

Higher Education Research Capital (HERC) Fund 2025-26

Date: 12 September 2025

Reference: Medr/2025/16

To: Heads of higher education institutions

Respond by: 13 February 2026 and 24 April 2026

More information: Hayley Moss | research@medr.cymru

Summary

This publication provides details of 2025-26 allocations for institutions qualifying to receive Higher Education Research Capital funding.

Introduction

1. Since 2011 Higher Education Research Capital (HERC) has been provided to qualifying institutions in Wales. This publication advises Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of allocations for 2025-26 and provides guidance on the associated reporting and monitoring requirements.

Background

2. The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has confirmed that it will provide HERC funding to the four UK HE funding bodies¹ in 2025-26. DSIT will provide support of £4,623,296 in Wales which will be matched by a contribution from the Welsh Government (WG) resulting in a total fund of £9,246,592.

Use of funding

3. The funding provided under HERC is to be used solely for capital investment in the physical infrastructure for research. Research includes 'scientific research' (meaning research and development in any of the sciences including social sciences or technology (section 6(1) of the Science and Technology Act 1965)) and arts and humanities research.
4. In determining the use of their allocations institutions should consider the requirements of Welsh Government's [Programme for Government](#) and the ambitions identified in the [UK Innovation Strategy](#), [UKRI's strategy](#), [Welsh Government's Innovation Strategy](#) and [Medr's Strategic Plan 2025-2030](#). Consideration should also be given to how funding is used to support the ambitions of the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

Allocations

5. Funding is allocated via separate methods for DSIT and WG elements:
 - i) The DSIT element of funding is allocated using the most recent 3-year data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on UK Research and Innovation Research Council income. As per DSIT's Memorandum of Understanding with Medr and Welsh Government, funding should focus on maintaining excellent departments with critical mass to compete globally and the expertise to work closely with business, charities and public services.
 - ii) The Welsh Government element of the grant is allocated pro-rata to a combination of latest recurrent Quality Research (QR) allocation plus other research income reported by the provider to the HESA finance record. The QR allocation for 2024/25 has been used within the funding formula for HERC 2025-26.

¹Medr – the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research; Scottish Funding Council; Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland); Research England.

Funding threshold

6. In order to meet the DSIT requirement that the fund supports excellence and builds critical mass the formula includes a minimum threshold of £100k. Only institutions with allocations calculated to be above this eligibility threshold will receive funding in 2025-26.
7. Funding allocations for qualifying institutions in 2025-26 can be found at **Annex A**.

Monitoring arrangements

8. In February 2025, institutions submitted details of their future HERC funding priorities for 2025-26. Confirmation of these investments and potential future plans for 2026-27 should be provided by completing and submitting the pro-forma at **Annex B**.
 - Part 1 of the pro-forma should report on confirmed use of funding in 2025-26, including total costs of large scale investments where HERC funding has been a contribution. Institutions should demonstrate where HERC funding has enabled and incentivised research capacity, developed strategic priorities, and allowed institutions to compete more effectively for external research and innovation funding.
 - Part 2 of the pro-forma should be used to outline spending priorities for 2026-27 based on the assumption further HERC funding is made available.
 - **Annex B** must be returned to Medr by no later than **13 February 2026**.
9. In order to confirm HERC has been spent in full qualifying institutions are asked to submit the Confirmation of Expenditure pro-forma at **Annex C** by **24 April 2026**. Institutions should ensure it is clear whether any unspent funding is committed and if so, the date by which it will be spent in full. Unspent funding which is uncommitted can be reclaimed by Medr.
10. The information submitted by HEIs in these reports will form the basis of Medr's reporting requirements for Welsh Government in February 2026 and DSIT in June 2026. Failure to provide adequate project and expenditure detail could delay future confirmation of funding allocations, or indicate a potential lack of impact for HERC investment in Wales which could diminish the argument for continued funding.

Payment arrangements

11. As noted in **Annex A** funding will be distributed via two payments in September 2025 and January 2026.

Further information/responses to

12. For further information, contact Hayley Moss (research@medr.cymru).

Assessing the impact of our policies

13. We carry out an impact assessment screening to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality. We also consider the impact of policies on the Welsh language, and Welsh language provision within the HE sector in Wales and potential impacts towards the goals set out in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 including our Well-Being Objectives. Contact info@medr.cymru for more information about impact assessments.

Higher Education Research Capital – Funding Allocations 2025-26

Institution	DSIT Allocation	WG Allocation	Total
University of South Wales	£64,947	£169,793	£234,740
Aberystwyth University	£424,182	£322,649	£746,832
Bangor University	£278,242	£524,060	£802,302
Cardiff University	£2,461,618	£2,546,931	£5,008,549
Swansea University	£1,360,749	£939,858	£2,300,607
Cardiff Metropolitan University	£33,557	£120,005	£153,562
Total	£4,623,296	£4,623,296	£9,246,592

Payment Profile 2025-26

Institution	Sep-25	Jan-26
University of South Wales	£87,688	£47,052
Aberystwyth University	£278,982	£467,850
Bangor University	£299,703	£502,599
Cardiff University	£1,870,964	£3,137,585
Swansea University	£859,401	£1,441,206
Cardiff Metropolitan University	£57,364	£96,198
Total	£3,454,102	£5,792,490

Notes:

1. In 2025-26 HEIs must meet a minimum £100k threshold when the formula is applied to qualify for standard HERC funds.
2. DSIT funding is allocated pro-rata using the latest three years of Research Council Income (2021/22 – 2023/24).
3. WG funding is allocated pro-rata to QR allocations for 2024/25, plus other research income reported by the provider to the HESA finance record in 2023/24.

Medr

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

www.medr.cymru

2 Cwr y Ddinas
Stryd Tyndall
Caerdydd
CF10 4BZ

2 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government