

Digital revenue funding for higher education institutions in 2025/26

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To: Heads of higher education institutions

Respond by: 24 October 2025

More information: Rebecca Johnson | digitallearning@medr.cymru

Summary

The document sets out digital revenue funding allocations for higher education institutions in the 2025/26 academic year, and provides guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure.

Each institution will be offered £40,000 revenue funding.

Timelines

Timing:	Milestone or action:
By 24 October 2025	Each institution to confirm if it wishes to accept the funding offered by Medr (Annex A). If the funding offer is accepted, the intended use of this funding should be outlined.
February 2026	Interim payment (50% of the funding allocation) will be processed during February.
By 31 July 2026	Expenditure reporting and final claim will be required. (Annex B will be added once interim payments have been made. Nominated funding leads will be notified when this form is available.)

Introduction

1. During the 2025/26 academic year, Medr aims to improve and update our understanding of digital learning needs and priorities in the tertiary sector and to identify any topics of cross-sector interest with potential for collaboration. This will involve considering the impact and benefit of previous digital learning initiatives for further education, and engaging with Universities Wales and HE institutions as well as other stakeholders.
2. In the meantime, Medr has set aside revenue funding to support initial digital learning activities in the HE sector during 2025/26. This is a single-year funding offer whilst we are gathering evidence to inform Medr's future approaches and funding decisions (subject to future budgets).

Allocations

3. Members of the HE Learning and Teaching Network and Higher Education Wales Information Technology group (HEWIT) were invited to advise on how this funding should be allocated by Medr.
4. Each of the HE institutions listed below has been allocated £40,000 digital revenue funding for the 2025/26 academic year:
 - Aberystwyth University
 - Bangor University
 - Cardiff University
 - Cardiff Metropolitan University
 - Swansea University
 - University of South Wales
 - University of Wales Trinity Saint David
 - Wrexham University
 - The Open University in Wales (for the benefit of students from Wales)
5. If any institutions would prefer not to accept this digital revenue funding for 2025/26 for any reason, there is an option to decline Medr's funding offer (included in **Annex A**).

Guidance on the use of revenue funding

6. Guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure is provided in this section. We have aimed to provide as much flexibility as possible so that institutions can meet local needs and priorities. If you are unsure whether your proposed use of funding is eligible, please contact digitallearning@medr.cymru for advice.

7. The funding is made available subject to the general conditions for payment of funds by Medr to the Governing Body of an institution. These are set out in the 2025/26 Terms and Conditions of funding.
8. This funding has been allocated as a contribution towards in-house costs (e.g. to provide dedicated time and capacity from key individuals) and/or to bring in external expertise and capacity to support the following purposes.
9. Members of the HE Learning and Teaching Network and HEWIT group were consulted on suggested topics for activities during 2025/26 which will provide practical and achievable benefits. The following topics were identified as the top three priorities.
10. Eligible revenue expenditure **may include**:

Digital Transformation and developing strategic approaches to digital learning	<p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessing your institution's current position and identifying priorities in relation to digital learning • developing, or reviewing and updating, institutional action plans for digital learning and/or digital transformation • exploring how the adoption and/or integration of digital technologies and tools could improve students' learning experiences and/or employability • facilitating engagement with students and staff as part of user-centred design and institutional decision-making processes related to digital learning • collecting, measuring and analysing quantitative data and qualitative feedback from students and staff to demonstrate the impact of digital learning activities and evaluate pilots • time and capacity from key individuals to engage in collaborative activities and/or research co-ordinated by Jisc on behalf of Medr
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	<p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing ideas or approaches inspired by the Welsh Collective: AI in Education conference 2025 • innovation, exploration and piloting AI technologies and tools for use in teaching and learning activities • integration of AI technologies, tools and/or approaches following previous piloting (within your institution, or drawing on the experiences of other tertiary education providers) • training and upskilling for key individuals directly involved in piloting activity or in the adoption of new technologies and tools • time and capacity from key individuals to engage in research co-ordinated by Jisc on behalf of Medr
Effective use and management of data	<p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving internal management and use of data relating to the student experience and to teaching and learning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing or reviewing your institution's use of learning analytics • exploring how student data could be used to improve services and/or develop new approaches • improving staff understanding of student data, good practice in data management, and/or skills in utilising data
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11. Revenue funding **cannot** be used for:

- Costs for promotional material and merchandise; and/or rewards to individuals for participation in activities or for providing feedback
- Staff travel and subsistence costs
- Costs outside this funding period (i.e. after 31 July 2026)

Your institution must not have any expectation that Medr will provide further funding in future years and any supported costs during this period must not create a future funding dependency (for example; for ongoing licence agreements).

Your institution is responsible for ensuring that any ongoing or recurrent costs will be sustainable in future.

Accepting the funding

12. Each institution is required to complete and return the form at **Annex A** to:

- Formally confirm if your institution wishes to accept this funding

If the funding is accepted, you are required to:

- Nominate an appropriate individual in your institution as the lead contact in relation to this funding
- Briefly outline your intentions for use of this funding

13. Completed and signed forms should be returned to digitallearning@medr.cymru by 24 October 2025. This return is required before interim payment will be processed by Medr.

14. Please notify Medr at the earliest opportunity if you foresee that you will not be able to spend your full allocation.

Monitoring and payment of funding

15. Subject to the return of **Annex A**, an interim payment (50% of your institution's allocation) will be scheduled during February 2026.

16. You will be required to provide expenditure information by 31 July 2026 to release final payment. The remaining 50% of your institution's allocation will be available at this point. You should only claim against actual expenditure incurred by 31 July

2026. The amount of this final payment will be adjusted in line with the actual expenditure incurred, up to the total value of your institution's allocation.

17. Once interim payments have been made, the form for use when making your institution's final claim and providing end-of-year expenditure information will be added as **Annex B**. Nominated funding leads will be notified when this form is available.

Sharing information

18. Each funding recipient will be expected to liaise with Jisc to produce a project story, case study, or example of funded activity which can be shared more widely. Depending on the nature of activities carried out in your institution, appropriate formats for this information might include:
 - A blog post
 - A podcast or recorded interview
 - Presentation for a relevant network meeting or event; to provide a speaker or panel member for a relevant conference
19. You will be asked to suggested some key points for wider communication in your end-of-year report (**Annex B**). This information will be shared with Jisc.

Further information

20. Any queries regarding this circular should be directed to Rebecca Johnson (digitallearning@medr.cymru).

Digital Revenue Funding for Higher Education Institutions in 2025/26

Completed forms must be returned to digitallearning@medr.cymru by **24 October 2025**.

Section 1: Acceptance of funding

Funding recipient details:		
Institution:		
Do you wish to accept this £40,000 digital revenue funding?	Yes	No
Date of decision:		

If the funding has been accepted, the following information is also required.

Your institution's nominated lead contact for this funding:	
Name:	
Email address:	

Section 2: Intended use of funding

Referring to our guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure, please indicate briefly how you intend to use this funding. Interim payment will be made during February 2026.

At this stage, you may indicate an estimated amount or estimated percentage of funding against each relevant category. Itemised expenditure details will be requested at the end of the grant period, as part of your institution's final claim.

If no expenditure is anticipated against a category, please mark it as 'N/A'.

2.1 Revenue funding		
Expenditure category:	Intended type of expenditure:	Estimated amount or percentage of revenue funding:
Digital Transformation and developing strategic approaches to digital learning		
Artificial Intelligence (AI)		

Effective use and management of data		
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If you are not able to utilise your full allocation for any reason, please notify Medr as soon as possible (via: digitallearning@medr.cymru).

Digital Revenue Funding for Higher Education Institutions in 2025/26

This annex will be added once interim payments have been made.

Medr

Y Comisiwn Addysg Drydyddol ac Ymchwil
Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

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