



Technological Universities Transformation Fund

Year 3 Guidance Note, February 2022

HEA

AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY

1. Technological Universities Transformation Fund (TUTF)

The TUTF is a €90 million fund (over 3 years) from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, to be allocated by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), to assist the development and progression of technological universities. The TUTF supersedes and builds on *Landscape Funding* as provided by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and DES, towards reform of the higher education landscape, including the establishment of Technological Universities.

The key objectives of the new fund are to ensure that by 2023:

- Based on current configurations and subject to viable applications, there will be in the region of 5 TUs established in the State.
- These established TUs will be enabled in terms of sustainability and self-sufficiency, with a focus on quality and excellence and capacity building including evidence of:
 - the highest quality of teaching and research;
 - increased national and international student numbers;
 - a consistently high-quality student experience in terms of facilities, resources and the TU environment;
 - retention and recruitment of the highest calibre staff to drive research and teaching agendas;
 - competitiveness to attract national and international research funding;
 - durable collaborations with industry, employers and other partners.

Following a review of outline proposals from eligible HEIs in July 2020, applications were submitted in October 2020 for multi-annual funding support in respect of the costs arising in a) working towards designation as a technological university, in line with the Technological Universities Act 2018 and b) developing and progressing recently designated Technological Universities, through the implementation of recommendations set out within the TURN report¹.

A total of €34.33m was committed for the first year of the TUTF, which ran from 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021. An additional €25.67m, was allocated in the second year of the fund, which runs from 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022. €30m of the total envelope is available for allocation in the third year of the TUTF. The HEA is now inviting funded institutions/Consortia/TUs to submit updated work packages and budgets for Year 3 funding.

The updated work packages and budgets are to be submitted alongside Year 2 interim reports, by 31st March 2022. The HEA will endeavour to confirm allocations well in advance of the start of Year 3 of the TUTF on 1st September 2022.

¹ <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/connectedness-collaboration-through-connectivity.pdf>

2. Grant limits

Co-funding:

The HEA, with the support of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, recognises that the creation and embedding of Technological Universities in the higher education landscape carries additional costs to institutions. The TUTF has been established to support this transformation. The fund is not expected to cover all costs arising, but to contribute towards these costs. Consortia should set out the funding they propose to provide for the project in question and should monitor and record the investment by the institutions involved (level of time and resources) in the project as it is implemented².

Maximum Available Grants

The TUTF will make a total of €90 million in funding available over three years. A total of €34.33m was committed in Year 1, while an additional €25.67m was allocated in Year 2. The HEA is now inviting TUTF grantees to submit updated work packages and a detailed budget for Year 3 of their multi-annual proposals, based on progress to date, realistic timelines, and costs for delivery of work packages set out within the project plan.

The expectation is that the TUTF will again be over-subscribed for the available funding in Year 3. In this context, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet all requirements indicated in the submissions. Funded institutions are encouraged to consider how to leverage other complementary sources of funding to meet costs arising in Year 3.

Funding allocations will be informed by progress to date against the deliverables and milestones set out in the approved Year 1 and 2 submissions. Funding may be removed or redistributed at the discretion of the HEA, where circumstances change or where sufficient progress on projects is not being made in accordance with project plans.

Eligible expenditure

Please refer to the original TUTF Information and Template or the Reporting Guidelines for further detail on eligible and ineligible activities / costs.

Any significant changes made to approved plans and budgets should be outlined and justified in the report template.

² The method adopted by DCU to investment cost calculation, as part of its Incorporation Project, has been highlighted as a useful approach for higher education institutions to adopt, in the Mazars report on the “Review of the DCU Incorporation Project”, previously circulated to higher education institutions.

3. Application process

Institutions/Consortia are requested to submit updated work packages and detailed budgets for Year 3 of their TUTF projects, in addition to an updated risk table and indicative budget for Year 3, using the Excel templates provided:

Appendix 1: Work packages tables 1-3

Appendix 2: Budget

Appendix 3: Signatures

Organisations will be informed of the outcome of the appraisal process in writing. Prior to signing Letters of Agreement and disbursement of funds, successful institutions may be required to meet a number of conditions, including but not limited to, the receipt of satisfactory reports, submission of documentation referenced in the report, and a revised budget and project plan. As such, the grant offer should be considered provisional until the HEA confirms that the relevant conditions have been met.

Questions should be sent to systemperformance@hea.ie.

Closing date: Submissions must be received by the HEA in electronic format before **5pm on Thursday 31st March** (systemperformance@hea.ie). A hard copy is not required.

4. Agreements and payments

As with Year 1 and Year 2 allocations, all institutions receiving funding under Year 3 of the TUTF will be required to return a Letter of Agreement signed by the President, accepting the funds awarded and terms and conditions attached.

The HEA's primary engagement will be with the nominated staff member (Project Manager/Lead) acting on behalf of the designated Lead institution³/Consortium.

³ Lead institution means the party having submitted the Consortium Application on behalf of the consortium and having overall responsibility for project management structures. All individual partners retain full legal and financial responsibility for their own role within the collaboration.