

HEA Call for Expressions of Interest

National Student Health and Wellbeing Research and Development Projects 2026–2027

Background

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from higher education institutions to lead two national research and development projects that will strengthen the evidence base for student mental health and wellbeing across the higher education sector.

As implementation of the [*Healthy Campus Charter and Framework*](#) continues to mature, and with the launch of the revised *National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework*, there is an increasing need to better understand existing models of practice, identify effective interventions, and support a more consistent and evidence-informed approach to student health and wellbeing across Irish higher education institutions.

These projects will contribute to national policy development, support institutional learning, and strengthen the evidence base for decision-making in relation to student health and wellbeing. The projects will also support implementation of the HEA Strategy for Student and Staff Health and Wellbeing and further embed a whole-campus approach across the sector.

Priority Areas

The HEA is seeking proposals under the following two themes:

Project 1: Models of Practice and the Continuum of Support

Research to examine existing approaches to supporting student health and wellbeing across Irish higher education institutions, including:

- Mapping the continuum of student health and wellbeing supports available across the sector.
- Identifying examples of effective and innovative practice.
- Exploring variations in service provision and delivery models.
- Developing recommendations to support a more consistent and coordinated national approach.

Project 2: Effectiveness and Value for Money of Whole-Campus Interventions

Research to examine the effectiveness, impact, and value for money of interventions that support student health and wellbeing within a whole-campus approach, including:

- Identification of promising and evidence-informed interventions.
- Assessment of outcomes and impact.
- Consideration of value for money, sustainability, and scalability.
- Development of recommendations to inform future policy, funding, and practice.

Eligibility and Award Criteria

Please refer to the [Funding Framework Schedule \(19-2026-10\)](#) for more details on eligibility criteria and the assessment process.

Funding Available

Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis, with **up to €80,000 available for each project**. Applications may be submitted by an individual higher education institution or by a partnership/consortium of institutions and relevant stakeholders.

Timeline

Call open	13 October 2026
Application deadline	27 November 2026
Evaluation	November/December 2026
Outcomes	December 2026

It is anticipated that successful applicants will commence work as soon as possible following confirmation of funding.

Projects should be completed within an agreed timeframe, typically within 12 months of project start, with a draft report submitted at least one month before the end of the project.

Expected Outcomes

The successful projects will generate evidence and practical recommendations to support:

- National policy development.

- Implementation of the revised *National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework*.
- Implementation of the *Healthy Campus Charter and Framework*.
- Improved consistency and quality of student health and wellbeing provision across the higher education sector.
- Future investment decisions in student health and wellbeing.

The successful projects will support the HEA, higher education institutions, and national stakeholders in making evidence-informed decisions regarding future investment, policy development, and implementation of a whole-campus approach to student health and wellbeing.

Submission of Expressions of Interest

Expressions of Interest should be submitted electronically to healthycampus@hea.ie by **5pm on 27th November 2026**.

Queries regarding this process may also be submitted to healthycampus@hea.ie.

Applicants should clearly indicate which project they are applying for and provide the following:

- A brief outline of their proposed approach and methodology.
- Details of previous experience undertaking similar projects.
- Details of the proposed project team and governance arrangements.
- A proposed project plan and risk management plan.
- A breakdown of the proposed costs.
- Details of any project partners or collaborators (where applicable).
- Any other information deemed relevant.

EOIs will be reviewed by an expert panel. Applicants should note that funding of up to **€80,000 per project** is available and that value for money will form part of the assessment process. For more information see the [Funding Framework Schedule \(19-2026-10\)](#).