

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S INNOVATION FUND 2021

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Craig Mahoney is proud to launch the second year of the Vice Chancellor's Innovation Fund (2021).

In 2020, immediately prior to the pandemic, UWS piloted the Vice Chancellor's Innovation Fund to stimulate innovation and creative practice, supporting the drive towards bold and ambitious strategic targets for 2025. Twelve projects were funded supporting developmental activities across the University ([see projects website](#)). Since then, UWS has made a massive shift towards hybrid delivery, transforming the student experience and introducing new social learning approaches. In 2021, UWS will again invest in innovative projects that will build on our recent progress and support the journey towards Strategy 2025.

"Our innovative teaching practices, on-line learning environment, award-winning spaces and talented academics, will support our students to gain a degree and instil a passion for lifelong learning."

The fund will empower teams with exciting or progressive ideas that need seed funding, across all areas of the University, with the aim of immediate and sustainable impact.

The fund will be overseen by the Deputy Principal/ Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Applications can be made from within Schools or Departments. Applications are particularly encouraged that demonstrate integration across Schools and Departments, with involvement of different stakeholders.

Applications should include an indicative implementation plan for delivery of the outputs and recommendations throughout academic year 2021/22.

Themes

While broad themes are presented below, these are not indicative. The focus is on staff-led, transformation projects with demonstrable impact in terms of improvements. Potential themes include:

- Assessment and feedback
- Embedding meta-skills
- Learning environments and digital infrastructure

Criteria

The following will be considered by the Review Panel:*

- Probability of positive transformational impact, preferably institution-wide
- Supporting delivery of Strategy 2025 with priority for early impacts
- Enhancing the student experience

- Innovation in learning and teaching
- Collaborative/cross-institutional nature of the bids
- Alignment with current developments, to reduce work duplication and/or conflict with work in progress . (Applicants are expected to provide commentary from Directors of Education Futures, Estates and Information Services as part of the application process).

Funding

Funding will be capped at £25,000 maximum for any one project and can be allocated to project delivery and/or implementation. Smaller projects are also encouraged where demonstrable impact can be delivered.

It is not expected that bids will receive funding for:

- Tuition fee payment
- Research
- Solely for travel/equipment/conference attendance

Buy-in of specific expertise will be considered.

Timeline

24 March 2021	Launch of Vice-Chancellor's Innovation Fund (2021)
30 April 2021	Closing date for applications
3 May to 11 June 2021	Review panel evaluate applications, posing questions to Project Leads as required
17 June 2021	Winning applications announced at Learning & Teaching Conference 2021
2 August 2021	Funding commences
October 2021 to April 2022	Interim progress reports due quarterly from end of October 2021
End of July 2022	Funding window closes Project outcomes completed and embedded Final report due

Process for Applications

Applications should be made on the accompanying application form and submitted to UWS2025@uws.ac.uk by 12.00 on Friday, 30th April 2021. The panel may pose either written or oral questions to Project Leads before making final decisions. Panel decisions will be final, and are not subject to appeal.

*The review panel will comprise a cross-section of UWS staff.

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Application Form

Project Title:	
Project Lead:	
School / or Professional Service:	
Other Project Team Members (Name, Role, Department):	
Outline of Project: <i>(strictly max 1500 characters)</i>	

Alignment with 'Strategy 2025' (*strictly max 1000 characters*)

Benefits/ Impacts of Project and how these will be measured/evaluated. (*strictly max 1500 characters*)

Implementation Plan
– Key dates / activities
(strictly max 1000 characters)

Budget including:
• Cost of equipment
• Resources
• Monitoring / evaluation
• Implementation
• Any other costs
(strictly max 1500 characters)

Commentary from Estates;
IT; and Education Futures
on impact on Space; IT;
and Teaching & Learning
respectively.

Estates

IT

Teaching & Learning

Approval from relevant Deans/Directors:

**Deans/Directors to add a note on the likely impact on individual's workloads, as appropriate.*

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Title:	<input type="text"/>
Impact:*	<input type="text"/>

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Title:	<input type="text"/>
Impact:*	<input type="text"/>

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Title:	<input type="text"/>
Impact:*	<input type="text"/>

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Title:	<input type="text"/>
Impact:*	<input type="text"/>

All project team members named above, agree that the University may publish and disseminate information on the project and outcomes.

Signature of Project Lead:..... Date:.....

Please email completed application form to **UWS2025@uws.ac.uk** by 12.00 on Friday, 30th April 2021.