

Annex A: Application process, selection criteria and timescale

Outline

1. This call invites applications for funding for small-scale projects (up to £50,000 per project) to identify and support good practice to improve and enhance student safeguarding on campus tackling either hate crime or online harassment targeting vulnerable student groups or a combination of both.
2. Universities UK recently published the report 'Changing the culture: Report of the Universities UK Taskforce examining violence against women, harassment and hate crime affecting university students'¹. The report highlights serious and widespread problems in the higher education sector and makes specific reference to the Government's July 2016 action plan to tackle hate crime, 'Action against hate'².
3. The action plan makes specific government commitments to prevent and respond more effectively to hate crimes based on protected characteristics. A significant number of the commitments are targeted at supporting and reducing prejudice among young people. 'Changing the culture' states that awareness of these issues and their potential impact on student bodies is important for universities if they are to fulfil their responsibilities for student safety and welfare.
4. As well as being included in the Government's action plan to tackle hate crime, antisemitism is also the focus of a separate report, 'Government Action on Antisemitism'³, produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government in December 2014.
5. Unlike antisemitism, there is no distinct government action plan on anti-Muslim hate crime and harassment. However, anti-Muslim hate crimes feature in the Government's action plan to tackle hate crimes. The Government's 2015 counter-extremism strategy also highlights attacks on Muslim citizens, and states that the Government is determined that this '...and the Islamophobia that underpins it, will be defeated'⁴.
6. It is also important to remember that violence against women, harassment or hate crime can take place on the basis of a combination of protected characteristics. Being aware of the intersectionality that may characterise incidents affecting students is important to ensuring an effective response.
7. Successful projects will deliver activity and outputs up to December 2018, by which time we anticipate all funding to be allocated (otherwise reimbursed to HEFCE). We expect that key relevant activities will be embedded and sustained beyond the funding period and consider the sustainability of project impact and activity as part of the assessment criteria. Awards will provide revenue funding to support projects on a matched one-to-one basis with institutions' own resources or funding from other sources. We are highly unlikely to provide funding to support capital infrastructure, though we will consider this if essential for a project. This funding will not support research or knowledge exchange activity.

¹ Available at www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/changing-the-culture-final-report.aspx.

² Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hate-crime-action-plan-2016>.

³ Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-action-on-antisemitism>.

⁴ Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-extremism-strategy>.

8. We will seek to work with key partners to deliver the call, to ensure appropriate expertise is available throughout the assessment process and during the resulting programme of funded activity.

9. For this call we will also support a community of practice among the institutions submitting successful proposals, in order to ensure good practice is identified and disseminated to the wider HE sector in the student interest.

Themes and selection criteria

10. We are particularly interested in proposals aimed at tackling either hate crime or online harassment targeting vulnerable student groups or a combination of both, specifically focused on any of, or combination of:

- establishing and strengthening institutional and digital infrastructure, such as effective reporting and information sharing
- developing and sustaining positive campus relations between different groups
- developing respectful approaches to freedom of speech, on-campus debate and protest
- safeguarding and supporting international students
- whole-institution or city- or region-wide collaboration projects
- safeguarding against external sources of hate and harassment
- sexual harassment or violence, where these projects focus on intersectional aspects of identity such as race, faith, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability
- innovative approaches to tackling issues such as sexual coercion, disability-related extortion, revenge pornography, or online stalking or bullying.

11. These themes are equally weighted in terms of selection and evaluation criteria

12. We are also keen that proposals detail how they will deliver key activities and work in partnership with students' unions, as well as developing excellent transferable good practice for the benefit of students and institutions across higher education. We are also keen to receive proposals that detail how they will deliver innovative activities to foster whole-institution approaches to the issues identified here.

13. Successful proposals will demonstrate:

- the ability to develop strategic responses and enhancements that could have a significant positive impact on student safeguarding
- robust project design methodology, taking into account relevant ethical considerations, appropriate to determining 'what works' in improving safeguarding for vulnerable groups of students
- an ability and willingness to embed and sustain key activities and enhancements
- meaningful engagement with students in the proposed activities and processes, and evidence of alignment with the institution's own safeguarding and related strategies and its priorities
- clear commitment to providing matched resources
- a willingness to be involved in HEFCE's evaluation and dissemination of student safeguarding on campus for the benefit of the wider sector, as well as associated work led by Universities UK and other partners.

Timetable

14. Proposals should be submitted by email to hatecrimecatalyst@hefce.ac.uk by **noon on Monday 31 July 2017**, using the template at Annex B, which is available to download alongside this document at www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2017/CL_202017/.

31 July 2017	Deadline for proposals
September 2017	HEFCE panel meets to agree and recommend successful bids
Late September to early October 2017	Institutions notified of decisions
November 2017	First tranche of funding provided (up to £25,000 per project)
April 2018	Monitoring reports due
May 2018	Second tranche of funding provided (up to £25,000 per project)
December 2018	Final reports submitted

Funding

15. Funding will be made available from the Catalyst Fund at a maximum of £50,000 per project. This will enable us to support a good number of bids that will stimulate a range of strategic responses and enhancements in student safeguarding in the areas set out. Our final decisions on the number of bids awarded will be subject to the quality of proposals received and the level of engagement from higher education institutions and eligible further education colleges. Funding will be provided in the 2017-18 financial year.

Monitoring process

16. Successful projects will be subject to individual monitoring arrangements. Monitoring requirements, targets, impacts and outcomes will be agreed and set out in a grant award letter, in line with the policies of the Catalyst Fund and our policy imperatives.