

HCI PILLAR 2 FAQ

Next Generation Graduates



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How much funding is available?

€300m over five years from 2020- 2024 has been allocated for the HCI. In Pillar 2, for each additional place that is provided on target courses, HEIs will be allocated €2,500. This top-up amount will be payable for each year of each of the additional students' course, up to a maximum of four years, subject to continued attendance on the course. The maximum allocation per student over four years will be €10,000 (in addition to their normal funding). Funding will only be paid over the duration of the programme 2020-2024.

2. What Higher Education Institutions are eligible for funding?

See the call document for a list of eligible institutions.

3. Are private providers eligible for this funding?

Yes, those privately funded HEI's whose quality assurance procedures have been approved under the 2012 Act by the 31 December 2019, as per the [QQI website](#).

4. When does the Call Open?

The call opens 14 October 2019.

5. When does the Call Close?

The Call closes at 12:00 PM (Noon), on 11 November 2019.

6. When will notification of the outcome of the call be received?

Notification of approved places will be sent to higher education institutions in December 2019.

7. Is there an equipment cost provision with this funding?

Funding will be allocated for direct expenditure in the school or department hosting the course. Funding can be used for school or department costs in accordance with institutional expenditure practices at the discretion of the respective school or department. This can include purchasing of new equipment.

8. Do the courses have to be full time?

Yes, the call is targeting full term provision at NFQ levels 6,7 and 8.

9. Why can't the courses be part-time?

Part-time courses and life-long learning provision will be addressed in other HCI calls and via the springboard+ programme.

10. Will there be upfront funding for development?

Yes, funding will commence in early 2020.

11. For Pillar 2, do courses have to be new?

No. Courses can be either existing courses or new courses. For new courses HEIs must detail that the course has significant new content, must clearly demonstrate the evolution of the new offering, how it adds to the existing course offering in similar discipline areas, and how it differs from existing and prior years' provision.

12. Can a HEI apply for more than one ISCED area?

Yes, as long as the ISCED area is eligible it can be applied for.

13. Does a Pillar 2 project have to convert into a Pillar 3 Project?

No. Pillar 2 applications are not conceptually linked to Pillar 3. An application for Pillar 2 does not need a corresponding application for Pillar 3, or vice versa.

14. Will successful applicants be required to return annual monitoring reports?

Yes. HEIs will be required to return annual monitoring and evaluation reports to the HEA on course activity and outcomes, including an expenditure report on the funding allocated per programme.

15. How do I access the online application system?

Visit the application portal by clicking [here](#).

16. Are Evaluation Criteria available?

Yes, proposals will be assessed under the Evaluation Criteria published in the [Call Document](#).

17. What NFQ levels are acceptable?

For this call we are looking at NFQ levels, 6, 7 and 8.

18. Can you elaborate more on additionality from common entry courses?

It is of note that the identified skills needs specified under HCI Pillar 2, can encompass student places in which the student commences on a common entry programme (Engineering, Science etc.). HEIs that propose to target additional place recruitment of students from common entry into specialisation in the identified skills are required to provide the below listed details to the HEA with their application for this to be assessed.

This includes:

Stage of the course at which student begins specialisation (e.g. Post successful completion of year 1/ 2/3).

The duration from specialisation to completion.

Institutionally verified and endorsed (by the President's office) evidence of student numbers identifying exactly how many students progressed from the common entry programme to the identified specialisation from the current and prior academic years (2018/19 & 2019/20).

Should additional places be awarded for such transition from common entry to specialisation the HEI will be required to submit institutionally verified reports confirming exactly how many students progressed from the common entry programme to the identified specialisation in annual reports to the HEA. Additionality will be measured from the base number of students who specialised in 2019/20.

The HCI will only fund when relevant specialisation is known and not common entry positions.

19. Can funding for additional places be allocated for places on courses in which the student has progressed from another course (e.g. from an NFQ level 7 to an NFQ level 8)?

Funding will only be allocated for additional places on courses commencing in academic years 2020/21 and 2021/22, for up to four years duration. Additional places must commence in these academic years, Students who progress from these courses to another course will not be eligible for additional place funding.

20. Can you tell me if non-EU students can be included in Pillar 2 of this initiative or is it aimed just at increasing EU undergraduate students?

Yes, this call is for EU students only.

21. Are institutions limited to creating one institutional profile within the HCI online application system? If so it is suitable that this profile is generated by an administrative support person or should it be in the name of the individual submitting the proposal on behalf of the institution (i.e. the Registrar etc.)?

Yes, institutions are limited to one profile per institution and this should be created by your HEI appointed person which can be the registrar or your administrative nominee.

22. With regard to the HCI initiative and particularly with regard to ICT Level 8 programmes. At the moment we have a number of programmes qualifying for funding for additional undergraduate Level 8 places. Is it planned to maintain this funding source given that the current pillar of HCI appears to address some of these areas/courses?

Courses previously funded for additional places under the HEA additional places in ICT provision may reapply for additional places funding subject to their eligibility under the published HCI additional places call. There will not be a separate HEA call for additional ICT places.

23. 'Is the HCI funding application (pillar 2) open for funding of Level 8 add-on programme spaces? These are 1 year Level 8 (BSc (Hons) programmes that are offered to students on existing Level 7 undergraduate programmes.'

Yes, as long as they fulfill all other criteria.

24. In the absence of 'core funding' can Private College's still be considered to receive €2,500 for additional places created in addition to funds received privately by the student.

Private colleges who do not receive HEA core funding as per the list of eligible institutions can apply for additional places funding. Should their application be successful, funding will be granted per additional place delivered. Fee rates applicable for places on the successful course are at the discretion of the institution.

25. Will funding will be provided for language courses to take on additional students?

No the course must be in the specified ISCEDs only. So a pure language course is ineligible. However, we welcome courses in the ISCED areas with language components e.g. ICT and German would be eligible, however the predominant area of study must be in the specified ISCED.

More Questions? Email hci@hea.ie

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