

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Additional research funding for universities in Financial Year 2022-2023

Date: 07 March 2023
Reference: W23/03HE
To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
Response by: 14 March 2023 (confirmation of funding need)
28 April 2023 (confirmation of HERC expenditure)
19 May 2023 (summary of activity)
Contact: Name: Hywel Edwards
Telephone: 029 2085 9758
Email: hywel.edwards@hefcw.ac.uk

Following the UK Government's announcement of support for the UK's research and innovation sector during the ongoing delay to negotiations on Horizon Europe association, this circular confirms allocations of flexible formula funding (£11,794,300) and an uplift to Higher Education Research Capital (£1,143,000) in FY 2022-23.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please email info@hefcw.ac.uk.



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Introduction

1. On 21 November 2022, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (whose responsibilities are now partly incorporated into the new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology) announced a package of support for the UK's research and innovation sector during the ongoing delay in any decision on association to Horizon Europe. The package is intended to help protect and stabilise the sector by providing immediate investment and will be delivered by the UKRI and four UK funding bodies.
2. £12,937,300 of this support is being distributed by HEFCW to Welsh universities to address priorities in the research sector, protect research capacity and capability, and provide stability ahead of a final decision on Horizon Europe association.
3. HEFCW will allocate funding through two components:
 - £11,794,300 additional flexible formula funding
 - £1,143,000 additional research capital funding delivered through the Higher Education Research Capital (HERC) grant
4. Funding must be committed by institutions by 31 March 2023.

Background

5. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy announcement indicated that this one-off funding is intended to deliver a boost to enable universities to strengthen research capabilities and the UK's research infrastructure base – for example, by supporting research staff, investing in essential research equipment or sustaining new areas of research.
6. This funding is provided to higher education institutions to support retention of wider research capabilities and to provide stability ahead of a final decision on Horizon Europe association. This includes anchoring teams leading on long-term, risky, curiosity-driven research; or developing new research strategies, priorities and partnerships with business and others, to retain and develop the next generation of researchers at all levels.
7. Given the short timescale for expenditure, we anticipate that both strands of funding will be focused on supporting and building on activities that are already in train (although funding can also be used to support new activity).

Additional flexible formula funding

8. All universities in receipt of an allocation of HEFCW research funding for 2022/23 (see [W22/27HE](#)) will receive an allocation of additional flexible formula funding.
9. Funding is intended to enable institutions to target priority areas and to support their most critical research capacity as a result of the impact of the ongoing delay of any decision on association to Horizon Europe. Institutions should take into

account the priorities set out in the [Programme for Government](#) and [Welsh Government Research and Innovation Priorities](#) when considering how to use this funding.

10. The funding is intended to be used flexibly to support activities such as:
 - developing, supporting and amplifying international collaborations and partnerships;
 - developing international networks and research experiences;
 - recruiting and retaining talent, including internationally and at all career stages;
 - capacity building and strategic investment in research priorities;
 - securing and sustaining the talent pipeline and supporting research careers;
 - supporting blue-skies research and pursuit of novel research ideas;
 - mitigating shortfalls in research income due to uncertainty over EU research grants;
 - providing overheads or additional investment that support funding from other sources.
11. To reflect the variety of activities in research and research training undertaken by Welsh universities, HEFCW has decided to allocate the additional £11,794,300 of funding in proportion to individual universities' share of the sum of their Quality Research (QR) and Post-Graduate Research (PGR) training allocations for AY 2022/23, as detailed in Tables 2a and 2b in [W22/27HE](#).
12. Individual university allocations of the additional flexible research formula funding are set out in **Annex A**.

Monitoring

13. Universities must provide a brief, high-level summary (2 pages maximum) detailing the activities this funding has supported and how they contribute to meeting the objectives set out above.
14. These reports should be submitted to Dr Hywel Edwards hywel.edwards@hefcw.ac.uk by 19 May 2023.

Higher Education Research Capital uplift

15. All universities in receipt of an allocation of Higher Education Research Capital (HERC) funding for FY 2022-23 (as detailed in [W22/22HE](#)) will receive an allocation of additional research capital funding.
16. HERC funding can only be used as capital and is to support the development of the physical infrastructure associated with research, as set out in [W22/22HE](#).
17. To direct this additional research capital funding to support Wales' research infrastructure base, HEFCW will allocate an additional £1,143,000 as a proportional uplift to universities' existing FY 2022-23 HERC funding allocations.

18. Individual university allocations of the HERC uplift are set out in **Annex B**.

Monitoring

19. Universities must submit a summary of activity funded and confirmation of expenditure using the monitoring template at **Annex C**. This should be submitted alongside the confirmation of expenditure pro-forma required for the existing HERC 2022-23 allocation, and should be sent to Meg Hughes, meg.hughes@hefcw.ac.uk by 28 April 2023.

Conditions of Funding

20. Funding must be committed by institutions by the end of March 2023. Recipients may count activity from 21 November 2022 - the date of the BEIS announcement of funding - towards their spend.
21. The funding allocated by HEFCW is made available subject to the general conditions for payment of funds by HEFCW to the Governing Body of an institution. These are set out in the 2022/23 [Terms and Conditions of Funding](#).

Acceptance of funding

22. HEFCW recognises that some universities may find it challenging to spend their allocation by the end of March 2023 as required. While we encourage institutions to consider how they might make best use of the funding to maintain research capacity, we do offer the opportunity to opt out and choose not to receive an allocation, or to receive a lower amount, of flexible research formula funding or the uplift to HERC allocations.
23. Institutions should contact hywel.edwards@hefcw.ac.uk by 14 March 2023 to accept or decline their allocations of funding.
24. Funding allocations shown in Annexes A and B are therefore provisional and may be increased to ensure the total budget is allocated.
25. Payments will be made in March 2023.

Further information

26. Please contact Dr Hywel Edwards, Head of Research, Innovation and Engagement (hywel.edwards@hefcw.ac.uk).

Assessing the impact of our policies

27. This funding will be allocated using existing funding methods which have previously been subject to an impact assessment screening to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality. We also considered the impact of

policies on the Welsh language, and Welsh language provision within the HE sector in Wales and potential impacts towards the goals set out in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 including our Well-Being Objectives. Contact equality@hefcw.ac.uk for more information about impact assessments.

Annex A – Flexible research formula funding allocations

	QR + PGR Funding AY22/23 (£)	Additional flexible formula funding (£)
University of South Wales	3,195,420	428,688
Aberystwyth University	6,672,052	895,102
Bangor University	8,355,227	1,120,911
Cardiff University	49,581,794	6,651,740
University of Wales Trinity St David	813,269	109,106
Swansea University	16,618,588	2,229,498
Cardiff Metropolitan University	2,464,642	330,649
Wrexham Glyndŵr University	213,234	28,607
Total	87,914,226	11,794,300

Annex B - Higher Education Research Capital Funding Allocations 2022-23

	HERC Funding Allocation 2022-23 (£)	HERC uplift (£)	Total HERC funding 2022-23 (£)
University of South Wales	154,864	26,587	181,451
Aberystwyth University	646,369	110,969	757,337
Bangor University	582,681	100,035	682,716
Cardiff University	3,548,757	609,251	4,158,008
Swansea University	1,725,056	296,158	2,021,214
Total	6,657,726	1,143,000	7,800,726