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HIGHER TECHNICAL EDUCATION BOOST FOR FE FORM

The following information is intended to provide guidance and context for the form which must be completed and submitted to the Open University by the advertised deadline in order for an institution to be considered for this scheme.

# Working with the Open University

The Open University will select applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for the funding, focusing primarily on the following:

* Lower than average levels of attainment and provision of level 4/5 qualifications in the local area
* Evidence that the courses proposed relate to local skills shortages and meet

employer requirements

* Evidence that the courses proposed are not replicating existing provision available locally
* Ideally, that the institution is in an Education Investment Area
* Ideally, that the proposed courses align to an existing or future HTQ pathway

We will recommend one of three models (A, B, and C - outlined below) for working with you, based on your prior experience of delivering HE, and your capacity and resource.

Models A and B are both Validation Partnerships whereby the partner institution and its associated courses are approved and validated teach a programme leading to an OU Award. The partner institution receives student fees directly. Model C is Collaborative Provision whereby OU registered students follow OU courses but are taught at a partner institution. In this arrangement the students follow OU regulations and student fees are collected by the OU and the partner receives an agreed fee paid by the OU.

1. Delegated Validation: where the Partner has experience of HE curriculum development and delivery and bears the responsibilities for developing HE curriculum, policies and processes. The OU has quality management oversight.
2. Enabled Validation: where the Partner has some experience of HE curriculum development and delivery. The OU closely supports the Partner in developing, policies and processes. The OU has quality management oversight and, in some cases, will operate key QA processes such as chairing exam boards until the Partner is ready to undertake them independently.
3. Collaborative Provision where the Partner has little experience of HE curriculum development or delivery and the Partner delivers courses developed by the OU.

The funding provided will cover the fees associated with the validation or collaborative provision services provided by the OU. Course production and delivery costs (except those already borne by the OU in the collaborative delivery model) will be the responsibility of the college.

The aim of the scheme is to boost level 4/5 provision in areas where it is lower than average, and address skills shortages in those areas.

The OU will be required to ensure that it distributes the funded projects as evenly as possible across England.

At the end of the funding period, if the programme is successful, partner institutions can continue on commercial terms with the OU (or another HEI), or with the OU on commercial terms to teach out students still on the courses.

# Timescales and Deadlines

We recognise that you will need time to prepare a course proposition, and we want to give as much time as possible to enable as many applicants as possible who are able to meet the eligibility criteria to access the funding. Because of this, we will operate 2 application deadlines and selection points.

* Wave 1 application deadline: 5th September 2022 (for those ready to start work in October 2022)
* Wave 2 application deadline: 15th November 2022

**We hope to notify you of all decisions by December 2022 at the latest.**

**Please note that we are now accepting applications subject to finalising the terms and conditions of the arrangements with the OfS.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

The Open university will be required to award some of the funding in Wave 1 and so will potentially commence work on those projects in order to comply with the funding

requirements to have some of the programmes operational by September 2023. As such, we encourage all applicants to submit as early as possible given that, once we reach the Wave 2 deadline, some of the funding will already have been allocated.

The Open University’s selected candidates for the funding will be ratified by the OfS. Please direct all questions or clarifications to [**fecou-enquiry@open.ac.uk**](mailto:fecou-enquiry@open.ac.uk)