

# Research England Development Fund

## University Enterprise Zone (UEZ) Call

### Frequently Asked questions (FAQs)

(Please note this document will be updated from time-to-time to reflect our conversations with institutions.)

#### **1. Which institutions can submit proposals?**

Higher education institutions formally designated for HEFCE funding can apply to the Fund. In every proposal the panel will wish to see a description of the existing incubation activities and a clear indication of what a new funding award will develop.

Those institutions who have previously benefited from significant public funding for local university-business collaborations, such as the pilot UEZs awarded in 2014, are eligible to apply but, in common with other applicants, the panel will be seeking evidence of the additionality that this UEZ funding would bring.

#### **2. What are the upper and lower ceilings for UEZ RED Fund bids?**

Proposals can be for between £500k and £1.5m. Institutions should seek to discuss their initial proposals and their potential project impacts with Research England officers. Please contact [UEZ@re.ukri.org](mailto:UEZ@re.ukri.org).

#### **3. Developing proposals to the RED Fund**

There is a relatively short turnaround time for developing proposals for the RED Fund UEZ call. The first step in considering making a proposal to the fund is to test the project idea with a representative of Research England. Email [REDevelopmentFund@re.ukri.org](mailto:REDevelopmentFund@re.ukri.org) to log your interest and to be put in touch with the appropriate contact. Given the time constraints of this funding call, we will advise as soon as possible on general fit with the fund policies and priorities. If the project idea is at an early stage of thinking, an initial discussion may be more suitable followed with a short summary by email.

#### **4. Can we submit more than one UEZ proposal?**

Yes.

**5. What is the definition of a business incubator for this call?**

We are using the definition developed by NESTA for a report to BEIS.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-incubators-and-accelerators-the-national-picture>

BEIS Research Paper No. 7.

**6. What are the boundaries around these bids?**

All proposals should make the case for funding that is directly focused on developing business incubation facilities or services. Any elements of a bid that fail to demonstrate that they are directly related to business incubation will not be awarded.

**7. Are you looking for a balance between capital and revenue spend in RED Fund bids?**

No. The bid can be either for capital or revenue or a combination of the two, depending on what is most appropriate for the project.

**8. How should our proposal work with local planning procedures?**

If you are proposing an activity that requires local planning consent we expect to see evidence of co-operation from the relevant local planning authority in collaboration with the relevant authority or authorities that will deliver simplified planning procedures within the zone. This could be by means of a local development order, a local development corporation or similar delivery body or other suitable mechanism. Alternatively, please provide an explanation as to why this is not appropriate for your proposals.

**9. If we have been awarded funding under RPIF or SIPF can we apply to the UEZ call?**

Yes as long as the items requested in the funding do not overlap.

**10. What does 'financial sustainability' mean in the context of the UEZ RED Fund call?**

Projects are likely to have longer term associated costs, and we will expect robust plans for sustainability to demonstrate how the project will continue to add value beyond the life of the project itself. For example, is there activity to generate alternative income sources by the end of the project?

**11. *Is leveraged funding an absolute requirement?***

There is no specified level of matched funding required, but we are seeking evidence that partners (e.g. industry, business and public sector partners) are contributing in a measurable way. The level of contribution from project partners is not prescribed, instead judgements will be made on what is appropriate for the project.

**12. *What overheads can be funded?***

We recommend that institutions are aware of the full costs of the project when bidding to the RED Fund. Research England are prepared to make a contribution to full costs and universities should also – we would expect overheads to be covered as part of the institution's contributions and we will take this into account when making a judgement on potential value for money.

**13. *Is there a cap on the number of RED Fund bids from one HEI?***

We are unlikely to fund more than one project per lead institution as to avoid investing a disproportionate amount of spend into a single provider. Institutions are free to be involved as partners in other projects.

**14. *Will there be further funding calls for UEZs?***

At this stage only this current call targeted at UEZs is planned.

**15. *Can an institution also submit an application to the remainder of the RED fund at any time?***

Yes an institution may submit proposals to time limited calls and to other parts of the RED fund. Please be aware that the same panel looks at all categories of RED fund proposals so any failed proposal will need more work and improvement if you have been advised that you can re-submit - for example from the UEZ call into the general RED fund.

**16. *When does the RED Fund panel meet?***

The UEZ call RED Fund panel is due to meet on 12 June 2019.

**17. *Over what period will you provide the funding for the UEZ call?***

The project funding is for 12 months. We are anticipating it will run from 1 August 2019 to 30 July 2020.

We are unlikely to fund continuation of projects. We would normally expect projects to commence soon after funding is awarded.

**18. *What evidence do you require for financial contributions from partners?***

A letter confirming their intended commitment to the project will suffice in most cases. We may need a firmer commitment in some circumstances, or we may ask for further explanation or evidence relating to partner contributions.

**Contact us at:**

[uez@re.ukri.org](mailto:uez@re.ukri.org)