

Criteria for Multi-Campus Allocation

1 Introduction

1.1 Application Process

Higher Education Institutions¹ are invited to submit proposals to be considered for funding under the Multi-Campus Criteria listed below.

1.2 Background

Challenges faced by institutions with multiple campuses were originally identified as a topic warranting detailed analysis in the HEA's [Financial Review of the Institutes of Technology](#), which was published in 2016. Therein, it was noted that these campuses provide an important function for the delivery of education within their regions, and that they provide socio-economic benefits within rural communities. The above review also revealed the high costs associated with the delivery of education in these smaller campuses.

Subsequently, an independent Expert Panel was appointed by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) to review the current allocation model for funding higher education and to make recommendations on the most appropriate funding model for the future. The review involved research and analysis and extensive consultation with stakeholders, including bilateral meetings. The review is informed by 11 Working Papers which examined, inter alia, key issues and questions, the cost drivers and the costing system underpinning higher education and international funding allocation approaches. The [Review of the Allocation Model for Funding Higher Education Institutions](#) was announced by the Minister for Education and Skills in January 2018.

Within the review's analysis, it is recognised that institutions serve a geographical mission, and it observed that some institutions are spread across various discrete locations. This can result in increased costs, which may not be recognised through the existing funding model. Notably, every institution with responsibility for multiple campuses is faced with a unique set of circumstances, and a 'one size fits all' approach would not be appropriate. While it is the institution's responsibility to determine the optimal means of structuring provision across multiple campuses, it may be appropriate for additional funding to be made available over a defined period to facilitate innovative solutions to generate income and/or reduce costs. Thus, included among its recommendations is the following (Recommendation 18):

- An additional funding allocation of up to €250,000 per annum should be given to those HEIs with additional regional campuses (which meet criteria as specified by the Finance and Governance Committee of the HEA) in recognition of unavoidable additional fixed costs in operating such campuses.
- Any other specific ring-fenced funding arrangements between a HEI and the HEA/DES will continue to operate as per the schedule and terms of the agreement.

¹ Publicly-funded institutions

2 Criteria & Guidelines

2.1 Overall Aims & Objectives

- 2.1.1 This allocation is not intended to incentivise the creation of additional campuses nor to provide supplementary funding for campuses that lie within large catchment areas near other providers. Rather, it seeks to assist institutions in addressing the particular economic challenges surrounding multiple campuses especially those that are spread across a significant geographical area.
- 2.1.2 The allocation is set at a modest level to ensure that there is a continued incentive to maximise efficiencies across provision and to implement innovative solutions to generate revenue and/or to reduce costs.

2.2 Eligibility Criteria & Guidelines

- 2.2.1 In order to be eligible, HEIs must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- The institution has both a main or primary campus and one or more smaller satellite campuses.
- The location of the satellite campus is located in a rural area. Campuses located in/near cities or otherwise highly populated areas are not eligible.
- The satellite campus serves a regional area with no other alternative higher education provision within a reasonable distance. For the purpose of this scheme, a 'reasonable distance' occurs where the satellite campus is a distance of at least 45km from the main campus.
- The satellite campus has an economic and social impact in the region in which it is located.
- The satellite campus' provision includes undergraduate courses listed by the CAO.
- The satellite campus lacks the critical mass of students to allow sufficient overheads to be generated to ensure that adequate student and administrative support infrastructure can be put in place.
- The institution has demonstrated that there are additional costs associated with the management of the satellite campus
- The institution has demonstrated that it has endeavoured to reduce costs or grow student demand in the satellite campus.

- 2.2.2 A maximum funding amount of €250,000 will be allocated per year per institution.
- 2.2.3 The HEA Executive will make a set of recommendations to the Finance and Governance Committee prior to final decision by the Authority.
- 2.2.4 The continued provision of funding will be subject to review. Institutions will be required to report on spend and to demonstrate the impact thereof in reporting to the HEA during the annual budgetary process.

2.3 Glossary of Terms

- 2.3.1 **Satellite campus:** A satellite campus is a campus of a university, college or Institute of Technology that is physically at a distance from the main or primary campus area.
- 2.3.2 **Reasonable distance:** For the purpose of this scheme, a reasonable distance occurs where the secondary campus is a distance of at least 45km from the main campus.²

² This has been deemed to constitute a reasonable distance on the basis of its being applied as a maximum distance for redeployment arrangements in the public sector.