



Research
England

Circular letter

Regional Innovation Fund (RIF) grant allocations for financial year 2023 to 2024

To	Heads of Research England-funded higher education providers
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Enquiries to	kepolicy@re.ukri.org

Dear Vice-Chancellor or Principal

Notice of funding

1. Research England has received additional funding from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) for financial year 2023 to 2024. This is in addition to funding previously issued¹, and is allocated as the Regional Innovation Fund (RIF) of £48.8 million.
2. [DSIT's priorities for RIF](#) are to particularly target high performing universities in areas with lower levels of investment in research and development (R&D) as well as with high performance in regeneration funding, and support universities particularly to focus on business engagement and leading to economic growth.
3. All Higher Education Providers (HEPs) in receipt of a Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) allocation for 2023 to 2024 will receive a RIF allocation. It is important to note though that RIF has a different focus to HEIF set out in DSIT priorities, with a different allocation method.
4. RIF is allocated by applying a regional weighting to HEPs' 2023 to 2024 main HEIF allocations (excluding HEIF top-up allocations, and HEIF business and

¹ www.ukri.org/publications/research-england-grant-allocations-to-heps-2023-to-2024

commercialisation supplement). Regions are defined as ITL1 (International Territorial Level 1). The regional weightings are based on two elements:

- a. A regional R&D investment weighting determined using the gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD²) values for each ITL1 region in 2019 (the most recently available data year) normalised by the number of HEIF recipients for each ITL1 region, and inverting this weighting.
 - b. A regeneration income weighting based on the total regeneration programmes income in academic year 2021 to 2022 (the most recently available data year) totalled for HEIF recipients in each ITL1 region.
5. The final regional percentage weightings are determined by multiplying the regional regeneration and R&D investment weightings, applying these to existing HEIF allocations and scaling for available funding.
 6. RIF allocations should be spent within the financial year 2023 to 2024. Funds must be used for knowledge exchange (activities must involve an external - to the HEP - partner), and specifically must be used for activities focussed particularly on business engagement and that further economic growth and productivity, and these activities must be addressing local/regional priorities. RIF may be used for expenditure from the date of the funding announcement by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology on 3 October 2023.
 7. Funds can be used for revenue and capital expenditure. Capital use may include the purchase of equipment expressly for the purpose of knowledge exchange activities with external partners in line with fund priorities. For the avoidance of doubt, the use of this funding for capital expenditure relates to the RIF pilot funding only. Capital expenditure remains ineligible for HEIF allocations and related supplements including the business and commercialisation supplement.
 8. HEPs have discretion to focus RIF on the local/regional spatial footprint that is sensible for them in their primary geographic location. For example: related to their local partners, which may be local, combined or mayoral combined authorities, but also local R&D including business partners. We recognise that HEPs are likely to need to involve partners from outside of their chosen footprint. For example, specialist investors or research partners to enable activity, but the primary focus should be local/regional (to the HEP) partners, priorities and impacts.
 9. RIF allocations will be monitored via the existing HEIF Annual Monitoring Statement (AMS) process. HEPs will be asked to report on use of RIF allocations against the same infrastructure and expenditure categories as for HEIF (with RIF use being recorded

² 2019 GERD data sourced from the Office for National Statistics

separately to that of HEIF). We may also ask HEPs for examples of activity supported by RIF, to provide case studies of innovative approaches being supported through the funding, including for development of future policy.

10. The RIF allocations for each HEP in receipt of these funds are given in Annex B and have been added to Table 5 of workbook [Grant allocation data 2023 to 2024](#). The funding will be paid in November 2023.

Further information

11. Payment information for our other formula-based funding for 2023 to 2024 is available via our [funding allocations web pages](#).
12. Questions about RIF allocations should be directed to kepolicy@re.ukri.org, and further information is provided in the [RIF Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) document](#).

Yours faithfully



Professor Dame Jessica Corner
Executive Chair

Annex A: ITL1 regional weightings applied to 2023-24 HEIF allocations to calculate RIF 2023-24 allocations.

ITL1 Region	Regional weightings to calculate RIF allocations*
East Midlands	22%
East of England	3%
London	19%
North East	17%
North West	30%
Open University**	27%
South East	5%
South West	29%
West Midlands	52%
Yorkshire and the Humber	14%

* Published % weightings are rounded to 0 decimal places.

** The Open University is not located in one distinct ITL1 region, and so has a bespoke weighting halfway between the highest and lowest weightings of the other defined regions.

Annex B: Regional Innovation Fund (RIF) grant allocations for individual higher education providers 2023 to 2024

Higher education provider	RIF grant, financial year 2023 to 2024 (£)
AECC	77,904
Anglia Ruskin University Higher Education Corporation	59,640
The Arts University Bournemouth	74,791
University of the Arts, London	684,651
Aston University	1,148,260
University of Bath	518,372
University of Bedfordshire	16,540
University of Birmingham	2,417,423
Birmingham City University	775,009
Bournemouth University	174,211
The University of Bradford	79,274
University of Brighton	63,675
University of Bristol	1,333,556
Brunel University London	251,464
The University of Cambridge	121,097
Canterbury Christ Church University	36,311
University of Chester	451,080
City, University of London	324,793
Coventry University	1,514,373
Cranfield University	121,097
The University of Cumbria	126,685
De Montfort University	187,915
University of Derby	314,193
Durham University	526,541
The University of East London	72,731
Edge Hill University	92,149
The University of Essex	94,808
University of Exeter	1,333,556
Falmouth University	100,713
University of Gloucestershire	219,894
Goldsmiths, University of London	151,592
University of Greenwich	304,878
Guildhall School of Music & Drama	111,553
Harper Adams University	259,095

Higher education provider	RIF grant, financial year 2023 to 2024 (£)
Hartpury University	116,962
University of Hertfordshire	81,018
University of Huddersfield	226,356
University of Hull	234,203
Imperial College London	879,040
The Institute of Cancer Research	879,040
Keele University	1,104,269
The University of Kent	77,621
King's College London	879,040
Kingston University	108,347
LAMDA	241,548
Lancaster University	1,414,962
University of Leeds	648,125
Leeds Beckett University	414,610
University of Leicester	1,012,587
University of Lincoln	414,123
The University of Liverpool	1,414,962
Liverpool Hope University	150,636
Liverpool John Moores University	487,892
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	1,414,962
London Business School	879,040
London Metropolitan University	112,698
The London School of Economics and Political Science	879,040
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	486,755
Loughborough University	1,012,587
LSBU	187,877
University of Manchester	1,414,962
Manchester Metropolitan University	475,387
Middlesex University	366,070
The National Film and Television School	15,877
Newcastle University	794,527
The University of Northampton	235,265
Northumbria University	156,609
Nottingham Trent University	468,810
University of Nottingham, the	1,012,587
The Open University	266,943
Oxford Brookes University	98,171

Higher education provider	RIF grant, financial year 2023 to 2024 (£)
Oxford University	236,004
The Place	51,661
University of Plymouth	574,172
University of Portsmouth	124,710
Queen Mary University of London	879,040
University of Reading	154,406
University of Roehampton	76,571
Royal Academy of Dramatic Art	133,729
The Royal Agricultural University	114,390
The Royal College of Art	59,693
Royal College of Music	67,991
Royal Holloway, University of London	41,199
Royal Northern College of Music	88,741
The Royal Veterinary College	544,269
The University of Salford	395,434
School of Oriental and African Studies	131,666
University of Sheffield	648,125
Sheffield Hallam University	215,880
Solent University	58,920
University of Southampton	236,004
St Mary's University, Twickenham, London	72,400
St. George's, University of London	160,782
Staffordshire University	671,279
University of Sunderland	142,668
The University of Surrey	236,004
University of Sussex	218,875
Teesside University	226,603
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	76,424
UCL	879,040
UCLan	936,204
UEA	98,021
UWE	771,518
University of Warwick	2,417,423
The University of West London	121,902
The University of Westminster	156,936
University of Winchester	17,176
University of Wolverhampton	661,382

Higher education provider	RIF grant, financial year 2023 to 2024 (£)
University of Worcester	251,302
University of York	648,125
Total	48,800,001