

Additional research funding for universities in FY 2022-23



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Summary:	Announcement of additional research funding, including research capital funding, for universities in Financial Year (FY) 2022-23 from the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
FAO:	Principals / Finance Directors / Board Secretaries of Scotland's universities, and the general public.
Further Information:	CONTACT: Dr Cat Ball JOB TITLE: Assistant Director DIRECTORATE: Research & Innovation TEL: 0131 313 6660 EMAIL: cball@sfc.ac.uk

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Additional research funding for universities in FY 2022-23

Summary

1. I am writing to announce the allocation of £24.6m of additional research funding, including research capital funding, for universities in Financial Year (FY) 2022-23 from the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Background

2. On 21 November 2022, BEIS announced a package of support for the UK's research and innovation sector during the ongoing delay to any decision on association to Horizon Europe. The package is intended to help protect and stabilise the sector by providing immediate investment and will be delivered across the UK.
3. £24.6 million (m) of this support is being distributed by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) to the Scottish university sector to protect research capacity and capability, and to provide stability ahead of a final decision on Horizon Europe association.
4. SFC will allocate funding through two components:
 - £19.391m additional flexible research formula funding.
 - £5.219m additional research capital funding delivered through the Higher Education Research Capital (HERC) Grant.
5. Funding must be spent by institutions by 31 March 2023.

Purpose of funding

6. The BEIS announcement indicated that this one-off immediate funding is intended to deliver a boost to enable universities to strengthen research capabilities and the UK's research infrastructure base – for example, by supporting research staff, investing in essential research equipment or sustaining new areas of research.
7. Given the short timescale for expenditure, we anticipate that both strands of funding will likely be focused on supporting and building on activities that are already in train (although funding can also be used to support new activity).

Additional flexible research formula funding

8. All universities in receipt of an allocation of SFC research funding for 2022-23 will receive an allocation of additional flexible research formula funding.
9. Funding is intended to enable institutions to target priority areas and to support their most critical purposes as a result of the impact of the ongoing delay of any decision on

association to Horizon Europe.

10. To reflect the variety of activities in research and research training undertaken by Scottish universities, SFC has decided to allocate the additional £19.391m of funding in proportion to individual universities' share of the sum of their core research grants as announced in the [University Final Funding Allocations for AY 2022-23](#).
11. We are therefore allocating the funding in proportion to universities' total Research Excellence Grant (REG) and Research Postgraduate Grant (RPG) for AY 2022-23, as detailed in Table 6 of the above publication.
12. Further information and individual university allocations of the additional flexible research formula funding are set out in [Annex A](#).

Additional research capital funding

13. All universities in receipt of an allocation of Higher Education Research Capital (HERC) funding for 2022-23 will receive an allocation of additional research capital funding.
14. Funding is intended to support the maintenance and development of Scotland's university research infrastructure.
15. In recent years the UK Government, through BEIS, has allocated HERC funding to SFC to distribute to universities. HERC funding in FY 2022-23 from BEIS amounted to £15.2m and was matched with a further £15.2m from SFC. This FY 2022-23 funding was announced by SFC in its [University Final Funding Allocations for AY 2022-23](#) (revised Table 8, published in July 2022).
16. To direct this additional research capital funding to support Scotland's research infrastructure base, SFC will allocate an additional £5.219m as a proportional uplift to universities' existing FY 2022-23 HERC funding allocations, as detailed in the revised Table 8 of the above publication.
17. Further information and individual university allocations of the additional research capital funding are set out in [Annex B](#).

Conditions of funding

18. Funding must be spent by institutions by the end of March 2023. Any expenditure incurred after 31 March cannot be supported. Recipients may count activity from 21 November 2022 - the date of the BEIS announcement of funding - towards their spend.
19. Further conditions of grant are outlined in the annexes below.

Acceptance of funding

20. Universities unable to spend this additional funding in line with the intended purpose and by the end of FY 2022-23 will be able to 'opt out' or opt to receive a lower amount. Institutions are required to accept or decline their allocation of additional funding and responses should be provided to SFC from the Principal or an authorised senior officer. Funding allocations shown in Annexes [A](#) and [B](#) are therefore provisional and may be increased to ensure the total budget is allocated.
21. Responses should be sent by email to Graeme Scotland, Senior Budgeting & Reporting Officer, email: gscotland@sfc.ac.uk no later than **Wednesday 21 December 2022**.

Further information

22. Please contact Dr Cat Ball, Assistant Director for Research & Innovation, email: cball@sfc.ac.uk.



Helen Cross
Director, Research and Innovation

Annex A – Flexible research formula funding

Purpose

23. Additional flexible research formula funding is intended for use by institutions to support their most critical purposes, including as a result of the impact of the ongoing delay of any decision on association to Horizon Europe.
24. For example, this could include (but is not limited to):
 - Developing, supporting and amplifying international collaborations and partnerships.
 - Recruiting and retaining talent, including internationally and at all career stages.
 - Promoting positive research cultures, research careers and the diversity of people involved in the research process.
 - Pursuing long-term research strategies, capacity building and strategic investment in research priorities.
 - Seeding or piloting cross-disciplinary activities within an institution and/or between institutions.
 - Supporting fundamental research and research into novel ideas that provides the foundation for later breakthroughs and impact.
 - Mitigating shortfalls in research income due to uncertainty over European Union (EU) research grants.
 - Providing overheads or additional investment that support funding from other sources.
25. Institutions should consider the purposes for which they utilise REG and RPG allocations.

Monitoring

26. Universities must provide a brief, high-level written description of their approach to allocating and using this funding, including a high-level description of some of the activities supported. Descriptions should be two pages maximum and take into account the conditions below by highlighting, where appropriate, how activities link to Scottish Government priorities, such as those set out in the [National Strategy for Economic Transformation](#).
27. SFC will use the descriptions provided by institutions to develop an overview of how the sector responded to and utilised additional short-term research funding. This may inform our approach should future funding of this nature arise.

28. These reports should be submitted to Dr Cat Ball, cball@sfc.ac.uk, no later than the end of May 2023.

Conditions of funding

29. Funding allocations are conditional on the acceptance and satisfactory reporting by each university of their response to the following conditions of grant:
- Funding must be used to support research activities including research training. It can be used to underpin and/or enhance current research activity (i.e. adding value to ongoing activities) but it must not be used to support wider, non-research related activity.
 - Recognising that university research is critical for Scotland's society and economy, universities should give consideration to areas which support Scottish Government priorities such as those in the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, though funding does **not** need to be exclusively used for this purpose.
 - Universities must comply with the conditions of funding outlined in SFC's [University Final Funding Allocations for AY 2022-23](#) letter (Annex C).

Funding allocations

Institution	Additional Flexible Research Formula allocation
Aberdeen, University of	£1,391,969
Abertay University	£91,714
Dundee, University of	£1,299,025
Edinburgh Napier University	£236,255
Edinburgh, University of	£6,536,199
Glasgow Caledonian University	£268,307
Glasgow School of Art	£85,973
Glasgow, University of	£4,079,546
Heriot-Watt University	£930,052
Highlands & Islands, University of	£224,979
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	£77,635
Robert Gordon University	£97,249
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	£25,628
SRUC	£227,576
St Andrews, University of	£1,352,400
Stirling, University of	£594,156
Strathclyde, University of	£1,681,256
West of Scotland, University of	£191,081
TOTAL	£19,391,000

Payment of funding

30. Funding will be paid in one instalment in January 2023. Funding is for FY 2022-23 only and must be spent by universities by 31 March 2023.

Further information

31. Please contact Dr Cat Ball, Assistant Director for Research & Innovation, email: cball@sfc.ac.uk.

Annex B – Research capital funding

Purpose

32. In line with HERC funding, this additional research capital funding should be focused on maintaining excellent departments with the critical mass to compete globally and the expertise to work closely with business, charities and public services. It should be used solely for capital investment in the physical infrastructure for research.

Monitoring

33. Institutions are required to report on this funding alongside the main BEIS/SFC HERC allocation. We will write out separately to institutions with reporting requirements early in 2023.

Conditions of funding

34. This additional funding should be used in line with conditions of funding for the main HERC allocation which are set out in Annex C of SFC's [University Final Funding Allocations for AY 2022-23](#) letter and reproduced below:
- Higher Education Research Capital (HERC) grant funding should be used to enable universities to focus on maintaining excellent departments with the critical mass to compete globally and the expertise to work closely with business, charities and public services.
 - Funding should be used solely for capital investment in the physical infrastructure for research. All expenditure should be aligned to a university's estate strategy.
 - It is recognised that some infrastructure is often used for both research and teaching purposes. HERC funding may be used on such infrastructure so long as spend is proportional to the percentage that is used for research.
 - HERC funding must be used for, and in line with, the purpose(s) for which it is allocated, as set out above. SFC will consider the recovery of funds or reducing future funding should universities fail to meet those conditions.
35. Institutions must also adhere to the monitoring and reporting requirements associated with this funding.

Funding allocations

Institution	Research capital (additional HERC allocation)
Aberdeen, University of	£199,808
Dundee, University of	£329,602
Edinburgh, University of	£2,206,265
Glasgow, University of	£1,321,459
Heriot-Watt University	£277,104
Highlands & Islands, University of	£68,473
St Andrews, University of	£332,408
Stirling, University of	£83,528
Strathclyde, University of	£400,353
TOTAL	£5,219,000

Payment of funding

36. Funding will be paid in one instalment in January 2023. Funding is for FY 2022-23 only and must be spent by universities by 31 March 2023.

Further information

37. Please contact Hazel McGraw, Senior Policy/Analysis Officer, email: hmcgraw@sfc.ac.uk.