the following requirements:
 - Be recovery focussed and evidenced by learning from AY 2020-21 and consultation/collaboration with stakeholders at local and/or national level such as local authorities and Scottish Enterprise.
 - Demonstrate a strong commitment to helping Scotland achieve its net-zero targets/green recovery ambitions such as through CPD, spin-out and start-up support. Pooling effort and resources to leverage funding into Scotland such as from UKRI or as activity related to Scotland's Inward Investment Plan is encouraged.
2. The current UIF outcomes will continue to set the framework for UIF and, as before, HEIs can prioritise these as appropriate.
3. UIF collaborative activities are expected to continue under the direction and prioritisation of Universities Scotland's Research and Commercialisation Directors Group and the UIF Collaboration Manager. HEIs should summarise their plans for engaging in this collaborative activity and using it as a means to support their KE strategies.
4. Institutions should confirm their ability or otherwise to utilise and match fund the UIF Platform Grant.
5. SFC will consider each plan on an individual basis and funding will be subject to receipt of satisfactory plans.
6. The plan should be no more than four pages in length.
7. Completion of the HESA HE-Business and Community Interaction survey and the SFC KE metric return remain conditions of grant for institutions to receive the UIF.

Further information

8. For further information please contact Fiona Bates, Policy/Analysis Officer, Research and Innovation, tel: 0131 313 6609, email: fbates@sfc.ac.uk.