

Wales Innovation Network: Small Grant Funding

Total Funding:	£100k
Maximum available per bid:	Up to £7.5k
Bid Submission date (Annex A):	29 January 2024
Funding decisions:	1 March 2024
Interim Report (Annex B):	19 July 2024
Final report and expenditure complete (Annex C):	30 September 2024

Introduction:

1. The [Wales Innovation Network \(WIN\)](#) has been established to support universities in Wales to create and develop new opportunities for collaborative research and innovation. WIN aims to harness the strengths of Welsh universities to support growth in external research income capture and deliver impact for Wales.
2. The WIN Small Grant Fund piloted in 2022/23 was aimed at supporting existing or nascent collaborative research partnerships to submit bids to external funders. In total 23 projects were funded across Wales resulting in the generation of bid submissions worth over £9m, with a further £14m of future bids in development.
3. We are pleased to announce that the total WIN Small Grant Fund for 2023/24 has been set at £100k. Small grants will be provided as seed funding for the development of a collaborative bid to external funders within the UK, Europe or internationally.
4. **Eligible bids for a WIN small grant should be led by a Welsh university and must involve at least another two other Welsh universities as partners.** Additional to the basic collaborative requirements, WIN also welcomes, where appropriate, the inclusion of university partners from outside of Wales, or external stakeholders such as business, industry, community groups, and public sector.

Purpose of funding:

5. Funding is provided to seed fund the work of collaborative Welsh research and innovation groups, based around areas of acknowledged strength. Eligible groups would include:

- New research groupings that require seed funding to provide capacity for partnership growth, enabling submission of an external grant submission.
- Existing collaborative research groups which have identified areas of research with significant potential for growth, but which require additional support to finalise a funding submission.

Eligibility

6. All collaborative research groups must be led by a Welsh university and include at least two other Welsh universities. The maximum amount available for any WIN Small Grant funded project in 2023/24 is £7.5k. Applicants should be confident that the amount of money claimed can be spent during the funding period. Funding will be paid in two tranches at the beginning and end of the project. Any unspent funding can be reclaimed by WIN.
7. All bids should be able to demonstrate that the grouping represents a research area of acknowledged strength, or of growing importance to Wales / UK based on policy priorities.
8. Following consultation on Welsh research and innovation strengths, and based on Wales and UK government priorities, WIN has established six core themes:
 - Digital Transformation
 - Population Health and Biotech
 - Culture, Creative Industries and Media
 - Materials and Manufacturing
 - Net Zero and Decarbonisation
 - Agri-Tech, Food and Rural Economy
9. WIN particularly encourages submissions that align to these themes but small grant funding is not limited to supporting research groups in these areas.
10. Applications for funding should be made using **Annex A** (below) and must be signed by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation from the lead university. Applications should then be submitted centrally by the lead university research and innovation services / WIN Operational and Development Group (ODG) member *[to note, membership of the ODG will be published on the Unis Wales website shortly, but please contact WIN directly if you need details]*.
11. Funding will be paid to the lead university in two tranches at the beginning and end of the project funded period (March and September

2024). To enable WIN to review progress all projects are required to hold at least one conference or workshop. This should involve all bid partners and, where appropriate, external stakeholders. A short report on the outcomes of the workshop / conference and expenditure to date should be submitted to WIN by 19 July 2024 using **Annex B**. The release of the second tranche of funding will be contingent on the approval of this report by WIN.

12. Welsh universities may wish to consider providing match-funding from internal sources such as HEFCW's Research Wales Innovation Fund, particularly where this would hasten the timing for bid submissions. As per standard funding requirements institutions must ensure there is no suggestion of double funding of items/activity which would render a bid ineligible for support from this scheme.

Outcomes

13. As noted above (paragraph 11) all projects must hold a conference or workshop with bid partners, and where appropriate, external stakeholders. A report on the outcomes of this event should be submitted to WIN on 19 July 2024 using the template at **Annex B**. Release of the second tranche of funding is subject to the review and acceptance of this report.
14. By September 2024 all projects should have either submitted a bid to an external funder or be in the process of finalising a bid which can be submitted to a future funding call. Final monitoring reports should be submitted using the template at **Annex C**. These reports should outline funders (including where known specific calls) the project group has targeted and the total of all funding applications. The amount of income capture targeted should be greater than the level of support received from WIN.

Expenditure

15. All partnerships must support at least one workshop or conference involving all bid partners and, where appropriate, other external stakeholders. Funding should not be used to support overhead costs, but beyond that funding should be utilised in the most appropriate way to support the partnership and meet the planned outcomes.

Payment Profile

16. Following notification of successful bids, funding will be allocated to the lead university to distribute in line with the expenditure plan. Funding will be provided in two tranches based on a 75/25 split as follows:

March 2024	£75k
September 2024	£25k
Total Funding	£100k

Application

17. To apply for a WIN small grant please complete the pro-forma at **Annex A** and submit to innovation.network@uniswales.ac.uk by 29 January 2024. Applications must be signed by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation from the lead Welsh university. They should then be submitted centrally by the lead university research and innovation services / WIN Operational and Development Group (ODG) member *[to note, membership of the ODG will be published on the Unis Wales website shortly, but please contact WIN directly if you need details]*.
18. Submissions will be reviewed by WIN with decisions communicated to applicants by 1 March 2024.

Monitoring

19. A mid-point progress report on the outcomes of the workshop / conference and expenditure to date should be submitted to innovation.network@uniswales.ac.uk by **19 July 2024** using **Annex B**.
20. All funding should be spent in full by **30 September 2024**. A report from all projects confirming expenditure and reporting on final income related outcomes should be submitted to innovation.network@uniswales.ac.uk using the pro-forma at **Annex C**. Any unspent funding can be reclaimed by WIN.

Annex A

Application Wales Innovation Network: Small Grant Funding

Contacts and overview

Lead University:	
Lead Contact(s): (including email)	
Welsh University Partners	
Other UK / International university partner(s):	
Other external collaborative stakeholders:	
WIN research theme (or other):	Choose an item.
	Other (please give details):

Details of project:

Name of collaborative research group / project:	
Does this seed funding build upon previous WIN funding:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	If 'yes' please provide name of previously funded project
Briefly provide details of the planned research collaboration:	<p><i>[please outline why this is a grouping of acknowledged strengths, or a research area with potential for growth based on Wales / UK priorities: maximum 200 words]</i></p>

Funding and Expenditure

Funding request: (£)	<i>[maximum £7.5k per project]</i>
Expenditure – briefly outline how funding will be allocated to enable target outcomes to be achieved:	<i>[provide a basic breakdown of expenditure. All projects must allocate some funding towards a workshop / conference as outlined in paragraph 11 of the guidance]</i>

Outcomes

WIN is providing this seed funding to support bid development and increased grant capture.				
1. Provide details of likely funder(s) you will submit to (and specific funding calls if known)	<table border="1"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>			

following this period of bid development:	
2. Estimate the likely level of funding which will be targeted per funder:	e.g. Funder A: £
	Funder B: £
	Funder C: £
	Total: £

Conferences and workshops

3. Number of conferences / workshops planned:	
4. Area of strategic focus for conference / workshop:	[Please provide brief summary max 100 words]

Signature: PVC R&I (WIN Board Member for lead university)	
Date	Click or tap to enter a date.

Please submit this application form to innovation.network@uniswales.ac.uk by **29 January 2024**.

July 2024 Monitoring Return Wales Innovation Network: Small Grant Funding

Contacts and project lead:

Lead university:	
Project Lead (email):	
Collaborative Research Group:	

Expenditure:

Description of expenditure	Amount
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
Total July 2024	£

Is expenditure on track to complete by 30 September 2024, in accordance with the plan approved by WIN

Yes

No

If 'no' please provide further detail:

Workshop / conference outcomes:

1. Briefly summarise your original proposal for the funding and your original plans for a workshop / conference with project partners.	[Max 200 words]
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2. Provide details of how funding supported the workshop and the initial outcomes. To assess potential impact please provide details of the partners involved.	<i>[Max 200 words]</i>
3. Has the conference/workshop enabled the identification of an external funding source which could support a longer-term R&I partnership?	<i>[Max 200 words]</i>
4. Were there any additional unforeseen outcomes achieved to date as a result of this funding?	<i>[Max 200 words]</i>

Signature: PVC R&I (WIN Board Member for lead university)	
Date	Click or tap to enter a date.

Please submit a completed **Annex B** monitoring report to innovation.network@uniswales.ac.uk by **19 July 2024**.

September 2024 Monitoring Return Wales Innovation Network: Small Grant Funding

Lead university:	
Project Lead (email):	
Collaborative Research Group:	

Expenditure

Total WIN small grant funding awarded:	£
Expenditure by 30 September 2024:	£
Please note any underspend and provide details of how and when this will be spent in full:	£

Outcomes:

Total number of bids developed as a result of WIN small grant support:	
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Section A

Please complete this section if R&I bids have been developed and submitted to external funders:

Number of bids submitted to external funder(s):	[where bids have been submitted, please list funder(s)]
Bid details, including level of funding targeted:	[provide details for each individual bid - including the funding call, confirmed bid partners, level of funding targeted, and outcome date] £ £ £ Total: £

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Section B

Please complete this section if R&I bids have been developed and will be submitted to future calls from external funders:

As a result of the development stage, which funders are likely targets of a future bid:	[provide details for each individual bid - including the funding call, confirmed bid partners, level of funding targeted, and outcome date if known]
Estimate the likely level of funding which will be targeted per funder:	
	Total: £

Signature: PVC R&I (WIN Board Member for lead university)	
Date	Click or tap to enter a date.

Please submit a completed Annex C monitoring report to innovation.network@uniswales.ac.uk by **30 September 2024**.