

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

University Innovation Fund – Updated Statement – September 2018

University Innovation Fund (UIF) Priorities AY 2018/19 - Updated September 2018

Equality Impact Assessment

Building on current and good practice we have ensured positive promotion of equality and diversity as evidenced by the supporting EIA.

Statement re the Platform Grant Allocation

Edinburgh Napier University welcomes the continuation of the platform grant of £250k pa to maintain essential Knowledge Exchange and Innovation capacity, used at the University to underpin the delivery of our Strategy 2020 and UIF Outcome Agreements to 2020, aligned to the priorities identified below. In line with SFC guidance, Edinburgh Napier University will use the platform grant to support maintenance of core staff and activities, which drive our applied research, knowledge exchange, consultancy, and continuous professional development activities. As these form a core part of our activity, we are committed to matching this funding through existing staff costs incurred across the wider Enterprise, Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation agenda.

Commitment to All Outcomes

Through the Universities Scotland Research and Commercialisation Directors' Group (RCDG) and the new UIF Manager, Edinburgh Napier recognises the importance of partnerships in the delivery of national outcomes and is committed to collaboration in creating synergies, building critical mass and enhancing the interactive space between HEIs and industry. We welcome the progress made in developing a national agreement on the UIF outcomes and the development of a framework for priority actions for delivery through joint and individual approaches. Edinburgh Napier University will commit to supporting the delivery of outcomes at a sector level, and we will learn from and implement any recommendations arising from UIF cluster led activity.

Expectation of Achievement in 2018-19 – Industrial Collaboration, Public Sector Collaboration and Third Sector Collaboration.

UIF Outcome 6 and Inclusive Growth Cluster

We will use the UIF to strengthen our commitment to support collaboration with the other Edinburgh HEIs in Public Engagement with Research through a refreshed collaborative framework for the Edinburgh Beltane for Public Engagement. The Beltane project allows partner universities to share good practice, build on reciprocal researcher training arrangements and supports interdisciplinary pathways to impact. In 2018-19, a new agreement between Edinburgh Napier University, Queen Margaret University, the University of Edinburgh and Heriot Watt University will be signed to support a new collaborative model of working. The profile of the Beltane partnership has led to the prestigious National Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) (funded by UKRI) Engage 2018 conference being hosted in Edinburgh in November 2018. Through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Innovation and Skills Strands, the Beltane partnership will help support innovation through public engagement with university research.

UIF Outcome 1 and Internationalisation Cluster

University-business interaction generates the greatest value when it is based on a long-term, strategic partnership rather than being a purely transactional relationship. Edinburgh Napier University will focus on developing a key strategic relationship with a large multinational company in 2018-19 and work in partnership with them to develop Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) bids.

Edinburgh Napier University recognises the increasing need to bring together diverse expertise from across multiple disciplines to solve global challenges. New ODA funding such as the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) brings new opportunities for collaboration and growing international partnerships. Edinburgh Napier University will maximise opportunities within the framework of our three broad priority research areas of Sustainable Communities, Wellbeing and the Information Society, which have formed the basis of our three year GCRF strategy

Expectation of Leverage in 2018-19 – Individual and Collaborative from ISCF and other UK Sources

A key priority in stimulating demand for innovation services and simplifying access to University capabilities is taking a more collaborative approach to delivering a programme of Innovation Challenge events aimed at understanding and addressing key industrial challenges which can be developed into expressions of interest and used to influence future Waves of the ISCF. A key aspect of these demand led workshops will be a focus on SME participation, supply chain development and leveraging the UK and

international industry networks of all partners. Edinburgh Napier intends to be an active participant and in particular has key strengths in the areas such as Wellbeing, Information Society and Sustainable Communities.

Sustainable Communities: Our Sustainable Communities research takes us from local to international. Employing local sources of materials effectively is important for sustainability. For example, using our expertise in wood technology and construction, we evaluated Scottish woods such as Sitka spruce for its use as building material.

Information Society: This interdisciplinary theme brings together Edinburgh Napier's cutting-edge research into big data; analytics; visualisation; and cyber-crime, to shape the digital future, connecting our expertise in the arts, creative industries, technology, life science and engineering.

Wellbeing: Focusing on the health and care of our communities, shaping health and social welfare policy, driving innovation and promoting social justice.

Subject to sufficient funding support from other participating universities, agreement to co-fund a new Industry Challenge Innovation Manager post to work at the national level across Scottish HEIs forms part of the new UIF collaboration framework led by RCDG and will provide additional capacity for coordination to support partnership working across the Scottish partners/agencies (e.g. SE/HIE/Scottish Government) and with InnovateUK/UKRI: part of the additional UIF funding will be used to co-fund this secondment during AY2018-19 and will provide sector-wide capacity to help build a community of practice focused on ISCF, deliver the Innovation Challenge events, broker new relationships in response to ISCF opportunities and industry led-challenges and act as a central point of contact for InnovateUK/UKRI and provide support to consortia in emerging challenge areas with potential to influence subsequent waves of ISCF funding.

We recognise that ISCF and other UK funding require more concerted actions to develop external partnerships and collaborative research activities that build on our key research strengths. Edinburgh Napier University will use the UIF to support the development of external industrial partnerships by appointing Knowledge Exchange Managers supporting the University in smoothing the pathway from translational research to commercially and socially valuable benefit.

We will also use the UIF allocation to fund School Research & Innovation Officers to support academics and the School Directors of Research in achieving the ISCF and SFC UIF activities. Examples of this include: Having

an active key role in implementing post project referral activity including initiating final project review and assisting in the mapping of all the University 'touch points' between academia and business to encourage wider interactions and opportunities for industry related research and training.

In addition 'Enhancing researcher skills for business engagement' will be another key focus in AY 2018-19: working collaboratively through the UIF framework we will build on our existing strengths in delivering training sessions for our researcher active staff and research degree students such as the "Engaging with Business" training event we run at Edinburgh Napier University. By participating in this collaborative activity we will share good practice and explore new mechanisms for opening up training opportunities to partner Universities on a reciprocal basis.

Edinburgh Napier University UIF Outcome Agreements

National Outcome one (demand stimulation): (Edinburgh Napier University is part of the sector collaborative partnership) (Ref PA5)

Edinburgh Napier University will work collaboratively with Scotland's enterprise agencies, Scottish Government, business networks, Interface and other HEIs to increase the demand and quality of engagement from businesses and the public sector for University services. Our strategy will be to continue to nurture innovation by fostering opportunities for researchers, students and industry to collaborate.

We recognise that ISCF and other UK funding require more concerted actions to develop external partnerships and collaborative research activities that build on our key research strengths. As a priority in 2018-19, Edinburgh Napier University will use the additional UIF to support the development of external industrial partnerships by appointing Exchange Managers to support the University in smoothing the pathway from translational research to commercially and socially valuable benefit.

To celebrate success of those companies which have grown through successful University collaboration, Edinburgh Napier will highlight successful collaborations by participating in the Annual Interface Knowledge Exchange awards; actively participate in the annual Converge Challenge awards and host an annual research conference to include an industry evening with awards event included.

With the creation of significant funding streams such as the ISCF, which was created to strengthen UK science and business innovation and take on the biggest challenges that society and industries face today, Edinburgh Napier University is reshaping our approach to engaging with Industry. To support businesses to communicate more effectively with the University about significant challenges they are facing, and to support ISCF collaborative bids,

in partnership with them to develop Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) bids.

To encourage greater business-University interaction with existing customers the University will introduce and implement a 'post project referral' protocol to follow up on any Innovation Vouchers/KTP's/Student Placements/Innovation Centre projects with other University services.

To simplify business access to the knowledge expertise within the University, we will engage more effectively with digital platform providers to make the University activities more visible to businesses. We will engage with Konfer, the UK-wide innovation brokerage tool developed by the National Centre for Universities and Business, will be available to provide further dedicated support.

The Knowledge Transfer Partnerships funded through Innovate UK and SFC Innovation Vouchers are a strong means of introducing innovation to small companies. The University will work with the East of Scotland KTP Office, Schools, Interface and key businesses to demonstrate the benefits of KTP grants and Innovation Vouchers and actively promote and support them.

Outcome three (simplification/greater innovation): (Edinburgh Napier is part of the sector collaborative partnership) (Ref PA3) (Ref PA4) (Ref PA7)

Edinburgh Napier University will continue to work in partnership with Enterprise Agencies, Interface, professional bodies such as ARMA and PraxisUnico and other Scottish HEIs to promote greater innovation in the economy (including beyond non-STEM).

Edinburgh Napier University knows that recognition and career progression are important incentives for academics. To ensure that academics have the motivation to engage with businesses, Edinburgh Napier has linked two academic career progression pathways around enterprise and professional practice. These pathway will be reinforced by the Research & Innovation Office Business Engagement Team.

To ensure that the Research & Innovation team are offered appropriate professional development to undertake their role effectively, all staff are encouraged to undertake an appropriate ARMA Certificate and share best practice with the team.

Edinburgh Napier University will actively participate in any review of the RCDG common contracts and ensure that all agreed new common contracts will be implemented.

Outcome four (entrepreneurialism): (Edinburgh Napier University is part of the sector collaborative partnership) (Ref PA11)

Edinburgh Napier University will make a significant and positive change in the way entrepreneurial opportunities are promoted and delivered to students, HEI staff, and businesses.

Edinburgh Napier University aims to facilitate employability, innovation and entrepreneurship by encouraging and supporting students and graduates to be entrepreneurial. We offer entrepreneurial skills development across 6 Schools which is supported and complemented by the work of core central functions. It is also driven by the Entrepreneurship subject group within the Business School. We intend to work with other Universities to share best practice across the sector.

Our research and commercial activity supports and enriches the local economy. In addition we have built relationships with a vast number of partners and our aim is to grow this number.

We intend to promote innovative and enterprising approaches across our activities and have set out to “expand our student consultancy and business support opportunities”, “build knowledge exchange partnerships with other organisations, including businesses.” We also aspire to “grow community/social and commercial utilisation of our assets.”

'Enhancing researcher skills for business engagement' will be another key focus in AY 2018-19: working collaboratively through the UIF framework we will build on our existing strengths in delivering training sessions for our researcher active staff and research degree students such as the “Engaging with Business” training event we run at Edinburgh Napier University. By participating in this collaborative activity we will share good practice and explore new mechanisms for opening up training opportunities to partner Universities on a reciprocal basis.

Finally we want to grow our reach and reputation to become a fully internationalised university and we aspire to “work with the city and region to increase local cultural and economic benefits through the international profile and reach of the university.”

Outcome five (international): (Ref PA11)

Edinburgh Napier University will work in partnership with other Scottish HEIs to pool our knowledge and networks, share good practice to promote and engage Scotland internationally (operating under Scotland’s International Framework).

Edinburgh Napier University recognises the increasing need to bring together diverse expertise from across multiple disciplines to solve global challenges. New ODA funding such as the GCRF brings new opportunities for collaboration and growing international partnerships. Edinburgh Napier University will maximise opportunities within the framework of our three broad priority research areas of Sustainable Communities, Wellbeing and the Information Society, which have formed the basis of our three year GCRF strategy.

The University will commit to supporting the delivery of Outcome five at a sector level, and we will learn from and implement any recommendations arising from RCDG led activity.

Outcome six (inclusive growth and social impact): (Edinburgh Napier University is part of the sector collaborative partnership) (Ref PA10)

Edinburgh Napier University will build on current and good practice and scale up support of the Scottish Government's ambitions for inclusive growth.

We will use the UIF to strengthen our commitment to support collaboration with the other Edinburgh HEIs in Public Engagement with Research through a refreshed collaborative framework for the Edinburgh Beltane for Public Engagement. The Beltane project allows partner universities to share good practice, build on reciprocal researcher training arrangements and supports interdisciplinary pathways to impact. In 2018-19 a new agreement between Edinburgh Napier University, QMU, the University of Edinburgh, and Heriot Watt University will be signed to support a new collaborative model of working. The profile of the Beltane partnership has led to the prestigious National Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) (funded by UKRI) Engage 2018 conference being hosted in Edinburgh in November 2018. Through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Innovation and Skills Strands, the Beltane partnership will help support innovation through public engagement with university research.

Develop a widening participation approach to Public Engagement activity, by partnering with our local communities to involve hard-to-reach 'publics';

Create linkages between best practices in teaching and in Public engagement, by exploring core approaches that apply to both activities.

Outcome seven (Equality and Diversity):

The University will commit to supporting the delivery of Outcome 7 at a sector level, and we will learn from and implement any recommendations arising from RCDG led activity.