



Research  
England



Cyngor Cylido Addysg  
Uwch Cymru  
Higher Education Funding  
Council for Wales

hefcw



14 July 2022

# UK Research Partnership Investment Fund

**Round seven: FY 2023-25**

**Guidance for applicants**

# Table of contents

<b>Executive summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Purpose .....	3
Key points .....	3
Action required .....	3
Timeline .....	4
<b>Section 1: Introduction .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 2: Funding and eligibility .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Funding available .....	6
How funds can be used .....	6
Approach to funding .....	7
Eligibility criteria for applicants .....	7
<b>Section 3: The assessment process .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Assessment panel .....	8
Intent to Submit (Tranche 1 and Tranche 2) .....	9
EOI panel assessment (Tranche 2) .....	9
Full bid panel assessment (Tranche 1 and Tranche 2) .....	9
<b>Section 4: Assessment criteria .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Table 2: EOI assessment criteria .....	10
Table 3: Full bid stage assessment criteria .....	11
Assessment criteria: further information .....	11
Wider factors for consideration by panel .....	14
<b>Section 5: Guidance on co-investment .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Co-investment: what is eligible? .....	16
How to evidence co-investment .....	16
Co-investment: further information .....	18
<b>Section 6: How to apply .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Intent to Submit (Tranche 1 and Tranche 2) .....	21
Intent to Submit: Tranche 1 questionnaire .....	21
Expression of Interest stage (Tranche 2 only) .....	21
Full Bid Stage (Tranche 1 and Tranche 2) .....	22
<b>Section 7: Requirements post-award .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Payment of capital grants .....	24
Post award assurance .....	24
Compliance with Subsidy Control and other relevant legislation .....	24
Monitoring and evaluation .....	25
Charity income (England and Scotland only) .....	25
Business income (England only) .....	25
Non-charity income (Scotland only) .....	25
Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 .....	25
Data Protection .....	26
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion .....	26
<b>Appendix 1: List of abbreviations .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Example methodology for calculating contributions in-kind .....</b>	<b>29</b>

# Executive summary

## Purpose

1. This document sets out the arrangements for a seventh round of the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF).

## Key points

2. UK higher education providers (HEPs) and eligible research institutes with a significant track record of research excellence are invited to submit a bid for capital funding to be awarded on a competitive basis. Bids must evidence at least a 2:1 co-investment match from non-public sources for the UKRPIF funding requested.
3. £100 million of UKRPIF funding is available in this round of competition (round seven) to support large-scale capital projects during financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25.
4. This round will consist of two tranches of funding:
  - **Tranche 1:** A one-stage process where applicants are invited to submit a Full bid. In this accelerated process, applicants will be required to demonstrate that their proposed project is at an advanced stage of planning and significant progress has already been made to establish the partnerships and secure commitment of co-investment.
  - **Tranche 2:** A two-stage process where applicants are required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) bid for assessment, after which successful applicants will be invited to submit a Full bid. This additional time will allow applicants to develop the necessary partnerships, consider the extent of UKRPIF funding required and secure the required co-investment.

## Action required

5. **All applicants** must complete and return an Intent to Submit form<sup>1</sup> to the UKRPIF team by **noon on Thursday 4 August 2022** via email to [researchpartnership@re.ukri.org](mailto:researchpartnership@re.ukri.org). At this stage, all applicants must indicate whether they plan to submit through tranche 1 or tranche 2. For more information, please see Section 6, paragraphs 72-77.
6. The closing date for both tranche 1 Full bids and tranche 2 EOI bids is **noon on Monday 11 October 2022**. All bids should be emailed to [researchpartnership@re.ukri.org](mailto:researchpartnership@re.ukri.org). for more information, Section 6, paragraphs 78-85.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Intent to Submit form is available to download from the UKRPIF page of the Funding Finder.

## Timeline

**Table 1: UKRPIF Round seven timeline**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Soft launch	June 2022
UKRPIF round seven call opens	14 July 2022
Intent to Submit closing date (Tranches 1 and 2)	4 August 2022
Closing date for: - Tranche 1 Full bids - Tranche 2 EOIs	11 October 2022
Assessment panel 1	January 2023 (TBC)
Notification of: - successful tranche 1 bids - invitation for successful tranche 2 EOIs to be developed into Full bids	February/March 2023 (TBC)
Start of funding period	1 April 2023
Closing date for tranche 2 full bids	June 2023 (TBC)
Assessment panel 2	August 2023 (TBC)
Notification of successful tranche 2 bids	September/October 2023 (TBC)
End of funding period	31 March 2025

## Section 1: Introduction

7. The UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) was established in the 2012 Budget. Since then over £900 million in UKRPIF funding has been allocated to 53 projects across the UK through six rounds of competition. This investment has attracted over £2.2 billion of additional investment from business, charities and philanthropic partners.
8. A further £100 million of UKRPIF funding is available in this round of competition (round seven) to support large-scale capital projects during financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25.
9. UKRPIF is dedicated to supporting ground-breaking, large-scale capital projects from HEPs and eligible research institutes with a significant track record of research excellence. UKRPIF projects must secure at least 2:1 double match co-investment match from private sources (businesses, charities, endowments or individual philanthropy). It is expected that the investment will be anchored in research activities but may also benefit other areas of higher education activity.
10. By investing in new R&D facilities that enables the UK's HEPs to conduct more world-leading research, UKRPIF supports the formation of new and strengthens existing partnerships, and unlocks private investment in R&D. Therefore, UKRPIF will continue to be instrumental in realising the UK Government's ambition set out in the Innovation Strategy<sup>2</sup> and delivering against UKRI's five-year strategy<sup>3</sup>, securing the UK's position as a globally leading research and innovation nation with outstanding infrastructures and facilities across the breadth of the country.
11. The objectives of UKRPIF are to:
  - Enhance the research facilities of HEPs undertaking world-leading research
  - Encourage strategic partnerships between HEPs and other organisations active in research
  - Stimulate additional investment in higher education research
  - Strengthen the contribution of the research base to economic growth.
12. UKRPIF is a UK-wide scheme delivered by the UKRPIF team at Research England in partnership with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland (DfENI). Applicants across the UK should apply directly to Research England as it is the lead delivery partner.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-innovation-strategy-leading-the-future-by-creating-it>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/strategy-plans-and-data/our-strategy-2022-to-2027/>

## Section 2: Funding and eligibility

### Funding available

13. A total of £100 million is available for this round of UKRPIF. Applicants can request capital funding of between £10 million and £50 million for any individual project over the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25.
14. Projects that do not meet the lower limit for UKRPIF investment may be considered for funding. In this case, bids should articulate how the level of funding requested is appropriate for the focus of the project and demonstrate how the project will meet the UKRPIF objectives and extend the scheme's reach beyond the research disciplines and industrial sectors it has supported to date.

### How funds can be used

15. Funding should be used to support the development of research infrastructure in HEPs undertaking excellent research. This includes projects that will deliver new buildings, major refurbishment of existing facilities or the purchase of high-cost research equipment. Projects should be developed to enable and strengthen strategic partnerships with private organisations to tackle shared research goals of strategic national importance. This could include sharing buildings or equipment or establishing a new research campus as part of a partnership.
16. The requirement of 2:1 matched co-investment from private sources (i.e. £2 of private co-investment for every £1 invested by the fund) is a condition of UKRPIF grant funding and a key part of the bid process.
17. Collaborative bids between multiple HEPs which bring together collective capability and resource are welcome, provided the lead HEP meets the criteria for scale and quality of research. A collaborative proposal should be for a coherent project across the partners, rather than a series of smaller unconnected projects.
18. All UKRPIF funding awarded in this round of competition must be spent in financial years (FY) 2023-24 and 2024-25. Funds should be managed in accordance with the guidance set out in this document and with the overarching principles for managing public funds set out in HM Treasury's guidance on 'Managing public money'<sup>4</sup>. UKRPIF funds cannot be received in advance of need (i.e. payments made before equivalent value is received in return) and payments should be scheduled with the UKRPIF team to reflect the ongoing cashflow of a project during the funding period.
19. Successful projects will be subject to monitoring, evaluation and audit coordinated by the UKRPIF team.

---

<sup>4</sup> Available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-public-money>

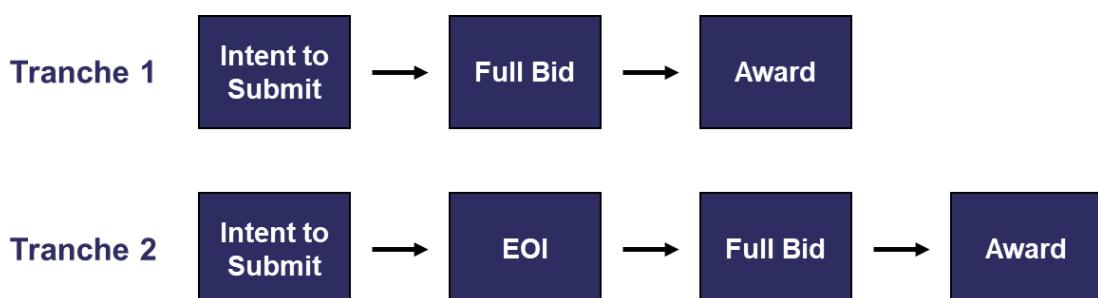
## Approach to funding

20. The funding available in this round will be awarded in two tranches.

- **Tranche 1:** A one-stage process where applicants are invited to submit a Full bid. In this accelerated process, applicants will be required to demonstrate that their proposed project is at an advanced stage of planning and significant progress has already been made to establish the partnerships and secure commitment of co-investment.
- **Tranche 2:** A two-stage process where applicants are required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) bid for assessment, after which successful applicants will be invited to submit a Full bid. This additional time will allow applicants to develop the necessary partnerships, consider the UKRPIF funding required and secure the required co-investment.

21. Tranche 1 has been introduced as an accelerated bid process to allow UKRPIF to be more responsive to opportunities at a more advanced stage of planning. It is expected that projects awarded in tranche 1 will spend a significant proportion of the UKRPIF funding in FY 2023-24.

22. The high-level bid process for each tranche is presented below. For further details on the requirements at each stage, see Section 6 below.



23. The UKRPIF team aims to ensure a fair balance of funding across both tranches taking into account the volume of bids received.

## Eligibility criteria for applicants

24. UKRPIF funding is available to all UK HEPs that are eligible for research funding from Research England, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland (DfENI).

25. Each HEP can be involved in up to three bids across both tranches as the lead applicant, and may be involved in additional bids as a collaborative partner. HEPs will be assessed on their capacity to deliver against their commitments if they are involved in multiple bids.

26. To address key social challenges where relevant expertise is not available in the higher education research base, funding is also available to research institutes that receive core funding from UKRI and are wholly owned by a Research Council, provided it is in partnership with a HEP leading the bid.

27. Eligible applicants are required to:

- Apply for funding of between £10 million and £50 million (with the exceptions noted in paragraph 14).
- Spend the funding on capital services and goods received by 31 March 2025.
- Secure 2:1 double-matched co-investment from private sources. This means applicants must secure £2 of private co-investment for every £1 of UKRPIF funding requested. For more information on what is considered eligible co-investment and how it should be evidenced, see Section 5, paragraphs 58-61.
- Demonstrate significant scale of research and a track record of research excellence in the disciplines related to the bid.
- Provide evidence of credible plans to implement the project successfully and draw down UKRPIF funding within the funding period.
- Have informed RE of their intention to submit by **4 August 2022**.

### **Section 3: The assessment process**

28. This section describes the process for assessing EOI (tranche 2) and Full bid stage (tranche 1 and 2) bids. For information on the Intent to Submit stage, see Section 6, paragraphs 72-77.

29. The UKRPIF team is committed to ensuring a fair assessment process. All EOI and Full stage bids will be assessed by an independent UKRPIF Assessment Panel. Prior to assessment by the panel, bids will be checked to ensure:

- The lead provider has met the eligibility criteria described in the guidance.
- The bid contains all the information requested in the guidance.
- The documentation does not raise any queries that need to be addressed before the panel undertakes its assessment.

30. To support the panel in making in their assessment, bids will be reviewed by a range of experts within Research England and, where necessary, other partners such as the relevant higher education funding body, government department or UKRI council(s).

31. All EOI and Full bid stage templates and accompanying guidance are available to view as PDFs, for the purpose of planning, on the UKRPIF page of the UKRI Funding Finder. Applicants will be provided with editable versions of relevant templates by the UKRPIF team following the Intent to Submit stage.

### **Assessment panel**

32. At each stage, the assessment panel will consider the relative strengths of each bid against the relevant assessment criteria (see Section 4) and ensure the requirements of the fund have been met by the projects they recommend for funding. Additionally at Full bid stage the panel will take into account wider factors, see Section 4, paragraph 53.

33. The UKRPIF team is currently recruiting panel members and the full membership will be published ahead of the first assessment panel meeting.

## **Intent to Submit (Tranche 1 and Tranche 2)**

34. The Intent to Submit stage represents formal notification of a HEP's intention to apply to the scheme. While this is non-binding, and the information provided is not assessed, it is a requirement of all applications.

## **EOI panel assessment (Tranche 2)**

35. The assessment panel will apply the EOI assessment criteria (see Section 4, table 2) to all EOI bids and will recommend a shortlist to proceed to Full stage bid development, taking into account the number of EOI bids received and the funds available. EOI bids judged by the panel not to present a strong case for funding and/or do not meet the requirements of UKRPIF will be rejected at this stage.

## **Full bid panel assessment (Tranche 1 and Tranche 2)**

36. In **both tranche 1 and 2**, at Full bid stage the assessment panel reserves the right to recommend reducing the funding allocations to individual projects, or making pro rata reductions across all projects. The UKRPIF team will explore with the relevant HEPs the viability of projects where the funding applied for cannot be provided in full.
37. For **tranche 1 bids**: Following the panel assessment of tranche 1 Full bids, the panel will be given the opportunity to recommend a small number of unsuccessful tranche 1 bids be invited to reapply to tranche 2 Full stage.
38. For **tranche 2 bids**: Following the panel meeting at EOI stage, shortlisted projects will be invited to submit Full stage bids.

## Section 4: Assessment criteria

39. At each stage, the assessment panel will judge the relative strengths of each bid against the assessment criteria below:
  - for the EOI assessment criteria, see table 2
  - for the Full bid stage assessment criteria, see table 3.
40. Further information on each of the assessment criteria is provided below.

**Table 2: EOI assessment criteria**

<b>A</b>	<b>Research Excellence</b>
	How the proposed capital activity will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build on existing research excellence within the provider(s)</li><li>• Lead to new world-leading research</li></ul>
<b>B</b>	<b>Co-investment</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The scale, timing and type of co-investment and how it will support the proposed capital and/or research activity</li><li>• The quality of evidence of co-investment, clearly linked to the proposed capital and/or research activity</li></ul>
<b>C</b>	<b>Strategic partnerships</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How the proposed capital activity will establish new or strengthen existing partnerships with other organisations active in research</li></ul>
<b>D</b>	<b>Feasibility, delivery, management</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The extent to which the proposed capital activity can be achieved within the funding period, including the strength of project and financial planning, and risk management.</li></ul>

**Table 3: Full bid stage assessment criteria**

<b>A</b>	<b>Research Excellence</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why the applying HEP(s) are best placed to undertake the proposed activity</li> <li>• How the proposed capital activity will lead to new world-leading research</li> <li>• How the proposed capital and research activity will develop and attract R&amp;D talent?</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	<b>Co-investment</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scale, timing and type of co-investment and how it will support the proposed capital and/or research activity</li> <li>• The quality of evidence of co-investment, clearly linked to the proposed capital and/or research activity</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	<b>Strategic partnerships</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the proposed capital activity will establish new or strengthen existing partnerships with other organisations active in research</li> <li>• How these partnerships will build on collective research strengths to deliver local and national strategic interests</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	<b>Feasibility, delivery, management</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent to which the proposed capital activity can be achieved within the funding period, including the strength of project and financial planning, and risk management.</li> <li>• How the proposed capital activity and/or research activity has been developed to account for and support equality, diversity and inclusion.</li> </ul>
<b>E</b>	<b>Economic impact, public benefit, and value for money</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the proposed capital and/or research activity will generate sustained socio-economic returns</li> <li>• The extent to which the proposed capital and/or research activity is new and innovative</li> <li>• The extent to which the proposed infrastructure will be available for public use</li> <li>• How the proposed capital and research activity will be sustained long-term</li> </ul>

### Assessment criteria: further information

#### A. Research Excellence

41. The panel will consider **why the applying HEP(s) are best placed to undertake the proposed research activity**. This includes accounting for the scale of research and track record of research excellence within an applying provider; in particular, the results of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 in disciplines specific to the focus of the proposal. The panel will also welcome data sources outside of the REF 2021, provided they are relevant to the proposed activity. The panel will be guided to assess the intrinsic merit of research and not to consider the publication channel, its impact factor (or other journal metrics), or the publisher when assessing quality.
42. The panel will consider **how the proposed capital activity will lead to new world-leading research**, including:

- i. How the proposed capital activity will strengthen the provider's research in the disciplines related to the bid and lead to new research outputs at national and international levels.
- ii. The alignment of the project's research objectives with wider strategic drivers and policy goals. This includes the current national and international context but also identifying future opportunities.
- iii. The expected step change of research activity as a result of the proposed capital activity, including the extent to which it could happen without UKRPIF funding.
- iv. How the proposed capital activity will complement rather than duplicate research activity supported by existing infrastructures in the UK.

43. The panel will also consider **how the proposed capital and research activity will develop and attract R&D talent**. This includes how the project will promote a research environment that supports the aims of the R&D People and Culture Strategy<sup>5</sup> to attract, develop and retain a diverse range of people with the right skills.

## **B. Co-investment**

44. The panel will consider **the scale, timing and type of co-investment** that is evidenced as part of the 2:1 committed co-investment requirement.<sup>6</sup> This includes:
  - i. How the blend of co-investment types **will support the proposed capital and/or research activity**, including how it would fit alongside the UKRPIF funding and any funding committed by the provider.
  - ii. The security and sustainability of the co-investment, including the balance between short and long-term commitments, and cash and in-kind commitments. The assessment panel will consider the balance of risks associated with bids in which a significant amount of co-investment is in-kind.
  - iii. The additionality of the co-investment (i.e. the extent to which the co-investment is new and would not be available without UKRPIF funding).
45. The panel will consider the **quality of evidence of co-investment** that is submitted as part of a bid. This includes:
  - i. The level and accuracy of detail provided to evidence co-investment, **clearly linked to the proposed capital and/or research activity**.
  - ii. The robustness of methodologies used to value in-kind commitments (see Section 5, paragraphs 66-68). The panel will assess how the financial values of in-kind contributions have been calculated and how bidding HEPs will evidence, measure and track this co-investment across the period of the contribution.

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-and-development-rd-people-and-culture-strategy>

<sup>6</sup> For further information of what is eligible as co-investment and how to evidence it, see Section 5, paragraphs 58-61.

### C. Strategic partnerships

46. Although this criterion refers to partnerships with eligible co-investors (see Section 5, paragraph 58) the panel will also consider how other stakeholder organisations and partners which are relevant to the proposal will support and benefit from the proposed capital and/or research activity.
47. The panel will consider **how the proposed capital activity will establish new or strengthen existing partnerships with other organisations active in research**. This could include:
  - i. Shared objectives and outcomes
  - ii. Risk sharing to support the delivery of the proposed capital activity
  - iii. The extent and depth of collaboration
  - iv. The longevity of collaborations with partner organisations
48. The panel will also consider **how these partnerships will build on collective strengths to deliver local and national interests**. This could include:
  - i. How the partnership will encourage the take-up and bid of research among users (e.g. clinicians, SMEs) within and outside the sector.
  - ii. Engagement with local partner organisations to exploit and develop an area's competitive advantage.
  - iii. Engagement with national and international partner organisations to address global challenges and opportunities.

### D. Feasibility, delivery and management

49. The panel will consider the extent to which the proposed capital activity can be achieved within the allotted funding period, including:
  - i. The coherence of **project** and **financial planning**, including milestones.
  - ii. The extent to which **risk** has been accounted for and will be mitigated. This includes risks to the proposed capital activity and management of spend within the funding period, as well as risks posed to achieving the research and co-investment objectives.
50. The panel will consider the extent to which the proposed capital activity and/or research activity has been developed to account for and support equality, diversity and inclusion.

### E. Economic impact, public benefit and value for money

51. The panel will consider the public benefits of the proposed capital activity and **how the proposed infrastructure and research will generate sustained socio-economic returns from the UKRPIF investment**. This could include but is not limited to:
  - i. Translation and commercialisation of research (e.g. new Intellectual Property (IP); spinouts)
  - ii. Benefits to industry (from SMEs to large multinational companies)
  - iii. Benefits to society

- iv. Contributions to local economic growth (e.g. knowledge spillovers)
- v. Job creation
- vi. Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI)

52. The panel will consider the value for money benefits of the proposed capital and research activity. This includes but is not limited to:

- i. the extent to which the proposed capital activity is new and innovative.
- ii. the extent to which the proposed infrastructure will be available for public use.
- iii. how the infrastructure and supported research activity will be sustained long-term.

### **Wider factors for consideration by panel**

53. In addition to the assessment criteria, the panel will consider a number of wider factors to inform its decision making and funding recommendations:

- i. The extent to which projects are aligned with broader government strategy, for example large-scale projects which act in the strategic national interest across disciplines, address social challenges or both, or which support productivity and innovation in established or emerging sectors.
- ii. The extent to which the projects it recommends for funding will extend the diversity of research disciplines and industrial sectors supported in the previous rounds of the UKRPIF<sup>7</sup> where significant benefit would arise.
- iii. The extent to which the proposed capital and research activity will be developed to minimise the impact on the natural environment and carbon emissions. This information is required in Annex B of the Full bid stage templates.

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/uk-research-partnership-investment-fund/>

## Section 5: Guidance on co-investment

54. The requirement of 2:1 matched co-investment from private sources is a condition of UKRPIF grant funding and a key part of the bid process. The following principles should be considered when developing a funding bid:

- Co-investment should represent or encourage genuine strategic partnerships or research collaborations that tackle research challenges of strategic national interest. The outputs of this research should serve the public interest.
- Co-investment should be used to achieve the research objectives of the bid and benefit the project clearly and directly.
- Co-investment can be from both foreign and domestic sources.
- It is expected that co-investors will share the risk in the success of the proposed project.
- Applicants should consider UKRI's Principles on Trusted Research and Innovation when engaging with partners<sup>8</sup>.

55. **Please note that the UKRPIF team has updated the co-investment requirements for UKRPIF round seven.** Applicants should aim to provide evidence of the required 2:1 level of committed co-investment at Full bid stage. However, bids will be accepted where a significant proportion (but not all) of the required 2:1 level of committed co-investment is evidenced. In this case, bids must present a clear and achievable plan for how the remaining co-investment commitments will be met, and evidenced, before funding commences (See Annex D of the Full bid stage templates). Awards will not be permitted to begin drawing down UKRPIF funding until evidence of the required 2:1 level of committed co-investment is provided to and approved by the UKRPIF team.

56. The assessment panel will be guided to give stronger support to applications that are able evidence the required 2:1 level of committed co-investment in full at the point of Full bid submission.

57. Co-investment will be reviewed and assessed in two ways during the bid process:

- i. The assessment panel will assess how co-investment will support the proposed capital and/or research activity detailed in each bid against the assessment criteria (see Section 4, paragraphs 44-45). The quality of evidence that is provided will also be assessed by the panel.
- ii. RE will conduct due diligence and assurance checks to support the panel's considerations and ensure that co-investment commitments have been clearly evidenced and meet UKRPIF eligibility requirements (see Section 2, paragraphs 24-27). These checks will be carried out at the EOI and Full bid stages, but additional evidence and assurances may be requested outside of this or as a condition of award. Input from government departments, UKRI research councils and independent advisers may support this process.

---

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-standards-and-data/good-research-resource-hub/trusted-research-and-innovation/>

## Co-investment: what is eligible?

58. Co-investment should be sourced from private sources outside the UK and EU public sectors (including any EU-based contracting authority). An indicative list of the sources and types of co-investment deemed eligible and ineligible is provided below (table 4). Please note, this list is not exhaustive; applicants should contact the UKRPIF team at [researchpartnership@re.ukri.org](mailto:researchpartnership@re.ukri.org) to clarify the eligibility of co-investment sources as required.

**Table 4: Sources of co-investment**

Co-investment sources		Co-investment types	
Eligible	Ineligible	Eligible	Ineligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses (including those based outside of the UK)</li> <li>• Charities, charitable trusts and foundations</li> <li>• Philanthropic donations, including private funds held in an endowment by the applying institution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK government departments and non-departmental public bodies (e.g. UKRI)</li> <li>• EU public sector initiatives to which the UK Government is a contributing member (e.g. European Space Agency)</li> <li>• Local authorities</li> <li>• The NHS, including private finance initiative funding to hospital trusts (NHS charities are eligible)</li> <li>• HEPs or trading subsidiary organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital cash</li> <li>• Capital in-kind (e.g. donations of equipment, software, data)</li> <li>• Recurrent cash (e.g. grant funding for existing or ongoing research activity)</li> <li>• Recurrent in-kind (e.g. staff support)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-investment considered to be a loan</li> <li>• Rental income</li> <li>• Future revenue streams</li> <li>• Finance where the return to investor is not dependent on the success of the research project</li> <li>• Supplier discounts (unless clear evidence is provided of further discount over best available market price)</li> <li>• Co-investment already committed as match towards other public funding</li> </ul>

## How to evidence co-investment

59. Applicants must provide robust evidence that confirmed funding agreements from co-investors are in place which clearly link to the proposed capital and research activity, rather than part of a broader development. Typically, evidence for each commitment will be provided in a letter from the co-investor signed by a staff member with appropriate authority. Supporting evidence (e.g. market valuations of commitments in-kind) should also be submitted as required.

60. Letters of support from co-investors and any supporting evidence should detail:

- The relationship between the HEP and co-investor.
- The specific commitment to the project and the terms on which it will be made, including the anticipated return and benefits to the partner. If co-investment is already committed to the institution, supporting evidence should clearly state the co-investor's support for directing funds to the specific project. Commitments should relate directly to the project rather than being part of a broader development.
- A breakdown of the value of the commitment, including type (e.g. cash or in-kind, recurrent or capital). Further guidance on specific types of co-investment is below in paragraphs 62-71.
- A detailed and robust methodology must be provided for valuing all in-kind commitments. Example methodologies for in-kind commitments are available in Appendix 2, which applicants are welcome to follow or modify.
- The period over which the co-investment will be received (by financial year). This should also be provided in tab 3 of Annex C of the Full bid stage templates<sup>9</sup>.

61. Evidence of co-investment and partner support with supporting narratives are required at different stages of the application process, as shown below in table 5.

---

<sup>9</sup> All EOI and Full bid stage templates and accompanying guidance are available to view as PDFs, for the purpose of planning, on the UKRPIF page of the Funding Finder. Applicants will be provided with editable versions of relevant templates by the UKRPIF team following the Intent to Submit stage.

**Table 5: co-investment evidence**

<b>Bid stage</b>	<b>Template</b>	<b>Evidence and details required</b>
Intent to submit (Tranche 1 and 2)	Intent to submit template	Details of existing partners, partnership arrangements and co-investment (tranche 1 questionnaire only)
EOI (Tranche 2 only)	EOI template	Summary of co-investment sources and commitments (by value, type and security/stage)
	Letters of intent (attached to EOI as separate pdf)	Letters of intent from all major co-investors (committing £1m or more)
Full bid stage (Tranche 1 and 2)	Full bid template	Narrative statement to support the evidence provided in Annex C and Annex D (question 8)
	Annex A: document checklist	n/a
	Annex B: Building works, equipment purchases and environmental sustainability	n/a
	Annex C: financial information	Summary of co-investment sources and commitments (by value, type and security/stage) Projected schedule of co-investment income (by FY) Details of how co-investment income will be monitored
	Annex D: Evidence of co-investment and support	Summary of co-investment sources and commitments (Section 1) Letters of support and supporting evidence (Section 2)

## Co-investment: further information

### Recurrent research funding as co-investment

62. Recurrent grant funding for existing or ongoing research activity is eligible as co-investment, but the panel will be guided to give stronger support to other forms of co-investment.
63. Where the co-investment is recurrent and funds research activity, bids must provide information on the nature of the research that will be supported and how it will deliver public benefit. If the co-investment is an existing funding stream, it is important to show how the UKRPIF funding will deliver additional value to the development beyond what would have happened without it. It is also important to demonstrate that linking recurrent funding for existing research activity to this project will not divert funds from important research activity elsewhere.

64. Recurrent funding will only be eligible as co-investment from the point at which the research activity of the proposed development is underway and not before this date, which must be clearly identified in the bid.
65. Where funding is recurrent in nature, the bid must explicitly demonstrate the additional value achieved by linking such funding to both the proposed research development and the UKRPIF funding, beyond what would have been achieved without the UKRPIF investment. This will include considering whether any recurrent funding is additional to the baseline funding already received by the institution from a given co-investor.

### **In-kind co-investment**

66. Where contributions in-kind are included as co-investment, it is essential that proposals demonstrate clearly how such contributions will add value to the project, as well as how the lead HEP will evidence, measure and track this co-investment across the period of the contribution. The assessment panel will consider the balance of risk associated with bids in which a significant amount of co-investment is in-kind.
67. When accounting for in-kind contributions, bids should:
  - i. Demonstrate how the financial value of contributions have been calculated. Applicants should work with their co-investors to develop and present a detailed and robust methodology for valuing in-kind contributions. Example methodologies for in-kind commitments are available in Appendix 2 of this document, which applicants are welcome to follow or modify.
  - ii. Present a robust framework under which the receipt of the contributions in-kind will be monitored for the lifetime of the project (see Annex C of the full bid templates).
68. Contributions in-kind must have a present value that can be audited against source documents. The value must not be an assessment of future revenue streams.

### **Leases**

69. The lease of land, buildings or part of a building is allowed as a contribution in-kind with certain caveats. It is not possible to be prescriptive about the conditions under which leases are acceptable, so where they are proposed, the UKRPIF team and the assessment panel will assess their acceptability on a case-by-case basis. Applicants will need to present a strong justification for this form of co-investment and should contact the UKRPIF team prior to their submission to discuss this.

### **Collaboration, including joint ventures and ownership arrangements**

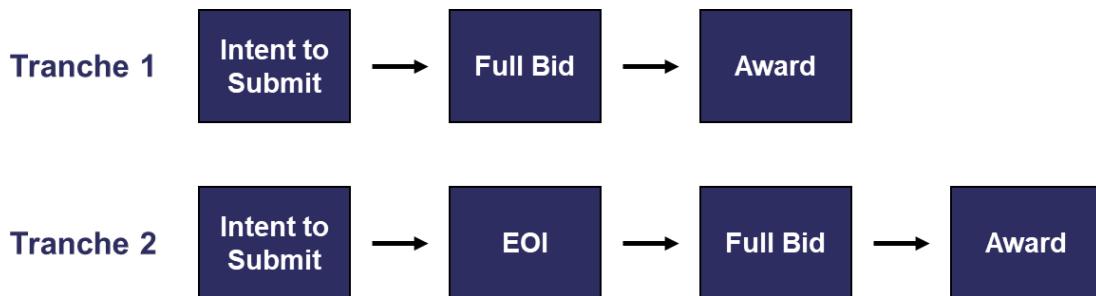
70. Collaboration with industry can occur in many forms. Joint ventures or joint ownership of facilities, for example, can cement a relationship and provide evidence of the strength of a collaboration. However, where public capital funding is being invested, the funded infrastructure or equipment should remain public or open for public use. We expect successful UKRPIF projects to consider the principles of open research in their research environment, including efforts to demonstrate that:
  - Where possible, research outputs arising from publicly funded research in the UK are widely and freely accessible as soon as possible after they are published.

- Open access to research data is embedded in research practice. This is considered to be an enabler of high-quality research, with the potential to facilitate innovation and safeguard good practice.

71. Assets which are transferred into a joint venture vehicle between the HEP and a co-investor are allowed as contributions in-kind with certain caveats. The UKRPIF team and the assessment panel will assess their acceptability on a case-by-case basis. HEPs wishing to include these types of contributions in their bids should contact the UKRPIF team prior to their submission to discuss this.

## Section 6: How to apply

72. The high-level bid process for each tranche is as follows:



### Intent to Submit (Tranche 1 and Tranche 2)

73. **All applicants** must complete and return an Intent to Submit form<sup>10</sup> to the UKRPIF team by **noon on Thursday 4 August 2022** via email to [researchpartnership@re.ukri.org](mailto:researchpartnership@re.ukri.org). At this stage, all applicants must indicate whether they plan to submit through tranche 1 or tranche 2.

74. To do this, **all applicants** are required to complete Section 1 of the Intent to submit form that outlines:

- The intended capital and research activity of the proposed project
- The anticipated UKRPIF funding that will be requested, estimated project costs and level of co-investment that will be leveraged
- Which tranche the bid will be submitted to

75. The UKRPIF team will confirm with all applicants that their Intent to submit form has been received.

### Intent to Submit: Tranche 1 questionnaire

76. **Tranche 1 applicants** are required to complete the Tranche 1 questionnaire in Section 2 of the Intent to Submit form. This is to provide early assurance that the proposed capital activity and partnership arrangements are at a suitable stage of development to be developed into a Full bid (without EOI stage).

77. Tranche 1 submissions will be reviewed by the UKRPIF team and applicants will be advised whether they should proceed to Full bid stage. If the UKRPIF team considers that tranche 1 submissions require further development, applicants may be advised to apply through tranche 2. Section 2 questionnaires will not be used for assessment purposes.

### Expression of Interest stage (Tranche 2 only)

78. This section only applies to **tranche 2 applicants**. Tranche 1 applicants should go straight to the Full bid stage section (paragraph 81) below.

---

<sup>10</sup> The Intent to Submit form is available to download from the UKRPIF page of the Funding Finder.

79. **Tranche 2 applicants** are required to answer the questions presented in the EOI bid template provided<sup>11</sup>, referring to the EOI assessment criteria at table 1 above.

80. All EOI bid documents should be submitted to the UKRPIF team in a single email to [researchpartnership@re.ukri.org](mailto:researchpartnership@re.ukri.org) by **noon on Monday 11 October 2022**. Emailed EOI submissions should include the following documents:

<b>Table 6: Documents required for EOI submission</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Format</b>
Item 1	EOI template	This section should be no longer than 10 pages long.	PDF
Item 2	Evidence of proposed co-investment	This should include letters of intent from major co-investors committing £1 million or more and be reflected in EOI template (see question 5 in the EOI template).	PDF

### **Full Bid Stage (Tranche 1 and Tranche 2)**

81. The section applies to both **tranche 1 applicants and successful tranche 2 EOI applicants**.

82. All Full bid stage applicants are required to answer the questions presented in the Full bid template and complete the additional documents, Annexes A-D, taking into account to the Full bid stage assessment criteria at table 2 above.

83. **Tranche 1 applicants** must submit all Full bid documents in a single email to [researchpartnership@re.ukri.org](mailto:researchpartnership@re.ukri.org) by **noon on Monday 11 October 2022**.

84. Full bid applications submitted in tranche 2 must reflect the objectives and approach detailed in EOI bid submissions. The nature of co-investment may vary to take account of any changes since stage one, but any significant variation in the nature or level of funds requested (exceeding 10 per cent of the value originally requested) must be agreed by the UKRPIF team before the bid submission. This will include instances where the panel has indicated, at EOI stage, that the funding request should be adjusted.

---

<sup>11</sup> All EOI and Full bid stage templates and accompanying guidance are available to view as PDFs, for the purpose of planning, on the UKRPIF page of the Funding Finder. Applicants will be provided with editable versions of relevant templates by the UKRPIF team following the Intent to Submit stage.

85. Emailed Full bid submissions should include the following completed documents:

<b>Table 7: Documents required for Full bid submission</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Format</b>
Item 1	Full bid template	no longer than 24 pages, including an appended Gantt chart	PDF
Item 2	Annex A – Document checklist	Confirming that all necessary elements of the bid have been included	PDF
Item 3	Annex B – Building works, equipment purchases and environmental sustainability		PDF
Item 4	Annex C – Financial information	All tabs need to be completed	Excel
Item 5	Annex D – Evidence of co-investment and support	Including all letters of support and supporting evidence to reflect the financial information provided in Annex C. This section can also include letters of support and evidence of contributions that will support the proposed capital and research activity but do not qualify as eligible 2:1 match, as per the UKRPIF eligibility requirements (see Section 5).	PDF

## Section 7: Requirements post-award

### Payment of capital grants

86. Capital funding will be provided in the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for projects funded in tranche 1 and tranche 2. It is expected that projects awarded in tranche 1 will spend a significant proportion of the UKRPIF funding in FY 2023-24. Payment of grant funding will be made in accordance with the principles laid out in HM Treasury's 'Managing public money' guidance and aligned to the profile of project expenditure that we agree with each HEP. Where project expenditure is likely to be novel, contentious, or made in advance of value being received, the UKRPIF team should be consulted beforehand. HEPs may be asked to provide evidence supporting expenditure profiles prior to grant payments being made.
87. HEPs must advise the UKRPIF Team immediately if the expenditure profile changes significantly for any reason. Funding to cover any changes to the spending profile beyond the financial year for which it has been allocated is not guaranteed.

### Post award assurance

88. The UKRPIF team may request additional evidence and assurances from successful full bid applicants as a condition of award.
89. Bids that evidenced a significant proportion, but not all, of the required 2:1 level of co-investment will be required to confirm and evidence that the remaining co-investment is secured before funding can commence.

### Compliance with Subsidy Control and other relevant legislation

90. HEPs must ensure that their use of funding is compliant with any legislation applicable in the United Kingdom on or after 1 January 2021, including the Subsidy Control Act 2022<sup>12</sup>, that regulates the granting by a public sector body of any advantage which threatens to or actually distorts competition in the United Kingdom and/or any other country or countries ("UK Subsidy Control Framework<sup>13</sup>").
91. HEPs must inform the UKRPIF team of any breach of relevant subsidy control legislation as soon as this becomes known to them. HEPs acknowledge that if they breach any applicable legislation, Research England may be required to recover some or all grant funding, together with interest.
92. Successful bids at Full bid stage may be required to provide evidence and assurance that lead HEPs have identified, considered and addressed any subsidy control implications in accordance with relevant UK and EU legislation (where applicable), and have sought legal advice if appropriate<sup>14</sup>. A template and further information will be provided by the UKRPIF team if this is requested.

---

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/23/enacted>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complying-with-the-uks-international-obligations-on-subsidy-control-guidance-for-public-authorities>

<sup>14</sup> The UKRPIF team's assessment and satisfaction with material provided as evidence of complying with subsidy control requirements does not constitute any form of legal guarantee.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

93. The UKRPIF team will monitor the progress of successful UKRPIF projects. HEPs will be expected to regularly provide information on the progress of the capital development, on the receipt of co-investment and on compliance with relevant Government legislation.
94. Projects may be audited by the UKRPIF team, or an organisation commissioned by the UKRPIF team, at any stage. The UKRPIF team may also seek information from successful projects throughout their operation to inform updates to BEIS and HM Treasury. Each provider will also be required to submit a final evaluative report after the capital activity has concluded.
95. The UKRPIF team will also evaluate the outcomes from the UKRPIF investment in research facilities more generally. As part of this we may require HEPs to carry out an evaluation of outcomes. This may include complying with an overarching evaluative framework, or participating in evaluations delivered by organisations commissioned by the UKRPIF team, including complying with requests for information and being prepared to discuss the project with the evaluators.

## **Charity income (England and Scotland only)**

96. Where co-investment is from charities, the higher education funding bodies in England and Scotland will not include this income when calculating the charity support element of research funding, as these bodies' contribution to UKRPIF has already taken sustainability into account. In the annual HESA finance record for 2015-16 onwards, there will be a separate row labelled 'Co-investment from external sources on funding council-funded projects' on the 'Research grants and contracts' table ('Table 5' for 2015-16) for institutions to report any co-investment from charities under the UKRPIF initiative so that these sums can be deducted by the funding bodies.

## **Business income (England only)**

97. Equally, where co-investment is from businesses, the higher education funding body in England will not include this income when calculating the business element of research funding. Institutions should similarly report co-investment from business under the UKRPIF initiative in the 'Co-investment from external sources on funding council-funded projects' row in Table 5 of the HESA finance record.

## **Non-charity income (Scotland only)**

98. Equally, where co-investment is from non-charity sources, the SFC will not include this income when calculating the non-charity element of research funding. Institutions should similarly report co-investment from non-charity sources under the UKRPIF initiative in the 'Co-investment from external sources on funding council-funded projects' row in Table 5 of the HESA finance record.

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

99. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) give individuals rights to request and access

recorded information held by Research England, irrespective of its date, and subject to certain exemptions or exceptions.

100. Any requests for information received by the Research England will, therefore, fall under the Act or the Regulations, and Research England will comply with such requests in accordance with the Act, Regulations and UKRI Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations Policy.
101. This may result in information received by the Research England (e.g. bids, communications between the UKRPIF team and the provider, information arising this work), or outputs from work undertaken, being subject to disclosure if a valid request is made to us.
102. Information providers can, if they wish, provide potentially sensitive information (such as information relating to commercial interests) in a separate annex attached to the information provided to Research England (e.g. in a separate annex attached to the bid form – to be labelled 'Annex E'). With this annex, the bid must not exceed the maximum length as stated in the Full bid template. This will highlight to us that there are concerns about disclosure. The provider should acknowledge that Research England may, nevertheless, be obliged to disclose this information.
103. The assumption will be that all other information provided to Research England may be disclosed on request. The assumption will also be that all information provided to Research England may be published at some stage in the future, whether or not it is subject to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
104. Further information about the Act<sup>15</sup>, Regulations<sup>16</sup> and the UKRI Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations Policy<sup>17</sup> is available online.

## **Data Protection**

105. All personal data provided to Research England and UKRI in connection with this funding call will be processed in accordance with current UK data protection legislation. Further information on Research England's funding support can be found on our website<sup>18</sup>. Further information on how Research England uses personal data can be found in the UKRI Privacy Notice Privacy Notice<sup>19</sup>.

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

106. We expect HEPs to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion is considered and supported in the use of our funding, taking into account UKRI policies and principles for

---

<sup>15</sup> <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/what-we-do/legislation-we-cover/freedom-of-information-act/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/what-we-do/legislation-we-cover/environmental-information-regulations/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/freedom-of-information/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations-policy/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/publications/research-england-terms-and-conditions-2021-to-2022>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/privacy-notice/>

equality, diversity and inclusion<sup>20</sup>. HEPs' approaches to supporting equality, diversity and inclusion are expected to exceed all relevant legal obligations, including but not limited to those of the Equality Act 2010.

---

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/our-work/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>

## Appendix 1: List of abbreviations

<b>BEIS</b>	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
<b>DfENI</b>	Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland
<b>EOI</b>	Expression of interest
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>HEFCE</b>	Higher Education Funding Council for England
<b>HEFCW</b>	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
<b>HEP</b>	Higher Education Provider
<b>HESA</b>	Higher Education Statistics Agency
<b>IP</b>	Intellectual Property
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and development
<b>RE</b>	Research England
<b>SFC</b>	Scottish Funding Council
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprise
<b>UKRI</b>	UK Research and Innovation
<b>UKRPIF</b>	United Kingdom Research Partnership Investment Fund

## Appendix 2: Example methodology for calculating contributions in-kind

Type of contribution	Calculations	Comments
Staff support	Daily rate: [daily salary + oncosts (National Insurance + pension) + overhead]	Staff bands: for instance, junior and senior technical, junior and senior manager, director Appropriate overhead rates may be determined by comparison with usual commercial charge-out rates or rates permitted under funding programmes.
Equipment donation	Purchase price of equipment less depreciation charged OR Market value of equipment at time of donation	Valuation method: i. Purchase price and depreciation charged must be consistent with the financial statements. ii. Where market value is used, there must be clear, identifiable and auditable evidence of the market value of the equipment at the time of donation.
Equipment: Access to facilities (or time 'leased' to the project)	(purchase price less depreciation charged/365) + daily overhead rate X days' access	Purchase price and depreciation charged must be consistent with the financial statements. Appropriate overhead rates may be determined by comparison with usual commercial charge-out rates or rates permitted under funding programmes.

Software	<p>Market value of software licenses OR Cost of creating software including developers' time, coders' time, and value of intellectual input included in development</p>	<p>i. Where the software has a clear and identifiable market value, this should be used.</p> <p>ii. Where software has been developed internally and is not available on the open market, the reasonable cost of creating the software can be used, but this must be supported by clear, identifiable and auditable evidence of the staff time and costs involved.</p>
Data	<p>Market price of data OR Reasonable cost of reproducing the data including costs associated collecting the data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Infrastructure costs for collection (servers, networks and similar)</li> <li>ii. Infrastructure costs for generating the data (data monitoring infrastructure)</li> <li>iii. People time to collect and manage the data.</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <p>Where there is a dedicated data collection and management department: annual costs of data collection and management X number of years' data</p>	<p>Where the software has a clear and identifiable market value, this should be used.</p> <p>If there is no identifiable market price for the data, the reasonable cost of reproducing the data can be included. The costs should be identifiable, auditable and clearly related to the collection and management of the data.</p>