

Digital revenue funding for further and higher education institutions in 2026/27

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To: Heads of higher education institutions
Principals of further education institutions

Respond by: 11 November 2026

More information: Rebecca Johnson | digitallearning@medr.cymru

Summary:

This document sets out digital revenue funding allocations for further and higher education institutions, provides guidance on the use of funding and sets out reporting and evidence requirements.

Each institution listed in this publication has been allocated £32,500.

Key milestones for AY2026/27:

Timing	Milestone or action
11 November 2026	Each institution to briefly outline its intended use of funding (Annex A)
c. 20 January 2027	Following receipt of Annex A, interim payment will be processed in January
15 July 2027	End-of-year expenditure reporting required (Annex B to be added in early 2027)
c. 20 August 2027	Following receipt of Annex B, final payment will be processed in August

Introduction

1. Medr is preparing for a mid-term refresh of the [Digital 2030 strategic framework](#) for digital learning and developing our evidence base on digital learning needs and priorities to inform our future approach to digital learning in the tertiary education sector. We are working closely with Jisc to better understand the current position, needs and priorities relating to digital learning in the further and higher education sectors and in apprenticeship provision.

Further education:

2. Jisc has already engaged with further education institutions, Colegau Cymru and other key stakeholders to produce findings for Medr on current needs and priorities in further education. We have started to incorporate findings from this piece of work, particularly around the theme of digital infrastructure, into our approach to digital capital funding for further education institutions ([Medr/2026/18](#)).
3. The criteria for revenue expenditure set out in this publication also reflects the following themes raised by further education institutions:
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Improving data maturity
 - Encouraging collaborative approaches

Higher education:

4. Further engagement with higher education institutions, Universities Wales and other key stakeholders on current digital learning needs and priorities in higher education is scheduled for AY2026/27.
5. In the meantime, we have continued to incorporate key themes from the higher education sector which were reflected in previous revenue funding criteria ([Medr/2025/15](#)):
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Digital Transformation and developing strategic approaches to digital learning
 - Effective use and management of data

Looking forward:

6. For future years, findings and themes from our evidence-gathering will be considered by Medr, along with feedback from the sector, to inform our decisions on future digital funding allocations. We are conscious that some projects funded under Medr's Post-16 Strategic Development Fund in 2025/26 ([Medr/2026/03](#)) may also produce relevant findings and outputs.

Allocations

7. Each of the further education institutions listed below has been allocated £32,500 digital revenue funding for the 2026/27 academic year:
 - Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales
 - Bridgend College
 - Cardiff and Vale College
 - Coleg Cambria

- Coleg Gwent
- Coleg Sir Gâr
- Coleg y Cymoedd
- Gower College Swansea
- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
- Grŵp NPTC Group
- Pembrokeshire College
- St David's Catholic College
- The College Merthyr Tydfil.

8. Each of the higher education institutions listed below has been allocated £32,500 digital revenue funding for the 2026/27 academic year:
- Aberystwyth University
 - Bangor University
 - Cardiff University
 - Cardiff Metropolitan University
 - Swansea University
 - University of South Wales
 - The University of Wales Trinity St David
 - Wrexham University
 - The Open University in Wales (for the benefit of students from Wales).

Guidance on the use of revenue funding

9. 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.
10. The funding allocated by Medr is subject to the general conditions for the payment of funds set out in Medr's [Terms and Conditions of Grant 2026/2027](#).
11. 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.
12. Eligible revenue expenditure **may include:**

Category		Examples of eligible activities
DR1	Artificial Intelligence (AI)	<p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical training and upskilling for key individuals directly involved in piloting activity or in the adoption of new technologies and tools (see paragraph 13 in relation to Professional Learning Funding for FE institutions) • time and capacity from key individuals to engage in collaborative activities and/or research
DR2	Digital Transformation and embedding strategic approaches to digital learning	<p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 learners' learning experiences and/or employability • addressing specific digital learning needs identified through learner feedback • sharing learning and experiences within your own institution, to increase the consistency of approaches and improve the coherence of learner experiences within and/or across different departments
DR3	Encouraging collaborative approaches to digital learning	<p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating engagement with your learners and staff as part of user-centred design and institutional decision-making processes related to digital learning • sharing learning and experiences in the wider tertiary sector (i.e. outside your institution) • undertaking collaborative activities with external partners (e.g. other learning providers, employers, community partners)
DR4	Improving data maturity and 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 learner experience and to teaching and learning • developing or reviewing your institution's use of learning analytics • improving staff understanding of learner data, good practice in data management, and/or skills in utilising data effectively, safely and securely
DR5	Evaluation, monitoring and reporting	<p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collecting, measuring and analysing quantitative data and qualitative feedback from learners and staff to demonstrate the impact of digital learning activities and evaluate pilots • preparing information for wider dissemination and sharing

13. This revenue funding **must not** be used for:

- The purchase of digital devices or digital equipment

- 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 2027)
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.
- Further education institutions also have access to [Professional Learning Funding \(PLF\)](#) from Medr, which is our primary channel for supporting professional learning activities in the sector. As PLF funding is already available, this digital revenue funding should not be used for general training and professional learning for FE staff (i.e. costs for individual members of staff to attend training or obtain certifications).

Accepting the funding

14. Each institution is required to complete and return the form at Annex A to:
 - Formally confirm your institution's acceptance of this funding
 - 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.
15. Completed forms should be returned to digitallearning@medr.cymru by 11 November 2026. This return is required before interim payment will be processed.
16. Please notify Medr at the earliest opportunity if you foresee that you will not be able to spend your institution's full allocation.

Monitoring and payment of funding

17. Subject to the return of **Annex A**, an interim payment of £16,500 will be scheduled during January 2027.
18. You will be required to provide expenditure information by 15 July 2027 to release final payment. You should only claim against actual expenditure which has already been incurred and any further committed costs which will be incurred by 31 July 2027. Medr will only pay for actual expenditure incurred up to the maximum of £32,500. If your institution has not spent your full allocation, the amount of final payment will be reduced accordingly to bring the total paid in line with your total spend.
19. 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

20. In your institution's end-of-year report, we will ask you to provide some brief information about a possible project story, case study, or example of funded activity which could be shared more widely (e.g. through a blog post, podcast or interviews, presentation for a network meeting, event or conference). We will liaise with Jisc to identify a selection of examples which will be taken forward and will ask Jisc to liaise with relevant institutions to line up opportunities for wider sharing.

Further information

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

Medr/2026/26: Annex A

Digital revenue funding for further and higher education institutions in 2026/27

Completed forms must be returned to digitallearning@medr.cymru by 11 November 2026.

Section 1: Acceptance of funding

Funding recipient details:	
Institution:	

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

By completing and returning this form, you are confirming that your institution is accepting the £32,500 digital revenue funding which has been offered by Medr.

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 January 2027.

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 funding:
DR1	Artificial Intelligence (AI)	
DR2	Digital Transformation and embedding strategic approaches to digital learning	
DR3	Encouraging collaborative approaches to digital learning	
DR4	Improving data maturity and effective use and management of data	
DR5	Evaluation, monitoring and reporting	

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

Medr/2026/26: Annex B

Digital revenue funding for further and higher education institutions in 2026/27

This annex will be added once interim payments have been processed. Nominated funding leads will be notified when this template is available.

Medr

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