

FAQ: Targeted Enhancement Fund (TEF): Technological Sector & Specialist Colleges

1. Institutional Applications

1.1) *Is the TEF only for publicly funded Irish HEIs and privately funded institutions are not eligible?*

The TEF is only open to institutions in the technological sector and publicly funded specialist colleges, which are set out in **Section 2** of the [TEF call document](#). As per the call document, only the following institutions are eligible to apply for funding:

- Atlantic Technological University
- Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Munster Technological University
- South East Technological University
- Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
- Technological University Dublin
- Mary Immaculate College
- National College of Art and Design

1.2) *Regarding TUs, what costs can be included in the TEF from an RDI perspective?*

As per **Section 3 Table 1** of the [TEF call document](#), only Specialist Colleges may propose costs under the 'research capacity building' cost category. TUs/IoTs should not request any funding from TEF under the 'research capacity building' cost category as TU RISE is in place to support research-related initiatives.

1.3) *Is funding for professorships eligible under the TEF call?*

As per **Section 3 Table 1** of the [TEF call document](#), the TEF makes provision under the 'staff development' cost category for 'Planning for the implementation of the OECD review of Technological University academic career paths, contracts and organisation in Ireland and Academic Career Framework'.

1.4) *What capital spend is permissible under TEF? While the purchase of land and buildings is not an eligible cost, are capital upgrades such as upgrading sports facilities, teaching labs or lighting considered eligible costs?*

As per **Section 3** of the [TEF call document](#), costs relating to the purchase of land or buildings are ineligible. In relation to costs related to the fit out or upgrade of teaching and learning/student spaces, institutions should consider if proposed deliverables are relevant to the strategic theme/cost category 'student outcomes and experience', where the following indicative activities are listed in **Section 3 Table 1** of the [TEF call document](#):

- Initiatives to diversify methods of engagement and support a wide range of students to participate in the life of the institution.
- Initiatives to support student progression and retention at institution, faculty, or discipline level.
- Development and enhancement of student representation, clubs, societies, and alumni networks.

Institutions should ensure that the proposal clearly identifies specific deliverables, including those related to proposed fit out of teaching and learning/student spaces.

1.5) *For individual institutional proposals under the TEF call, what is the level of co-funding expected by the HEA?*

The appropriate level of co-funding is a matter for the institution to determine based on the activities proposed and institution's context. As per **Section 5** of the [call document](#), the TEF is designed to contribute towards the strategic development and enhancement of eligible HEIs, and, as a time-limited fund, has an emphasis on the financial sustainability of proposed initiatives and institutions' self-sufficiency. To this end, the HEI's approach to, and consideration of institutional co-funding and consideration of project sustainability, including plans to mainstream activities, will be considered as part of the assessment process (see [TEF Call Document](#), Appendix 1 (p. 13)).