



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Additional research capital funding for universities 2020-21

SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 20 November 2020

Additional research capital funding for universities in 2020-21

Issue date: 20 November 2020

Reference: SFC/AN/20/2020

Summary: Announcement of additional research capital funding for universities in FY 2020-21.

FAO: Principals / Chairs / Finance Directors of Scotland's universities

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Additional research capital funding for universities in 2020-21

Summary

1. I am writing to announce the allocation of additional research capital funding for universities in Financial Year (FY) 2020-21 from the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Background

2. In July 2020, the UK Government announced a £300 million investment in world class research infrastructure. As part of that investment BEIS has allocated circa £12 million to Scotland to be distributed by SFC to universities in FY 2020-21 to spend on existing research infrastructure.
3. SFC will allocate this funding to institutions through two streams:
 - Uplift to FY 2020-21 Higher Education Research Capital (HERC) allocations.
 - Uplift to eligible UK Research Partnerships Investment Fund (UKRPIF) projects.

Additional Higher Education Research Capital FY 2020-21

4. In recent years, the UK Government, through BEIS, has allocated research capital funding to SFC to distribute to universities for maintenance and development of research facilities. That HERC funding from BEIS amounts to £16.8m this year, and is matched with a further £16.8m from SFC. This funding for FY 2020-21 was announced by SFC in its '[Updated university outcome agreement funding allocations for AY 2020-21](#)' published on 9 June 2020.
5. SFC will allocate an additional £10.15 million as a proportional uplift to universities' existing FY 2020-21 BEIS HERC funding allocations primarily to enable universities to respond to COVID-19, and to be spent on activity to make necessary modifications or perform needed maintenance to existing research infrastructure to make it COVID-safe. Universities may also use a portion of their allocation to improve their research environment underpinning research activity, to meet the needs of researchers and benefit them and their research.
6. Allocating this funding as an uplift to existing HERC allocations ensures that support is focussed on maintaining excellent departments with the critical mass to compete globally and the expertise to work closely with business, charities and public services.
7. Further information is set out in Annex A.

Uplift to UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF)

8. SFC will allocate an additional £1.7 million to eligible UKRPIF supported projects in Scotland to enable maintenance, improvements, enhancements, and refurbishments to existing UK Research Partnerships Investment Fund (UKRPIF) projects.
9. Further information is set out in Annex B.

Next steps

10. Universities wishing to accept their allocation of funding should complete the template at Annex C and return it to Graeme Scotland, Senior Budgeting and Reporting Officer, email: gscotland@sfc.ac.uk, by 26 November 2020 to enable the December payment to be made. (SFC cannot make any payments until you have accepted this offer of grant in writing.)

Further information

11. Please contact Hazel McGraw, Senior Policy Officer, email: hmcgraw@sfc.ac.uk, tel: 0131 313 6657.



Karen Watt
Chief Executive

Additional Higher Education Research Capital FY 2020-21

Purpose

1. This allocation is primarily to enable universities to respond to COVID-19, and to be spent on activity to make necessary modifications or perform needed maintenance to existing research infrastructure to make it COVID-safe. Universities may also use a portion of their allocation to improve their research environment underpinning research activity, to meet the needs of researchers and benefit them and their research.
2. In line with HERC funding it should be focussed on maintaining excellent departments with the critical mass to compete globally and the expertise to work closely with business, charities and public services. It should be used solely for capital investment in the physical infrastructure for research.

Monitoring

3. SFC is required to make sufficient accountability arrangements for this additional funding in order to be assured that it has been used for the purposes set out. Institutions are required to report on this funding alongside the main BEIS/SFC HERC allocation. We will write out separately to institutions with reporting requirements early in 2021.

Conditions of funding

4. As a condition of grant, this additional funding must be used for:
 - Necessary modifications or needed maintenance to existing research infrastructure to make it COVID-safe.
 - Improving the research environment underpinning research activity, to meet the needs of the researchers and benefit them and their research.
5. Institutions must also adhere to the monitoring and reporting requirements associated with this funding.

Payment of funding

6. Funding will be paid in two equal instalments in December 2020 and March 2021. Institutions should note that this allocation is intended to be spent in FY 2020-21, i.e. by 31 March 2021.
7. Universities wishing to accept their allocation of funding should complete section 1 of the template attached at Annex C and return to Graeme Scotland, Senior Budgeting and Reporting Officer, email: gscotland@sfc.ac.uk, by

26 November 2020 to enable the December payment to be made. (SFC cannot make any payments until you have accepted this offer of grant in writing).

Additional Higher Education Research Capital Funding for FY 2020-21		
Institution	DBEIS Research Capital for FY 2020-21	World Class Laboratories – Uplift to HERC FY 2020-21
	£	£
(1)	(2)	(3)
Aberdeen, University of	740,417	448,220
Abertay University	-	-
Dundee, University of	1,084,999	656,817
Edinburgh Napier University	-	-
Edinburgh, University of	7,480,134	4,528,184
Glasgow Caledonian University	-	-
Glasgow School of Art	-	-
Glasgow, University of	3,991,405	2,416,242
Heriot-Watt University	814,822	493,262
Highlands and Islands, University of the	203,014	127,040
Open University in Scotland	-	-
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	-	-
Robert Gordon University	-	-
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	-	-
SRUC	-	-
St Andrews, University of	1,080,920	654,347
Stirling, University of	213,300	129,124
Strathclyde, University of	1,150,989	696,764
West of Scotland, University of the	-	-
Total	16,760,000	10,150,000

Uplift to UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF)

Purpose

1. This allocation is to enable maintenance, improvements, enhancements, and refurbishments to existing UK Research Partnerships Investment Fund (UKRPIF) projects.
2. To be eligible investments must have been completed and in operation prior to the end of 2018.

Allocations

3. Allocations are as follows:

UKRPIF Investment	Uplift FY 2020-21
Discovery Centre for Translational and Interdisciplinary Research – University of Dundee	£635,654
Clinical research facilities for stratified medicine / Imaging Centre of Excellence – University of Glasgow	£533,446
Continuous Manufacturing and Crystallisation (CMAC) – University of Strathclyde	£504,106
	1,673,206

Monitoring

4. SFC is required to make sufficient accountability arrangements for this funding in order to be assured that the funding has been used for the purpose set out. We aim to keep the accountability burden proportionate. Institutions will be required to complete a monitoring return summarising how the funds were spent and providing a small number of examples. This return will be requested at the end of the spending period and further details of this monitoring process will be shared with recipient institutions in early 2021.

Conditions of funding

5. As a condition of grant, this additional funding must be used for:
 - Maintenance, improvements, enhancements, and refurbishments to existing UK Research Partnerships Investment Fund (UKRPIF) projects.
6. Institutions must also adhere to the monitoring and reporting requirements associated with this funding.

Payment of funding

7. SFC will make one single payment in December 2020. Institutions should note that this allocation is intended to be spent in FY 2020-21, i.e. by 31 March 2021.
8. Universities wishing to accept their allocation of funding should complete section 2a of the template attached at Annex C and return to Graeme Scotland, Senior Budgeting and Reporting Officer, email: gscotland@sfc.ac.uk, by 26 November 2020 to enable the December payment to be made. (SFC cannot make any payments until you have accepted this offer of grant in writing).
9. If you are unable to meet the conditions of funding and therefore wish to decline this allocation, or to accept a reduced level of funding, please also complete section 2a of the template.
10. Allocations may be redistributed to the remaining eligible institutions subject to the number of institutions who decline funding. Institutions who would be able to spend an increased allocation, in accordance with the conditions of funding, should indicate this in section 2b.

Name of Institution	
<p>Section 1: HERC uplift</p> <p>Acceptance of grant</p> <p>I, on behalf of the University of _____, accept this offer of funding as set out above in Financial Year 2020-21. I agree to comply with SFC's Financial Memorandum, the conditions of funding and requirements of grant, and the monitoring and evaluation requirements as outlined in the offer of grant.</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>	
UKRPIF project	
<p>Section 2a: UKRPIF uplift</p> <p>I, on behalf of the University of _____, accept this offer of funding as set out in Annex B in Financial Year 2020-21 for [Name of UKRPIF project]. I agree to comply with SFC's Financial Memorandum, the conditions of funding and requirements of grant, and the monitoring and evaluation requirements as outlined in the offer of grant.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>I, on behalf of the University of _____, wish to accept a lower allocation of £ [please indicate a suitable additional amount] as set out above in Financial Year 2020-21 for [Name of UKRPIF project]. I agree to comply with SFC's Financial Memorandum, the conditions of funding and requirements of grant, and the monitoring and evaluation requirements as outlined in the offer of grant.</p> <p><i>or</i></p> <p>I, on behalf of the University of _____, confirm that we are unable to meet the conditions of funding and wish to decline this allocation.</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>	
<p>Section 2b: Additional UKRPIF uplift</p> <p>Could your UKRPIF project spend an increased allocation if redistribution occurs in accordance with the conditions of funding?</p> <p>Yes / No [delete as applicable]</p> <p>If yes, please indicate a suitable maximum amount:</p> <p>£</p>	