## Expanding Excellence in England Fund: 2024-28 Expression of Interest Template

Please complete this template and submit it to expandingexcellence@re.ukri.org by **noon on 24 February 2023.** Documents must be submitted as follows:

1. Proposals should take the form of a single PDF document covering the submission and any evidence to support the case. This should include a supporting letter of no more than 1-side of A4 from your Pro-Vice Chancellor of Research (or equivalent) and any HEP collaborative partner in the case of a bid from several institutions. If your institution is submitting more than one bid, the PVCR supporting letter should include a clear narrative as to why this is the case and the priority order of bids from the institution’s perspective.
2. Proposals should be predominately text-based. You should use Arial font and text should be no smaller than font size 10. At this stage, the application should be maximum of five A4 pages (not including this page or letters of support), and the total size of the document should be no greater than 1MB. Please do not alter the page margins.

Please refer to the notes contained within this template (these are meant as guidance only) as well as the eligibility criteria for assessing expressions of interest as outlined in the EoI guidance document.

|  |
| --- |
| **Institution leading the proposal:** |
| **Host Department/Faculty:** |
| **Subject/discipline area(s)/REF Unit of assessment (UOA):** |
| **Total Expanding Excellence in England (E3) funding requested (£m - over five years):**  Please provide a breakdown of:  Total resource (£m):  Total capital (£m) (if required): |
| **Contact Details**  Title and full name:  Post:  Address for correspondence:  Phone:  Email: |
| **Partner HEP(s) and department(s) (where applicable):** |
| **Section 1: Scale and Excellence**  Demonstrate that the submitted unit:   * is currently operating at a small scale in contrast to national comparisons. Exceptional cases may be made using international comparisons where this is pertinent to the nature of the unit.   can build upon existing research excellence. |
| *Size and nature of unit*   * *Provide an outline of your unit, its size and how it can be regarded as ‘small’ within the context of the discipline.* * *Please discuss any existing plans for expansion regarding staff numbers and their position (Post-Doc, PhD, Technician, Lecturer etc.)* * *Please give a brief overview of your existing activity and your main sources of funding.*   *Research Excellence*   * *Demonstrate how your current research output may be regarded as excellent within the context of the discipline.* |
| **Section 2: Distinctiveness and Opportunity**  Demonstrate that the capacity building programme will   * make a distinctive contribution to the UK research base and broaden the regional spread of research excellence. * leverage nationally/internationally competitive research and innovation strengths to drive greater local economic, environmental and/or social benefits |
| *Distinctiveness:*   * *Describe the nature of the research that you undertake and/or plan to undertake.* * *Please explain what makes this proposal distinctive and why the opportunity for expansion would make a unique contribution to the English research base.*   *Local/Regional Opportunity*   * *Discuss how expanding capacity provides opportunities in the local / regional setting and/or leverages strengths unique to the local / regional setting. Why is it important to invest in research capacity here?* * *Outline any potential collaborations that form part of this proposal, or partnerships you expect to develop over the period of funding.* * *Describe the role of any partner HEPs (and relevant departments) mentioned in your bid and how this collaboration represents a unique opportunity (include letters of support from partner institutions). If this is a joint/collaborative bid with other HEP, clearly describe what role each HEP would play and how funds would be spent across the collaboration.* |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section 3: Indicative funding request and use of funds**  Approximately £180 million in funding is available over five years (AY 2024/25 to 2028/29) with a maximum resource/capital ratio of 2:1 across the fund as a whole (we expect the majority of funding to be resource). We are not setting a minimum or maximum threshold for awards, in the first round, the budget of successful applications varied between £0.9M to £8M, but over 3 years not 5.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **cademic year of funding** | **Amount and type of funding (£m)** | | **Details**  (summary list of what funds will be spent on) | **Total amount in year**  **(£m)** | | Resource | Capital | | **2024/25** |  |  |  |  | | **2025/26** |  |  |  |  | | **2026/27** |  |  |  |  | | **2027/28** |  |  |  |  | | **2028/29** |  |  |  |  | | **Totals (resource/capital) (£m)** |  |  | **Total funding request across 5 years (£m)** |  | |

|  |
| --- |
| **Section 4: Planning**  The submission will establish   * the extent to which the proposed activity matches the objectives of the E3 programme * it can be achieved within the funding period and proposed budget. |
| * *State the key objectives of your expansion plans and explain how these align with the objectives of the fund.* * *Clearly describe how you would spend these funds requested in Section 3 and how these align with your plans for expansion. Please give an indicative timetable of how you would spend the funds across the three academic years.* |
| **Section 5: Sustainability**  The submission will establish:   * the extent to which both the unit and host institution(s) have accounted for the long-term sustainability of the expanding unit. |
| * *Highlight the key paths to sustain the growth in capacity funded via E3 over the short, medium and long term* * *What level of institutional financial and other support is there for this proposal during and after the funding period?* |