



Research
England

Circular letter

International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding for financial years 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

To	Heads of Research England-funded higher education providers
Reference	RE-CL-2023-09
Publication date	24 November 2023
Enquiries to	researchpolicy@re.ukri.org

Dear Vice-Chancellor or Principal

Notice of funding

1. Research England has received further funding from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to be allocated to higher education providers (HEPs) for financial years (FYs) 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025. This is in addition to the funding allocated in August and September 2023¹. This new funding arises from the International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) and comprises:
 - ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding of £25.9 million for FY 2023 to 2024 and £21.1 million for FY 2024 to 2025

ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding

2. HEPs that participated in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021) and that are Office for Students (OfS) approved (fee cap) providers are eligible to receive this funding. This funding has been allocated to eligible HEPs in line with historic official development assistance (ODA) funding received by HEPs, including Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and Newton Fund amounts, as well as UKRI Research Council

¹ www.ukri.org/publications/research-england-grant-allocations-to-heps-2023-to-2024

competitive grants not originally designated as ODA that were subsequently found to meet ODA eligibility criteria (also referred to as ‘other ODA’).

3. The grant must only be used to fund activities that are ODA compliant as defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)². To be ODA compliant, all funded activity must have the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries on the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list³ as its main objective; and be concessional in character.
4. UK ODA funding is governed by the International Development Act 2002⁴ as amended, and the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014⁵ which requires that aid must be “likely to contribute to reducing poverty in a way which is likely to contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender”. Therefore, activities funded through ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding must adhere to this legislation.
5. ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding received by HEPs must be spent in full by the end of the financial year in which it is received. ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding spend for this FY 2023 to 2024 can be backdated to the date on which Research England received confirmation of this funding from DSIT (30th October 2023).
6. This funding provides flexible institutional grants that can be used strategically to support ODA eligible activity only. This may include underpinning ISPF activity funded through other delivery partners, or by directly supporting research that addresses the problems faced by developing countries that are not funded through the ISPF grants of other delivery partners.
7. As directed by DSIT, the ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) shall not be used to deliver activities within, in partnership with or that otherwise benefit China⁶.
8. As part of necessary monitoring requirements on this funding, HEPs in receipt of this grant are required to include this funding in their routine annual accounting reporting.
9. HEPs in receipt of this funding may also be subject to monitoring spot checks by Research England on behalf of DSIT, providing programme level examples of how they have spent this funding in line with ODA compliance requirements in quarters 2,3 and 4 of FY 2024 to 2025.
10. HEPs offered ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding **must either opt in or opt out of receipt of this funding for each of FY 2023 to 2024 and FY 2024 to 2025 by 12.00pm Tuesday 5th December** using the following link ([ISPF Institutional Support](#)

² [ODA – definition and coverage - OECD](#) – Military aid and promotion of donor’s security interests are not ODA.

³ [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\) list](#)

⁴ [International Development Act 2002 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ [International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

⁶ [UK Parliament statement: Ending BEIS ODA spending in China](#)

[Grant allocations for financial years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 \(office.com\)](#)). This deadline is in place so that Research England can process payments to HEPs that opt-in to this funding as quickly as possible. This form must be completed on the authority of an individual responsible for funding decisions within the HEP. **Failure to confirm a HEP's decision by this deadline, will be received as the HEP opting out of receiving this funding.**

11. HEPs that opt in to receive these grants agree this funding will be spent on ODA eligible activity only². Use of this funding in a non-compliant manner will be considered to breach Research England's Terms and Conditions of Grant⁷.
12. HEPs that opt in to receive this funding but then subsequently fail to spend it within the required period on ODA eligible activity may have these funds recovered by Research England. HEPs will need to carefully consider whether they will be able to spend this funding in a compliant manner within the time required when they decide to either opt in/accept or opt out/decline this funding.
13. Any ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding for FY 2023 to 2024 that is rejected by HEPs through the process above will not be reallocated. ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding for FY 2024 to 2025 will only be allocated to those HEPS that have confirmed acceptance of this funding for FY 2024 to 2025 through the process detailed above.
14. Initial allocations for the ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding for FY 2023 to 2024 are shown at Annex A. Allocations for HEPs that confirm acceptance of the funding (as described above) will be added to Table 5 of workbook [Research England grant allocations data 2023 to 2024](#) in December 2023, and will be paid in January 2024.

Further information

15. Information on our other formula-based funding for 2023 to 2024 is available via our [funding allocations web pages](#).
16. Questions about these allocations should be directed to researchpolicy@re.ukri.org.

Yours faithfully



Professor Dame Jessica Corner FMedSci, MAE, RN
Executive Chair

⁷ [Research England terms and Conditions](#)

Annex A: ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) funding – initial allocations for individual higher education providers in financial year 2023 to 2024

Higher education provider	ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) initial allocation FY 2023 to 2024 (£)
University of the Arts, London	490
Aston University	27,733
University of Bath	232,116
Bath Spa University	14,759
University of Bedfordshire	4,563
Birkbeck, University of London	13,755
University of Birmingham	604,217
Birmingham City University	2,643
Bournemouth University	3,511
The University of Bradford	17,756
University of Brighton	22,157
University of Bristol	668,250
Brunel University London	77,784
The University of Cambridge	1,032,487
City, University of London	38,252
Coventry University	394,087
Cranfield University	165,144
De Montfort University	62,462
University of Derby	960
Durham University	441,069
Edge Hill University	6,613
The University of Essex	31,147
University of Exeter	387,768
Goldsmiths, University of London	70,846
University of Greenwich	91,899
University of Hertfordshire	32,091
University of Huddersfield	86,333
University of Hull	16,790
Imperial College London	1,345,878
Keele University	145,573
The University of Kent	197,931

Higher education provider	ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) initial allocation FY 2023 to 2024 (£)
King's College London	971,200
Kingston University	3,430
Lancaster University	314,715
University of Leeds	1,135,072
Leeds Beckett University	3,598
University of Leicester	127,726
University of Lincoln	63,188
The University of Liverpool	733,912
Liverpool Hope University	945
Liverpool John Moores University	54,927
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	1,072,371
London Business School	5,714
The London School of Economics and Political Science	705,934
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	3,331,906
Loughborough University	225,315
University of Manchester	707,843
Manchester Metropolitan University	16,583
Middlesex University	8,334
Newcastle University	756,561
Northumbria University	23,705
Nottingham Trent University	15,443
University of Nottingham, the	333,982
The Open University	141,635
Oxford Brookes University	57,025
Oxford University	2,799,146
University of Plymouth	64,039
University of Portsmouth	23,525
Queen Mary University of London	436,424
University of Reading	326,160
University of Roehampton	6,976
The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	415
The Royal College of Art	628
Royal Holloway, University of London	97,343

Higher education provider	ISPF Institutional Support Grant (ODA) initial allocation FY 2023 to 2024 (£)
The Royal Veterinary College	422,047
The University of Salford	78,975
School of Oriental and African Studies	280,901
University of Sheffield	357,644
Sheffield Hallam University	17,738
University of Southampton	512,621
St. George's, University of London	241,610
The University of Surrey	111,557
University of Sussex	269,169
Teesside University	1,594
UCL	1,635,099
UCLan	51,320
UEA	241,264
UWE	13,705
University of Warwick	255,223
The University of Westminster	7,828
University of Wolverhampton	1,146
University of York	633,615
Total	25,935,840