**UoS COVID RESPONSE: APPLICATION FOR HEIF PROJECT SUPPORT**

To work most effectively with external partners to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID pandemic, the University has set up a dedicated COVID Taskforce until August 2020. Key aspects of the work of the Taskforce will be supported through the University’s Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF). This fund will be used until 31 July 2020 to embed the benefits of research-led solutions to clinical, economic and social challenges to make a tangible difference to people’s health, social and economic outcomes and also to provide innovative Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to organisations in need, such as care homes and community groups. If you would like up to £25,000 HEIF support for any of the above activities, please complete this application, addressing each of the questions 1-9 set out below and describe your proposal with regard to the following criteria:

* **Demand**:  Key partners support and prioritise the initiative
* **Impact**: Makes a tangible, positive difference to the health and wellbeing; economic; social and cultural outcomes from the COVID crisis
* **Leverage**:  Unlocks and/or builds on specific investment and/or in-kind contributions from collaborators – but does not substitute for alternative sources of funding
* **Partnership**:  Embeds and builds stronger long-term relationships which are likely to lead to future knowledge exchange / enterprising  collaborations
* **VFM:**Conforms to best value and state aid principles and where appropriate, opens up income generation opportunities.

1. **Project Title** *[15 words max]*
2. **Project Lead (ie. the person accountable for delivering the project) + School / Department**
3. **HEIF Budget requested** (£25,000 limit - to be spent by 31 July 2020)
4. **Main Activities Proposed**

**Please also specify HEIF-funded activities proposed, if HEIF forms part of wider package of support**

*[150 words max – bullet points preferred]*

1. **Key Outcomes: What difference will HEIF support make?**

**If your proposal is research-related, please state how it relates to UoS’ research strengths**

*[150 words max – bullet points preferred]*

1. **Which are the key partners involved and how do they support the HEIF funded activities?**

**Please also forward messages of support from partners***. [150 words max – bullet points preferred].*

1. **What other investment or in-kind contribution contributes to this project? Is any of it dependent on release of HEIF?** *[150 words max – bullet points preferred]*
2. **What are the longer term collaborative opportunities formed / supported by this project?**

*[150 words max – bullet points preferred]*

1. **Start date**
2. **Completion date** (funds must be spend before 31 July 2020, even if project completion falls later)

Please submit your application by 24 July 2020 to Sue Baxter (Director, Innovation & Business Partnerships) and you will be contacted to discuss it within 24 hours.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION: WHAT IS THE HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION FUND?**

**HEIF Aims** (from Research England website)

The aim of HEIF is to create and sustain a range of KE activities in response to demand across the economy and society. It is designed to support and develop a broad range of knowledge-based interactions between HEPs and the wider world, which result in economic and societal benefit to the UK.

In September 2019, the Universities Minister Chris Skidmore announced a [new strategic direction for university knowledge exchange funding](https://re.ukri.org/news-opinions-events/news/minister-announces-new-direction-for-knowledge-exchange-funding/) to drive the high performance needed to deliver the government's commitment to raise research and development investment to 2.4% of GDP. This included confirmation that that the total amount of HEIF funding will increase by £25 million in 2020-21.

**What HEIF supports** (from Research England website)

HEIF supports and incentivises providers to work with business, public and third-sector organisations community bodies and the wider public, to exchange knowledge and increase the economic and societal benefit from their work. HEIF provides a strong return on investment, with £9.30 generated for every £1 of funding (at national level).

**How do universities access HEIF?**

The national HEIF budget of £210m is allocated annually to universities on the basis of their relative income from knowledge exchange activities reported to the [Higher Education Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI) survey](https://re.ukri.org/knowledge-exchange/the-he-bci-survey/) and other data, underpinned by institutional strategies for knowledge exchange.

**Performance Assessment of HEIF: the Knowledge Exchange Framework**

From late 2020, universities in receipt of HEIF will be benchmarked against their comparators on the basis of the criteria listed below and in future years, universities’ HEIF allocations will be pegged to their relative performance in each of these areas:

1. Collaborative research income
2. Co-authorship with non-academic partners
3. Innovate UK income
4. Contract research income – businesses & public / third sector
5. Consultancy income – business & public / third sector
6. CPD income
7. CPD Learner days delivered
8. New graduate start ups
9. Income from local growth programmes
10. Turnover per spin out
11. External investment per spin-out
12. Licensing and other IP related income