



3893

Special Release

03 November, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A GRANT OPPORTUNITY

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION AND REFORM (SPHEIR)

The University of Ibadan is in the process of responding to a call on the Strategic Partnership for Higher Education Innovation and Reform (SPHEIR).

Overview:

The programme is a new competitive grant scheme established by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). It is designed to catalyse innovative 'partnership' in low-income countries (LICs) especially SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa) countries to improve the performance, governance and influence of higher education systems and institutions. SPHEIR is managed on behalf of DFID by a consortium led by the British Council that includes PwC and Universities UK international (UUKi).

Focus of funding:

SPHEIR funding is focused on partnerships – formal collaboration among a group of organisations that address Higher Education (HE) in ways, and at a scale, that a single organisation cannot.

Grant Size:

The size of grants available through SPHEIR will range from 1million pounds to 5 million pounds over a minimum of two years to a maximum of four years

Number of Partnerships to be Awarded:

The call may result in selection of as many as ten partnerships that will commence activities between April and June 2017.

The **Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform (SPHEIR)** seeks to strengthen the HE system in target countries with the view that HE systems can be changed through partnerships that focus on either:

- ☐ **HE delivery-** meaning the design and delivery of degree programmes that embed new and more effective content, and/or apply innovative delivery models and teaching strategies to achieve learning outcomes that respond to market needs (private and public).

This could be in one or more specific departments, faculties or universities, or through ‘collaborative’ programmes involving multiple universities in one or more countries.

- ☐ **HE enabling systems-** meaning initiatives intended to enhance HE systems and institutions, by changing the culture and practices that affect the performance of public or private universities. This might include, for example, higher education governance bodies, national or regional quality assurance and/or accreditation bodies, staff development and leadership, financing models, etc. Systemic improvement strategies might also include reforms to university business models to improve their ability to generate and manage income streams; attract students and secure private sector investment.

SPHEIR is willing to help low-income countries (LICs) especially SSA countries, with funding to achieve the following:

- ☐ Catalysing innovative HE “partnerships”
- ☐ *To* transform quality, relevance, access and affordability of HE
- ☐ *And* stimulate involvement of new actors and new modes of delivery
- ☐ *That*, achieve *sustainable change* in HE systems

Ultimately, the call will look for proposals that will deliver *transformative changes* that have a sustained impact on *HE governance and performance*.

Timeline:

The call-for partnership proposals will commence on Friday, 21 October, 2016 and will close at 23:59 GMT on Monday, 20 February, 2017.

University of Ibadan call:

The University of Ibadan hereby welcomes contribution on best practices in *Higher Education Delivery and Higher Education Enabling Systems* that is innovative and would lead to visible and measurable transformation in HE. You may send your contributions/ideas to mglo.unibadan@gmail.com on or before Monday, 7th November, 2016. You may also request to do an oral presentation of your contribution.

For more information about SPHEIR, kindly visit <http://www.spheir.org.uk/>

Thank you.

O. I. Olukoya, MNIM, FPA
Registrar
