

PATH Strands 2 and 3

Clarifications Document

Are all higher education institutions specified in the 2013 clusters document eligible to participate?

All institutions named in regional clusters in the 2013 clusters document *Completing the Landscape Process for Irish Higher Education*, are eligible to participate within those clusters. Such participation is welcomed.

Can proposals be received from the sub-clusters within Dublin II?

Institutions should note that the original establishment of the clusters, provided for DIT, ITB and IT Tallaght to operate as a sub-cluster of Dublin cluster II as they are engaged in a merger/designation as a technological university process. Accordingly proposals for PATH 2 and 3 will be accepted from this sub-cluster and the MEND sub-cluster in Dublin II.

If successful in our proposal, when can we make PATH Strand 2 Bursaries available to students?

Following completion of the evaluation process and the announcement of the outcomes, regional clusters can provide PATH 1916 Bursary Fund to students in the 2017/18 academic year.

In relation to Path Strand 3 proposals, is it possible for two institutions within a cluster to make a submission or does it have to be a collaborative proposal across all HEIs within the cluster?

The proposal must be a composite proposal from the regional cluster and all partners in the cluster must agree to the composite proposal. It is reasonable that there may be projects in a cluster that may not involve all partners in the actual implementation of the project, however, it is expected that all partners would collaborate on scoping and developing the projects and the sharing and dissemination of learning arising from the projects.

In relation to Path Strand 2 proposals, do we need to identify in advance (at proposal stage) the numbers of students who are lone parents?

Regional clusters should identify baseline figures where possible in their proposals. If this is not possible regional clusters should set out the process proposed to capture this information. It will be a requirement for clusters to demonstrate the additionality of the funding so baseline data will be an essential requirement.

PATH Strand 2

Is this Bursary Scheme for one year only i.e. are there 200 scholarship for the academic year 2017/2018 only?

The 1916 Bursary Scheme is for an intake of 200 students in each of the academic years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20. The Scheme will be reviewed in 2020.

PATH Strand 2

Can one of the targeted groups be prioritised e.g. could all of the scholarships be available to only single parents or is there expectation that they will be available to a mix of students within the target groups?

This is a matter for the regional clusters provided that at least 20% of the bursaries are provided to lone parents.

PATH Strand 2

Can the scholarships be only available to existing registered students rather than a combination of those entering on programmes or already registered?

In the first year (2017/18) the bursaries can be awarded to first time undergraduate students already registered in a HEI. From the second year (2018/19) onwards bursaries must be awarded to students starting programmes in HEIs.

PATH Strand 2

The guidance notes that a bursary will be available for the normal duration of an undergraduate programme but also notes that initially it is for three years. If an awardee is on a four degree will they receive it for the full length of the programme?

Funding will be guaranteed for students awarded bursaries in the academic years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 for the length of the normal duration of their chosen undergraduate programme.

PATH Strand 3

Is it right to assume that the exact mix and number of under-represented groups to be targeted in relation to increasing numbers is a decision for each Cluster or is it expected that all targeted groups will be included?

Must all the sub-groups be targeted lone parents and ethnic minorities?

Decisions regarding which target groups and sub-groups are targeted are a matter for the regional cluster in the context of its equity of access strategy and the geographical locations within the cluster that have the lowest levels of higher education participation. However, at least 10% of new places must be reserved for lone parents and provision must be made for part-time places.

PATH Strand 3

The exact definition of ethnic minorities – the guidance says recently arrived programme refugees – does this also include all of those in Direct Provision?

Ethnic minorities for the purposes of PATH 2 and PATH 3 include programme refugees and persons from other ethnic minority groups lawfully present in the State who meet the definition of student in section 14 of the Student Support Act 2011 and regulation 5 of the Student Support Regulations 2017. S.I. No. 126 of 2017.

Irish Travellers are a recognised ethnic minority group and, as set out in the call document, a target group identified in the National Access Plan and for PATH 2 and PATH 3 proposals.

Are students who are doing one year foundation/access courses considered for the purposes of PATH 2 and 3 as part time students?

No. Students must be attending full higher education programmes.

Do appendices count for the purposes of the overall work count?

No.

If submitting one proposal made up of three strands, can each strand have a word count of 3,000 words or must the overall proposal be within the 3,000 word limit?

The overall proposal must be within the word count.

Word Count Limit

Regional clusters should note that the word limit for proposals is set out in the call for proposals document and is not subject to change. Supplementary material may be provided in appendices. Regional clusters will have the opportunity to provide any clarifications of their proposal at their meeting with the expert assessment panel on 29th November.

Who should sign the proposals?

Each regional cluster proposal should be signed by the President or a Vice-President of each higher education institution in the cluster. Electronic signatures will be accepted.

Designated contact in each Regional Cluster

The call for proposals document requires each regional cluster to specify, and provide contact details, for ONE designated contact for the regional cluster. All further communications regarding PATH 2 and 3 will be with the specified contact in each cluster and it is the responsibility of that contact to communicate information appropriately within the cluster.