RIALTAS NA hÉIREANN
Government of Ireland

FUTURE JOBS
IRELAND 2019
Preparing Now for Tomorrow's Economy

HUMAN CAPITAL INITIATIVE

PILLAR 3

INNOVATION AND AGILITY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HEA | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

Next Generation Graduates

Frequently Asked Questions

*** Please note, this document may be updated during the call process ***

1. Must the enterprise partner be Irish?

No, the enterprise partner can be based anywhere.

2. Is this a single call?

Yes, it is anticipated that this is a single call. However, the HEA reserves the right to issue further calls based on the outcome of this call.

3. Are applications possible in more than one format?

Only a single format is possible. All applications must occur through the online submission portal.

4. Can funding go to international partners?

Funding can be requested to facilitate collaborative engagement with international partners. This funding cannot move outside of the state to an international partner but must be retained and spent by the HEI in the state. For example, international collaborative partner costs such as hosting meetings and activities with international partners in the state can be funded.

5. Can you clarify the role of additional places?

If your proposal will create additional places, then you should provide information about these additional places. Proposals will not get funded for existing places, only additional places.

6. Do International Partners have to be Educational Partners?

No, a partner could be any international organization or enterprise.

7. If we were to make an individual proposal for funding under Blended Learning Development, can we then submit 6 different Work Packages e.g. develop a MOOC for Artificial Intelligence;

develop an online module in Crowd Surfing; plus four other work packages as part of this single individual submission?

Each institution can only make one individual application with enterprise collaboration. Within that application multiple work packages can be included however they must be cohesive in their approach and show an overall benefit to the institution as a whole.

8. Will non accredited courses be considered?

No. Courses should be accredited.

9. What is the deadline for queries and clarifications?

The closing date for queries and clarifications is January 30, 2020.

10. The agility steam is aimed at increasing institutions' ongoing capacity to anticipate, understand and respond to emerging skills needs of enterprise. In this regard, what is meant by increasing an institution's capacity to anticipate?

This is in terms of increasing their ability to be ready to respond to the emerging needs of enterprise e.g. liaising with enterprise to conduct analysis of what is coming down the line, setting up a unit to conduct analysis and work with the institution, developing ways to incorporate research outcomes into taught provision, set up a micro credentialing unit.

11. Is the funding of a structured PhD eligible under this call?

No this call is for taught provision only.

12. What is the nature and scale of equipment costs which are likely to be considered eligible for funding?

Equipment relates to pieces of machinery required. It does not relate to the funding of buildings. Equipment costs must be specified and not exceed 20% of the total direct costs outlined in the submitted budget.

13. Can a partner in a collaborative proposal be an institution from further education such as an ETB?

For a collaborative proposal to be eligible at least 2 eligible institutions must be involved. E.g. a University and an IOT. This collaborative proposal can also involve an ETB. An individual proposal can also collaborate with an ETB.

14. Can a partner in a collaborative proposal be an enterprise and therefore receive an allocation of funding awarded, if a proposal is successful?

All proposals MUST have an enterprise collaboration to be eligible but as stated above a collaborative proposal must have at least 2 eligible institutions involved. Funding can flow to enterprise.

15. Can a proposal include participant organisations or individuals who are not partners but who will carry out work for the project and, if yes, can participant organisations or individuals of that nature receive funding from the project?

Yes.

16. Can more than one person on behalf of a HEI be given the authority to access the application portal?

No. You may only use one email for all applications - you can of course give the email to colleagues provided they are not working on it at the same time (However, it still remains the case that you may only have one application that is individual and then as many applications that are collaborative).

17. The Call documentation indicates 'soft infrastructure' may be funded. Will this funding cover, for example; the set-up and licensing fees for a third party, newly adopted, VLE / learning platform. Will this cover the instructional design, ed tech, online content development & delivery and / or helpdesk student support as provided by a third party edtech (or similar) provider? We understand that the HCI fund will fund internal staffing in these areas, however would like to know if we might also opt to work with third party to access this expertise.?

Yes.

18. We note the preference for innovation and risk within the HCI P3 Call, and plan to fulfil this brief. In this context, might the HEA opt to fund 'parts' of a proposal rather than the whole of a proposal?

Our preference is to fund full proposals; however as we are not sure about the content and number of proposals, we are not ruling this option out.

19. We have delivered numerous programmes for industry in collaboration with Skillnets, as part of their role in enhancing workplace skills. How should HEI's engage with Skillnets under the HCI call? Can you please describe in brief how Skillnets might enhance or collaborate with our proposal under the HCI remit?

Skillnet can be enterprise partners through their many industry groups.

20. The Call doc indicates that proposals should partner with education providers at local, regional, national and international level. In the context of an individual bid, how should we interpret 'education providers'? Do these include international universities? Do these include edutech (or similar) companies?

This can include international institutions, Further education colleges or other non eligible education providers. They can include edutech or similar companies.

21. If individual proposals include partners at all levels (local, regional, national and international) will they achieve a higher scoring?

Collaboration is examined in the context of impact and sustainability.

22. The eligible cost categories include soft infrastructure (e.g. software/software licensing), can this include hardware, and if not what category does hardware fall into?

Hardware falls under equipment.

23. Would it be possible to get clarification on this part of the call document:

> Institutions must provide evidence of ability to deliver within their existing capital infrastructure (note: institutional capacity includes items such as physical capacity, infrastructure, academic, technical and support staff and enterprise linkages).

Does this allow for the recruitment of additional academic and technical staff from HCI funding?

Yes the budget allows for the recruitment of staff (for public institutes this must be within the constraints of the ECF).

24. It is understood from the Guidelines for Collaboration that 'eligible institutions may make one individual submission'. For the avoidance of doubt should an individual submission be interpreted as a submission with no other 'national' HEI partners?

Yes this means with no other eligible institution but it is entirely up to the institution as to whether or not they wish to do this. It is the intention that we allowed institutions to make one non collaborative (eligible institution) application. An individual submission can collaborate with non-eligible institutions and international partners.

25. We note the funding restrictions for international partners but assume we can collaborate with them as part of an individual submission.

Yes that is correct.

26. We also understand that we can collaborative with both national and international private sector partners as part of an individual submission, can you please confirm?

Yes that is correct.

27. It is understood from the Guidelines for Collaboration that eligible institutions can be involved in an unlimited number of collaborative proposals. Is there a limit to the number of collaborations a HEI can lead?

There is no limit on the number of collaborations an institution can lead on.

28. Will the same score be assigned to a collaboration involving two HEI partners (one as lead) as would be awarded to a 3 partner collaboration, all other things being equal?

Applications will be scored on the evaluation criteria set out. It is the quality of the collaboration within the context of the proposal rather than the number of collaborators that will be evaluated.

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