

# HLSP Redundancy Response Fund: Call for Proposals

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The North West Universities Association would like to announce a call for proposals to the Higher Level Skills Partnership Redundancy Response Fund (HLSP RRF). The Fund totals £350,000 and it is anticipated that eight to ten projects will be funded.

The following guidelines have been developed with the HLSP RRF Commissioning Panel<sup>1</sup> who will also be responsible for the appraisal of bids and the commissioning of projects supported by the fund.

## Purpose of the Fund

The HLSP Redundancy Response Fund has been established to commission the development of responsive level 4+ CPD provision to meet the needs of those at risk of redundancy, those recently made redundant and new graduates unable to find graduate level employment.<sup>2</sup> Provision must be work relevant and focused on increasing employability.

Please note:

- The fund will only support course development, not course delivery
- The fund will only support the development of short course CPD provision
- The fund will support both accredited and unaccredited provision
- The fund is only available to Higher Education Institutions (however, HEIs are free to establish partnerships with Further Education Colleges and private training providers)
- Development funding must be spent by January 2011 but we anticipate that many projects will complete within a shorter duration
- This funding is from the NWDA funded NW HLSP and will therefore be subject to the same claims and reporting processes as all NW HLSP funded projects.

## Reactive and Proactive Responses

The fund aims to be both reactive and proactive to labour market needs:

- reacting to specific redundancy situations and labour market intelligence
- proactively and strategically developing CPD for sectors identified for growth in the upturn (with a preference for re-skilling those at risk of redundancy or addressing graduate labour market failures).

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<sup>1</sup> The Commissioning Panel includes representatives from the Unionlearn, Jobcentre Plus, Business Link North West, the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils, Regional Skills and Employment Board and the North West Regional Development Agency.

<sup>2</sup> The project sits alongside wider HEFCE funded NWUA work to maximise the HEI response to the economic downturn and the NWDA funded Higher Level Skills Partnership already running across seven sectors.

**Priority will be given to reactive proposals responding directly to immediate needs caused by redundancy situations.**

## Reactive Provision

There are no sector restrictions for those developing reactive provision for a specific redundancy situation/identified labour market need. However, projects will only be funded where there is evidence of large scale redundancy (or risk thereof).

Those bidding into the fund should seek labour market intelligence from sources including Jobcentre Plus, Unionlearn, the Sector Skills Councils, Sub-Regional Partnerships and Local Authorities.

It is strongly recommended that potential bidders speak with the NWUA Specialist Advisor, Rebecca Ward on [rward@nwua.ac.uk](mailto:rward@nwua.ac.uk) or 0161 234 0439, who will signpost to relevant stakeholders and intelligence, as you develop your proposal. If your proposal is sector specific, links will also be made to the relevant NW HLSP Specialist Advisor to ensure wide sectoral linkages are established and to avoid duplication with existing activity.

## Proactive Provision

Those looking to develop strategic CPD to re-skill those at risk of redundancy and/or develop skills for the economic recovery should be informed by New Industry New Jobs<sup>3</sup>, which identifies the following as important to economic recovery:

- Low Carbon Economy
- Ultra Low Carbon Vehicles
- Digital Britain
- Life Sciences and Pharmaceuticals
- Advanced Manufacturing:
  - Aerospace
  - Composites
  - Industrial Biotechnology
  - Plastic Electronics
- Professional & Financial
- Engineering Construction
- Industrial Opportunities in an Ageing Society.

Bids may cover part, one or more of the priorities. **Priority will be given to bids which seek to re-skill those affected by redundancy or meet identified graduate labour market failures.**

Applicants will be expected to provide evidence of likely future jobs requiring the skills being developed, including employer support and Sector Skills Councils intelligence.

Those bidding into the fund should also seek labour market intelligence from sources including Jobcentre Plus, Unionlearn, Sub-Regional Partnerships and Local Authorities.

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<sup>3</sup> BERR Pub 8854 (April 2009), *New Industry New Jobs*, <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51023.pdf>



regarding emerging employer needs e.g. Digital Britain; and this can be provided to interested bidders upon request.

### Application Process

NWUA is able to provide support throughout the application process and those interested in applying for the fund should contact Rebecca Ward on [rward@nwua.ac.uk](mailto:rward@nwua.ac.uk) or 0161 234 0439 for more information and to discuss ideas.

Please note, the Redundancy Response Fund application process consists of a single full application form and there is no intermediate expression of interest stage. The full application form and application guidelines can be found at <http://www.nwua.ac.uk/HLSP/default.aspx>.

Completed applications should be sent electronically to Kate Jones on [kjones@nwua.ac.uk](mailto:kjones@nwua.ac.uk) **no later than 5pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009.**

The Commissioning Panel will then assess the bids and successful candidates will be informed by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.