



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba

**University Financial Transactions
Programme FY 2021-22:
Invitation of Expressions of Interest**

SFC Call for Information

Issue Date: 25 May 2021

University Financial Transactions Programme FY 2021-22: Invitation of Expressions of Interest

Issue date: 25 May 2021

Deadline: 30 July 2021

Reference: SFC/CI/07/2021

Summary: Announcement of SFC University Financial Transactions Programme: Invitation of Expressions of Interest in Financial Year (FY) 2021-22.

FAO: Principals/Finance Directors of Scotland's universities

Further information: **Contact:** Rufus Logan
Job title: Assistant Director, Capital and Climate Change
Department: Finance
Tel: 0131 313 6672
Email: rlogan@sfc.ac.uk



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Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Scottish Funding Council
Apex 2
97 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HD
T 0131 313 6500
www.sfc.ac.uk

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University Financial Transactions Programme FY 2021-22: Invitation of Expressions of Interest

Purpose

1. SFC invites universities to submit expressions of interest for Financial Transactions (FT) in Financial Year (FY) 2021-22. The programme will provide low-interest loans totalling up to £32.8 million in FY 2021-22 to support university capital investments made in response to the climate emergency. The programme aim is to significantly reduce the Scottish university sector carbon footprint and institutions are encouraged to submit proposals that would showcase innovation and sustainability across the sector.
2. SFC has £22.1 million of FT funding available in FY 2021-22. However we estimate that a circa £32.8 million programme will be available in 2021-22, utilising an estimated £10.7 million of repayments. All FT funding is to be directed towards climate emergency projects, which meet one or more criteria and deliver the outcomes summarised below.

Criteria

- Capital projects that are part of a university estate's strategic response to the climate emergency.
 - Priority will be given to projects which offer the greatest carbon savings in returns for the funding. There is no set/qualifying/minimum carbon payback metric (i.e. £ per TCO₂), but as a minimum each project will be expected to quantify the planned direct environmental benefits from the funding requested.
 - Collaboration with other organisations is encouraged, for example around shared facilities or buildings, and/or the university acting as a civic anchor for city-wide projects.
3. Projects should:
 - Advance the university's carbon management/net zero plan.
 - Be consistent with national energy strategies/pathways to net zero set out by the Scottish Government (e.g. phasing out of gas).
 - Make a contribution to other related (non-carbon) issues of sustainability (biodiversity, communities, quality education, social and mental health).
 - Help deliver local heat and energy efficiency strategies (LHEES) where possible.

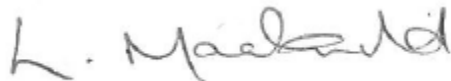
- Demonstrate leverage of other sources of funding to support these wider outcomes where possible.

Next steps

4. Universities are now invited to submit a short expression of interest by 30 July 2021. These should include:
 - A brief summary of the project (a paragraph).
 - Status in terms of readiness to proceed.
 - An estimate of the total project budget, and the amount of loan funding sought.
 - A brief summary of the environmental impacts the project aims to address and be measured against.
5. Outline proposals will be invited for submission from 6 August 2021. Proposals selected for funding will need to be finalised by November 2021.

Further information

6. SFC welcomes early discussions with universities on potential proposals, particularly in relation to collaborative and innovative projects. For application forms and enquiries please contact Rufus Logan, email: rlogan@sfc.ac.uk.



Lorna MacDonald
Director of Finance