**KEIF**

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**University of the Highlands and Islands**

**Aquaculture**

**Industry Engagement Fund**

**ROUND 9**

**Application Form**

**INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT FUND**

**AQUACULTURE**

**INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT FUND**

The principle aim of the Aquaculture Industry Engagement Fund (AIEF) is to facilitate engagement between the knowledge, science, and innovation resources at UHI and the commercial and regulatory sectors of the aquaculture industry.

All funded projects will have a knowledge exchange or innovative element at their core and there will be a requirement for the applicants to provide a final report and a short case study suitable for wider publication (e.g., on UHI website).

The total funding available to the UHI Aquaculture Hub for AIEF and KE Challenge Fund applications in academic year 2025-2026 is currently £30,000. The maximum award for a single AIEF project will likely be £19,000.

**Enquiries**

If you have a query about the AIEF, or need assistance in finding and contacting a university partner, contact:

Mairi Cowan mairi.cowan@sams.ac.uk or Keith Davidson (SAMS) Keith.Davidson@sams.ac.uk

**Key Dates:**

**All enquiries (verbal or email) should be made before 24 October 2025**

**All applications must be received by 17:00, Friday 31st October 2025**

Project is expected to start Winter – Spring 2026

Project to be completed by 31 July 2026[[1]](#footnote-2)

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| **Application for Funds from UHI Aquaculture Industry Engagement Fund** |
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| **SECTION A: Project SUMMARY** |

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| A.1 | **Project Title:**  |  |
| **Non-Technical Summary** | Approximately 100 words |
| **Project Type:** Select 1 that most applies | [ ]  Research / Innovation | [ ]  Education / Training | [ ]  Engagement (e.g., workshop) | [ ]  Other (please specify) |
| **Project Basis:** | [ ]  New project | [ ]  Follow-on from a completed project | [ ]  Additional to an existing project | [ ]  Other (please specify) |
| **Collaborations** (x) |  | No – None other UHI Academic Partners are involved in project  (please describe why) |
|  | Yes – One other UHI Academic Partner |
|  | Yes – More than one other UHI Academic partner |
| **Project Duration** |   | months (typically, 1 – 6 months) |
| **Estimated Start Date** |  |

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| A.2 | **Are new staff required for the project?**  | **[ ]** yes**[ ]** noIf yes, provide details: |
| **Will your project create research data?** **If so, how will data be stored for future use at project end?****Are there special reasons why data cannot be shared with the Hub?** | **[ ]** yes **[ ]** noIf yes, provide details: |
| **Does the project require approval from UHI Research Ethics Committee (REC) and/or other permissions?** (e.g., Home Office licence for regulated procedures with animals)  | **[ ]** yes **[ ]** noIf yes, provide details: |
| **I have considered alternative sources of funding for this project with the project collaborators** (such as a [Standard Innovation Voucher](https://interface-online.org.uk/how-we-can-help/funding/standard-innovation-vouchers) from Interface UK) **and I confirm the AIEF is an appropriate funder for this project**  | **[ ]** yes  |
| **Total project cost** (Copied from SectionF) |  |
| **Total funding requested from AIEF** (Copied from SectionF) |  |

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| **Section B: Applicant DETAILS** |

There should be just one Lead Applicant but if you require to add additional spaces for partners, please copy and paste the relevant tables.

 **Lead Applicant from UHI**

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| B.1 | **Lead Applicant** | Title | First Name | Surname |
| **Position held** |  |
| **E-mail address** |  |
| **Telephone/Mobile**(incl. STD code) |  |
| **UHI Academic Partner**  |  |
| **UHI Academic Partner Contact address** (incl. postcode) |  |
| If the recipient of the Letter of Agreement is different to the Lead Applicant or Address above, please provide the relevant name, position, and contact details. |  |
| I confirm that I have appropriate authorisation to submit this application including the Project Costs from each partner (Section F). | [ ]  Confirmed |

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| **Project Partner from UHI** (also include any from the same Academic Partner identified in B.1) |

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| B.2 | **Name**  | Title  | First Name | Surname |
| **Position held** |  |
| **E-mail address** |  |
| **Telephone/Mobile**(incl. STD code) |  |
| **UHI Academic Partner**  |  |
| **UHI Academic Partner Contact address** (incl. postcode) |  |

Copy and paste section B.2 if there are additional partners from UHI

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| **Non-UHI Project Partner**  |

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| B.3 | **Name**  | Title | First Name | Surname |
| **Position held** |  |
| **Organisation name**(include website URL if available) |  |
| **Organisation type** | **[ ]** Producer [ ]  Regulator [ ]  Supply chain or supplier [ ]  Other (please specify):  |
| **Number of employees** (Or enter “not known”) |  |
| **E-mail address****Company :****Contact’s :** |  |
| **Telephone****Company :****Mobile :**(incl. STD code) |  |
| **Address** (incl. postcode) |  |
| **Consent to being contacted** | Has this person given their consent for us have their contact details and for them to be contacted?**[ ]** noconsent not given**[ ]** yes date of consent given: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Allowed Methods of contact: email / bulk email / phone / mail (Strikethrough any that are not consented)What is their preferred method of contact?**[ ]** Any of the Allowed Methods or **[ ]  email** (specify): |

Copy and paste section B.3 if there is more than one non-UHI partner

 **Collaboration (if responded Yes in Section A.1)**

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| B.4 | **Has the Lead Applicant and UHI Project Partners worked together before?** | **[ ]** yes **[ ]** no **[ ]** not applicable |
| **Has the Lead Applicant and non-UHI Project Partners worked together before?** | **[ ]** yes **[ ]** no **[ ]** not applicableIf yes, provide details: |

 **Subsidy Control Act Compliance**

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| B.5 | **Applicant has confirmed with the Industrial Partner (or any other third party involved in the project) that they are aware of Subsidy Control Act 2022 and are satisfied the limits will be adhered to as identified? [[2]](#footnote-3)**  | **[ ]** yes **[ ]** no **[ ]** not applicableProvide the name of the person(s) that provided you with this advice (e.g., the name of grants or finance officer): |

 **Intellectual Property (IP)**

The development of new IP is not necessarily a prerequisite for success in the AIEF. However, early consideration of IP is essential for appropriate arrangements to be put in place at the outset of the project.

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| B.6 | **Please provide details of how any IP will be managed, including its identification, and demonstrating agreement between the relevant partners on who will have access to any background IP and ownership of any foreground new IP - including the management of any confidentiality issues, such as by a non-disclosure agreement.**  |  |

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| **Section C: Relevance to ‘KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND INNOVATION FUND’ OUTCOMES** |

**Note:** Outcomes must align with the Scottish Funding Council’s (SFC) Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Fund (KEIF) priority outcomes (Table C). The project should meet **at least one** of these objectives. UHI has confirmed all outcomes will be strived for but one to four are prioritised.

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| C | **Desired Outcomes** | **If outcome is relevant to project, describe how this project meets the selected outcomes?** (up to 100 words each) |
| **Outcome one (demand stimulation):** Working with Scotland’s enterprise agencies, Scottish Government, business networks, Interface, and others, Scottish HEIs will have helped to increase the demand and quality of engagement from businesses and the public sector for university services. |  |
| **Outcome two (simplification / commercialism):** in partnership with the Enterprise Agencies (EAs) and Interface, Scottish HEIs as a sector will have demonstrably simplified business access to the knowledge and expertise in Scottish universities. |  |
| **Outcome three (simplification / greater innovation):**in partnership with the EAs and Interface, Scottish HEIs will, at a national level, have made strategic use of their sectoral knowledge to promote greater innovation in the economy (including beyond non-STEM). |  |
| **Outcome four (entrepreneurialism):** Scottish HEIs as a sector will have made a significant and positive change in the way entrepreneurial opportunities are promoted and delivered to students, HEI staff, and businesses. |  |
| **Outcome five (international):** in partnership with Scottish Development International, Connected Scotland and others, Scottish HEIs will have pooled their knowledge and networks, and shared good practice to promote and engage Scotland internationally (operating under Scotland’s International Framework). |  |
| **Outcome six (inclusive growth and social impact):** Building on current and good practice Scottish HEIs will have scaled up their support of the Scottish Government’s ambitions for inclusive growth  |  |
| **Outcome seven (equality and diversity):** Building on current and good practice HEIs will have ensured positive promotion of equality and diversity in staff and all who are affected by the use of the KIEF. |  |

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| **Section D: Project DETAIL** |

Describe in Section D what you intend to do and why.

The description should include:

* Rationale for the project.
* Aims.
* Methods / Activities.
* Outputs and Outcomes.

You may find it helpful to number the methods and outcomes into work packages (WP1, WP2, etc.).

Numbered activities can be used when preparing a Gannt chart (Section E) or when completing the project timeline in Section E.

The information provided in Section D should not exceed 2000 words. If you need to, you can include additional tables/spreadsheets with your submission, but you should summarise and refer to them in Table D.

The assessors reviewing this application may not have specialist knowledge about the subject so please provide enough supporting detail for the project to be assessed based on this application form alone.

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| D | **Project Title:**(Copied from Section A) |  |
| **Background:** (Why is this project required? If this is a new project, please describe how the project idea was developed. If this is a follow-on from a previous project or additional to existing project or other, provide a summary paragraph)(Up to 300 words) |  |
| **Project Description**: (Summarise the proposed project – what is it you hope to do and what are the aims) |  |
| **Method(s) of delivery / activity(s) and resource requirements:**(Include reason(s) why these methods have been selected, who will deliver the activities and how that process will be managed) |  |
| **Outcome(s) / Output(s):** (What is hoped to be achieved and what are the expected outcomes of the project?How will the outputs/impacts be shared?Which of UHI Aquaculture Hub annual target(s) would this proposal help to meet?) *The codes for the 25/26 targets are appended to the AIEF Guidance notes* |  |
| **Collaboration:**(Describe how the collaboration will enhance the project, e.g., the sharing of expertise, specialist facilities, etc. and include the role of each partner including the company)Also indicate what indirect outcomes may be achieved through this collaboration).Please indicate if the contribution includes data or samples that have been collected before the project. |  |
| **Risks and mitigation measures:** (e.g., technical risk, risk to project success, management strategies, delays, approvals from Research Ethics Committee, biosecurity restrictions, weather, licences, regulatory, political, etc.) |  |
| **Describe the likely scope for extending this work after completion of the project:** |  |

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| **Section E: Project TIMELINE** |

Complete the table below or submit a separate Gantt chart to describe the timeline of activities, milestones, and timing of outputs/deliverables, etc. attributed to each month

*(to complete this table, replace ‘mm’ with correct months and shade cells to suit – shaded cells provided for guidance*).

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| E.1 | Activity (2025) | mm | mm | mm | mm | mm | mm | Deliverable/Milestone |
| WP1  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| WP2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| WP3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| WP4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| WP5 Final data analysis, report writing |  |  |  |  |  |  | Final report |

AIEF (and Challenge Fund) projects will be started and completed within the current academic financial year.

The latest completion date for projects is **31 July**.

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| **Section F: Project COSTS** |
|  | **Summary of total estimated costs** (please state total costs, inc. of VAT, where that is appropriate). **>>> NOTE: UHI have stated that indirect costs (overheads) are not an eligible item**

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| F.1 | Project Funding requested from AIEF |
| **Academic Partner (s)** | **Person Responsible** | **Item Description** (activity (WP), resources, consumables, travel, etc.) | **Expected Outcome:** (milestones or deliverables) | **Staff Time** (days) | **Cost (£)**(inc. VAT if applicable) |
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|  |  |  |  | **Total** |  | £ |

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| **F.2** | **Total Project Costs** |  |  |
| **Total requested from Aquaculture Industry Engagement Fund** (from Section F.1) | £ |  |  |
| **Total in-kind contribution from UHI** | £ | (provide details in F.3) |
| **Total in-kind contribution from Company** | £  | (provide details in F.3) |
| **Total cash contribution from Company** | £  | (provide details in F.3) |
| **Other financial contributions** | £ | (provide details in F.3) |
| **Total project costs**(Copy this figure to Section A.2) | **£**  |  |  |
| **% of total project funding that has been match funded** (in-kind + cash + other)/total | % |  |  |

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| **F.3** | **Detail the matched funding contributions (cash and in-kind) and Other Financial Contributions that have been entered in F.2** (remember to include in-kind contributions associated with attending meetings etc.)**:** |
| **In special circumstances, a claim for funding might be required before the end date of a project. Please provide a good reasons if funding needs to be released before the end of the project** (e.g., 50 % required at start). |

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| **F.4** | **Confirm collaboration(s) and match funding contribution(s) such as via an attached letter(s) of support** (append letters here or reference the content and provide letter(s) separately) |

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1. Due to funding conditions, projects must be completed within the academic financial year (by 31 July). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Any Grant awarded will be on the basis that it is a Minimum Financial Assistance (MFA) subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and below the limit in the Subsidy Control Act and therefore exempt from the subsidy control requirements by virtue of Section 36(1) of The Subsidy Control Act 2022. The Subsidy Control Act 2022 allows an enterprise (e.g. sole traders, partnerships, companies, associations etc. referred to here as “organisation”) to receive up to £315,000 in Minimum Financial Assistance (MFA) in a 3-year period (consisting of the elapsed part of the current financial year and the 2 previous financial years) in subsidies. MFA subsidies cumulate with each other and with other subsidies that fall within the category of 'Minimal or SPEI financial assistance. It is the organisation’s responsibility to check that it is eligible and please note that the above MFA subsidy allowance threshold may change, and by the very nature of applying for or accepting a subsidy you are declaring that you will not exceed the permitted MFA subsidy allowance threshold, and any grant will be conditional on the organisation’s written confirmation. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)