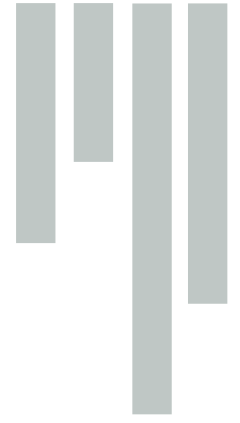


Funding Framework Schedule

Higher Education Capacity Building
Funding 2022, 2025 and 2026
(Current)

Schedule 11a-2026-09



Funding Framework Schedule 11a-2026-09

This Schedule applies to Higher Education Capacity Building Funding arising from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) Expression of Interest (EOI) processes conducted in 2022, 2025 and 2026.

This Schedule forms an integral part of the HEA Funding Framework. Any conditions outlined in this Schedule apply in addition to, and in conjunction with, the Generally Applicable Funding Conditions in the Funding Framework. The terms and conditions applicable to each funding scheme and programme shall be a combination of the Generally Applicable Funding Conditions as set out in the Funding Framework and the relevant Schedule or Schedules for each individual Funding Scheme or Programme.

Higher Education Capacity Building Funding, 2022, 2025 and 2026 (Current)

Objectives of the Funding Scheme/Programme

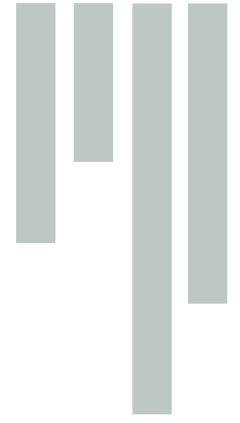
The provision of Higher Education (HE) Capacity Building Funding aligns with the following functions of the Higher Education Authority (HEA), as per the Higher Education Authority Act 2022 s9(1)(d):

‘to plan for higher education provision and make recommendations to the Minister on the overall provision of student places,’

and (f):

‘to support the provision of a range of programmes of higher education and training aimed at meeting the educational and skills needs of individuals, business, enterprise, the professions, the community, local interests and other stakeholders locally, regionally and nationally and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, including the educational and skills needs of persons in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas, Gaeltacht Service Towns and Irish Language Networks, and outside of such Areas, Towns and Networks, with regard to the promotion and use of the Irish language,’

HE Capacity Building Funding is intended to increase capacity in the higher education system for training aligned to national skills shortages by supporting the development of new programmes and the expansion of the number of student places on existing programmes across a range of disciplines to meet regional and national needs. These have included:



2022

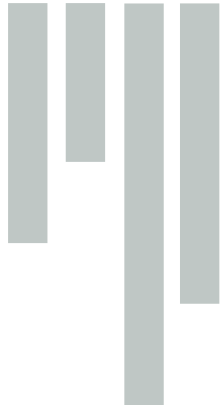
- Dentistry
- Medicine
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Pharmacy
- Veterinary Medicine

2025

- Chiropodist / Podiatrist
- Dietitian
- Medical Scientist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Radiation Therapist
- Radiographer
- Social Worker
- Speech and Language Therapist

2026

- Audiologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Counselling Psychologist
- Dietitian
- Educational Psychologist
- Medical Scientist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatrist
- Radiation Therapist
- Radiographer
- Social Care Worker
- Social Worker
- Speech and Language Therapist



The above disciplines were identified at Government level to support the expansion of One Health, health, education, and social care professions in priority areas and reflect national and regional workforce planning requirements.

Eligibility for Funding

Private and public higher education institutions may be eligible to apply for HE Capacity Building Funding, as specified in the relevant call documentation for the 2022, 2025 and 2026 Expression of Interest processes.

Funding Period

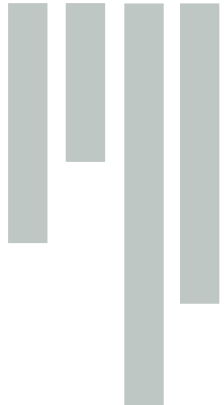
Funding may be provided for a period of up to eight years. Funding is subject to the annual Estimates and Government budgetary processes, with any allocations approved on an annual basis.

Allocation Principles

The HEA allocates HE Capacity Building Funding through Expression of Interest processes conducted in 2022, 2025 and 2026. The arrangements applicable to each process are set out in the relevant call documentation published by the HEA.

An outline of the approach to the allocation process is summarised below:

- HEIs submit Expression of Interest (EOI) proposals for consideration.
- The HEA, with the support of Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) along with the Department of Health (DoH) and/or other relevant department(s), review EOI proposals to identify those that demonstrate that an institution(s) has the potential to deliver additional places in the specified timeframe.
- This process may be followed by limited invitations to submit fuller proposals. This second phase may involve review of proposals by an external panel of experts. This review may include assessment of proposals based on criteria set out in Terms of Reference set by the HEA.
- The HEA, having statutory responsibility for strategic planning of higher education provision, will



consider viable options for new programme delivery alongside options for expansion of existing programmes to determine a final set of capacity building options for consideration by Government. The HEA's decision on the options presented to Government is final.

- Options for expanding training capacity arising from this process will be presented to Government for consideration.
- Given national skills shortages in particular professional areas, review and approval of proposals may be phased.
- The availability of clinical and practice placements is a key consideration in the approval process for professions that are subject to professional accreditation processes.
- Funding amounts are determined by an assessment of the additional funding required to meet the costs associated with the creation of new or additional student places as detailed in the EOI Proposal. Approved costs and funding arrangements to meet these requirements are detailed in a Letter of Offer and Acceptance Form.

Eligible Expenditure

HE Capacity Building Funding is provided and may only be used to:

1. Support the creation of student places for EU/UK/EEA and Swiss students as specified in the Offer Letter and Acceptance Form.
2. Meet the additional costs associated with the development and delivery of additional student places in the specified disciplines within the timeframe detailed in the Letter of Offer and Acceptance Form. The allocation of funds between development and delivery is a matter for each institution.
3. Fund expenditure of eligible costs **only as specified in the Letter of Offer and Acceptance Form**. Eligible expenditure includes:
 - Programme development costs of a current nature associated with the approved programme commencement or expansion incurred from the first year in the budget as set out in the Letter of Offer and Acceptance Form;

- 
- Programme delivery and student support costs of a current nature associated with the new and/or additional student places created, incurred from the first year of the budget as set out in the Letter of Offer and Acceptance Form.
4. Any capital funding approved through the HE Capacity Building Process will be provided from a separate funding allocation and will be subject to separate terms and conditions as set out in the Higher Education Capacity Building Funding (Capital) Funding Schedule.

Other Conditions of Funding

- The institution is required to notify the HEA in a timely manner if it cannot deliver the additional student places specified in the Letter of Offer and Acceptance Form, or if any other circumstances arise that may adversely affect its ability to meet commitments relating to programme creation and/or expansion.
- The HEA may periodically request narrative and financial reporting to capture progress in relation to programme creation and/or expansion.
- Institutions must ensure that detailed records are maintained in relation to all HE Capacity Building Funding expenditure. Expenditure relating to programme creation/expansion should be clearly identifiable and verifiable in accounting systems.
- Funding may be removed, redistributed, or recouped at the discretion of the HEA:
 - a. If circumstances change;
 - b. Where the conditions of the fund are not fulfilled;
 - c. Where expenditure is deemed ineligible, including any expenditure that is not included in or consistent with the Letter of Offer and Acceptance Form;
 - d. Where there is insufficient progress relating to programme creation and/or expansion as detailed in the Letter of Offer and Acceptance Form;
 - e. Where reporting requirements set down by the HEA are not adhered to by institutions in receipt of funding.

- 
- Institutions may be subject to field monitoring visits by representatives of the HEA or by external consultants contracted by the HEA to assist with monitoring and verifying expenditure, progress, and results. This may include auditors appointed by the HEA.

Additional Information

- Information held by the HEA in relation to HE Capacity Building Funding will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act). Policies and procedures on access to information are set out on the [freedom of information page](#) of the HEA website.