



**Research
England**

Circular letter

Allocations for 2021-22 Specialist Provider Element

To	Heads of Research England-funded higher education providers
Reference	RE-CL-2021-10
Publication date	25 November 2021
Enquiries to	General queries to researchpolicy@re.ukri.org

Dear Vice-Chancellor or Principal

Notice of funding

1. This circular letter provides information on the allocation of £10 million in 2021-22 to higher education providers (HEPs) identified as specialist.
2. The Specialist Provider Element forms part of our funding for research and knowledge exchange, as detailed in our publication '[Research and knowledge exchange funding for 2021-22](#)' dated 21 October 2021.
3. This £10 million is a further part of an £80 million package for five years announced by the government in the March 2020 budget. In 2020-21 £10 million was awarded by a separate mechanism in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. The funding has the following aim and objectives, which recognise the characteristics of specialist providers and the contribution they make to their disciplines, associated industries, and more widely to society and the economy.

Aim

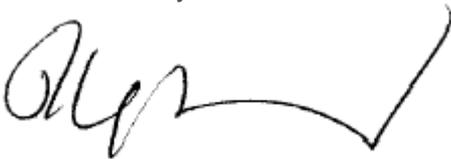
To support the excellence and capability of small and specialist providers, ensuring their continued contribution to the economy and society.

Objectives

To provide funding that enables specialist providers to:

- a. Have the capacity to continue delivering world-leading research developments in their specialisms.
 - b. Sustain their role in training talented researchers with sector-specific knowledge and skills.
 - c. Translate their research into economic and societal impact.
5. Specialist providers are defined as those meeting all the following criteria:
- a. A provider that has at least 75% of their staff FTE in one HESA cost centre; or at least 90% of their staff FTE in two HESA cost centres
 - b. A provider in receipt of mainstream QR funding
 - c. A provider with below 1000 FTE academic staff
6. This funding is allocated in proportion to providers' total recurrent QR funding¹. There is a maximum allocation for a provider of 10% of the total Specialist Provider Element funding available; for 2021-22 the maximum allocation is therefore £1 million.
7. The funding is awarded under the same terms and conditions as QR funding².
8. There will be light touch monitoring of the funding to understand how it is spent and to gather examples of impactful spend. We do not expect monitoring activity to start until August 2022 and further details of our monitoring will follow in due course.
9. Allocations are provided at Annex A. Payment will be made to eligible HEPs in December 2021.
10. Questions about the Specialist Provider Element should be addressed to researchpolicy@re.ukri.org.

Yours sincerely



David Sweeney, Executive Chair

¹ For recurrent QR allocations see [Research and knowledge exchange funding for 2021-22](#), Annex A, Table 1.

² <https://www.ukri.org/publications/research-england-terms-and-conditions-2021-to-2022/>.

Annex A: Specialist Provider Element funding allocations for individual providers 2021-22

Higher education provider	Specialist Provider Element grant 2021-22 (£)
Courtauld Institute of Art	1,000,000
Guildhall School of Music & Drama	372,689
Harper Adams University	460,649
Institute of Cancer Research: Royal Cancer Hospital (The)	1,000,000
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	1,000,000
London Business School	1,000,000
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	1,000,000
Norwich University of the Arts	124,439
Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance	61,789
The Royal Academy of Music	304,380
The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	642,933
Royal College of Art(The)	1,000,000
Royal College of Music	425,886
Royal Northern College of Music	334,069
The Royal Veterinary College	1,000,000
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	234,331
Writtle University College	38,836
Total	10,000,001