Capital funding allocations and outcomes for financial year 2025-26

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Contents

Summary

1. This document provides an overview of the process and outcomes for the distribution of capital grants by the Office for Students (OfS) for the financial year (April to March) 2025-26. It follows a competitive bidding exercise that was held between 12 June and 30 July 2025 where eligible higher education providers submitted proposals for assessment. The process was completed in October 2025.

2. This document and supporting information set out the allocations we have made to each provider, both through project funding and a formula funding allocation for selected and eligible providers following the processes set out in, 'Capital funding for financial year 2025-26: Process for distribution of capital funding and invitation to bid'.[1]

Action required

3. This publication is for information only and no further action is required from providers.

[1] See Capital funding for financial year 2025 to 2026 - Office for Students.

Introduction

4. In May 2025, the Secretary of State for Education issued a guidance letter to the OfS, which announced capital funding of £84 million in total, to be distributed in the financial year 2025-26.[2]

5. This guidance letter set certain expectations around the distribution of capital funding to providers, acknowledging the successful schemes that took place in the financial years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25. It requested that the OfS continued to allocate the majority of funding through a competitive bidding process to support specific priorities. We were also able to continue to provide a smaller formulaic capital grant allocation for providers which we have calculated using the same or similar factors as we have done with the recurrent grant allocations for this academic year.

6. The remainder of the funds are being used to support Jisc,[3] which provides UK universities and colleges with shared digital infrastructure and services, such as the superfast Janet Network. Our capital grant for Jisc will help to support network upgrades, cybersecurity and learning analytics.

7. Following our consultation in 2021, we adopted a new approach for the allocation of capital funding, whereby capital funding for eligible providers registered in the Approved (fee cap) category was distributed through two mechanisms:

    a. a smaller formula allocation to all eligible providers

    b. the majority of capital funding was allocated in response to bids assessed through a competitive process.

8. We have adopted this approach and methodology again for the financial year 2025-26, although the government asked us to consider not providing formula funding to those providers successful with bids through the competition. We agreed with this request, as we want to distribute the capital funding for the year as widely as we can.

9. In October 2025, as part of the Engineering Skills Package, we received an allocation of £8 million additional funding from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, to cover the costs of specific projects focused on delivering skills and training to support clean energy industries. This funding has enabled us to support other additional projects across the country and increase the opportunities for students.

10. Overall, we had a capital budget of £92 million including the additional funds from government. We have allocated this funding as follows:

    a. £80.75 million for 60 projects at specific providers.

    b. £7.75 million through a formulaic allocation for 266 eligible providers.

    c. £3.5 million for Jisc.

[2] See Guidance from government - Office for Students.

[3] See Jisc website for more information about Jisc.

Formula allocation of capital funding

11. The formulaic capital funding allocation for this financial year is capped so that no provider receives an allocation of more than £30k. In setting the cap at this level, we have sought to strike an appropriate balance in ensuring that providers that meet a minimum threshold receive a meaningful sum and that the majority of eligible providers can receive some capital funds, while also ensuring that the majority of capital funding is distributed through the bidding competition.

12. As in previous years, we will not provide a formula capital grant if a provider's allocation through the formula would be less than £10k. The distribution of the formula funding for the financial year is included in the information within Annex B.

13. To calculate the allocations for this new round of formula capital allocations, we have been consistent with previous methods and have used:

    a. Funding FTEs derived from HESES24 data (using the multiplication factors and countable years returned to us by providers)

    b. Individualised student data from 2023-24 HESA and ILR data.

14. These have been used to distribute the £7.75 million available to eligible providers which were not awarded project capital funding for financial year 2025-26. The final maximum and minimum thresholds for formula funding have been set at £30k and £10k respectively, which means that we are able to provide formula funding to almost all eligible providers.

Bidding competition for capital funding

15. We invited bids from eligible providers that were assessed against the following two criteria:

    a. The funding was for ‘relevant expenditure’ (defined below).

    b. The project and associated risks will be well managed, and the project will provide value for money and support environmental sustainability in reducing energy usage.

16. Providers were able to bid for a maximum of £2.5 million and a minimum of £150k.

Criterion 1: Relevant expenditure

17. Under criterion 1, a bid was required to demonstrate that it would directly support relevant facilities in relation to one or more eligible projects.

    a. Relevant facilities were:

        i. The purchase of equipment (including IT equipment) used for learning, teaching or assessment. This does not include renting or hiring of equipment.

        ii. The acquisition, replacement or construction of premises or infrastructure (including IT infrastructure) used for learning, teaching or assessment. Acquisition may include the purchase of leaseholds, but this category does not include the making of payments outside of the purchase price, such as for rental or service charges.

        iii. The refurbishment, expansion or adaptation of existing premises or infrastructure (including IT infrastructure) that are to be used for learning, teaching or assessment.

18. Eligible projects were capital expenditure projects that support the capital needs of providers in delivering courses that will address the government’s strategies and priority sectors for growth and/or meet the needs of local employers and regional economies as identified through one or more of the following:

    - The needs of local employers and regional economies, as identified in Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs).

    - Skills England’s priorities as set out initially in autumn 2024 – these reflect the sectors for growth as identified later in the Industrial Strategy and others highlighted as essential to the government’s overall objectives. These ten sectors are:
        - advanced manufacturing
        - clean energy industries
        - creative industries
        - defence
        - digital and technologies
        - financial services
        - life sciences

- professional and business services
- construction
- health and social care.

Criterion 2: Value for money, project and risk management, and environmental sustainability

19. To meet this criterion, bids needed to demonstrate that any capital projects or expenditure that may be supported would be well managed, provide value for money and ultimately minimise risks to public funds, and support environmental sustainability as appropriate. We primarily looked to understand the benefits of the project to students, employers and national and local interests, but particularly those relevant to the priority categories stated above. Under criterion 2, we also needed to be confident that the provider had demonstrated how it would manage public funding effectively throughout the project. This included management of all aspects, from planning and procurement to delivery, ensuring that risks are well managed and that the provider is both ready for the money and able to spend it all in the time available to March 2026. We also sought assurance that providers had considered environmental sustainability as part of their bid, as part of the government's objectives in this area.

Assessment of bids

20. We received 193 bids requesting a total of £288 million, with many of these bids offering excellent and exciting opportunities for students, employers and their regions, and evidencing potentially strong national and local impacts across the priority areas. Overall, the general quality and clarity of the information we received made for an extremely competitive process this year. Initially we had thought that we would be able to fund 30-40 bids, but we found that many proposals had adopted a proportionate approach to the funding requested, and combined with the additional money from government this meant we could fund more bids than we had expected.

21. Information on risk management and mitigations, and how projects would support environmental sustainability continued to be variable across the proposals. Sometimes the additionality that our funding would provide was not as clear as it could have been, often where we were asked to contribute to larger investments and projects which seemed to be already underway. Bids which more clearly set out the enhancements and benefits our funding would deliver scored more highly through the process. For any future capital funding bidding rounds, we will reflect on how we can support improvements to the information we receive in these areas through our guidance and template.

22. Eligible providers completed and submitted an online template for assessment by the OfS. The template collected numerical data in a structured format about the financing for capital expenditure (both in terms of funding sought from the OfS and any other sources of finance for the capital project or items). The form also collected narrative information, and providers were asked to provide:

    a. An executive summary of their bid, including a clear explanation of the relevant facilities for our potential investment.

    b. An explanation of how their bid addressed the relevant criteria.

23. Successful bids have been selected across the regions of England, and across many types of eligible providers, including those with specialist provision and in further education colleges. In our final decisions, we selected the projects which we considered best met the objectives and criteria of the scheme and provided greatest assurance that the funding would be well managed and spent within the required timeframe to March 2026.

24. We have provided a full list of the successful providers and a short summary of their projects in Annex A.

Monitoring of the capital expenditure

25. The funded projects will be monitored against their progress, risks and spend in December 2025 and April 2026, just after the end of the funding period. Each provider in receipt of project funding has received and agreed to a grant award letter confirming that they are content to proceed with the activities as set out in their bids and will deliver in line with the terms and conditions of our funding. If our monitoring of the delivery of a capital project does not give us confidence that a provider will be able to use all the funding awarded within the period to March 2026, we may withdraw the grant – this is part of our obligation to protect public funding.

26. The use of the formulaic funding allocations will be monitored in April 2026, to understand how the funding has been used by providers for the benefit of students and against the priority areas, and whether there are any underspends to reclaim.

Annex A: Providers funded through the competition with a brief description of their projects

This annex shows the providers that have been awarded project funding, and a summary of their activities.

Anglia Ruskin University (UKPRN 10000291): £2,500,000

The project will establish a new, technology-enabled learning facility focused on computer/video gaming and animation. The facility will double current student capacity, significantly increasing the number of graduates in a sector facing skills shortages and will enhance the student experience, support lifelong learning, and contribute to national and regional skills priorities in the creative industries. The new space will feature group and self-learning areas, support outreach to disadvantaged learners, and offer short courses to help upskill the existing workforce. Sustainability measures include adapting and repurposing IT equipment and installing more energy-efficient systems.

Aston University (UKPRN 10007759): £2,460,813

Aston University will use this capital funding to modernise its biosciences teaching laboratories to enhance their accessibility and sustainability. It will refurbish laboratory infrastructure and install audio visual systems, LED lighting, and ventilation upgrades. The university will procure specialist equipment for diagnostics, genomics, and drug discovery programmes. New programmes in bioinformatics, pharmacology, and industrial biotechnology will also be supported. The project aims to align training with NHS and life sciences industry needs. These new developments will support inclusive, future-focused education in Birmingham.

Barnsley College (UKPRN 10000536): £1,819,244

This capital investment will help to redevelop and refurbish the college's Church Street building into a dedicated higher education centre, expanding capacity and improving the accessibility and sustainability of higher education provision. The project will deliver modern, flexible teaching spaces aligned with seven priority sectors, including skills and training in clean energy, digital technologies and health and social care. The new centre will accommodate up to 1,000 additional higher education learners annually, supporting degree apprenticeships, higher technical qualifications (HTQs), and flexible delivery. Facilities will include digitally enabled classrooms, independent study zones, and collaborative workspaces. Teaching spaces should become fully operational for the 2025-26 academic year. The refurbishment will incorporate energy-efficient systems within a heritage-sensitive design, contributing to environmental sustainability.

Birkbeck College (UKPRN 10007760): £1,976,000

The project will create a new Centre for Creative Artificial Intelligence (CCAI) to enhance teaching and learning across digital media and creative industries programmes, addressing skills needs identified in the London LSIP and the Industrial Strategy. The CCAI will consist of three interconnected spaces: a Creative AI Studio equipped with industry-standard AI tools; a multifunctional space featuring a super-sized LED wall for content production and data visualisation; and a soundproofed Creative Production Suite for audiovisual post-production and streaming. These facilities will support interdisciplinary learning and foster industry collaboration including for alumni. The CCAI will also be accessible to students in Science, Business, and Social Sciences, supporting curriculum development in important areas such as cybersecurity. The project is due for completion by March 2026.

Bournemouth University (UKPRN 10000824): £2,277,840

The capital investment will support the creation of a state-of-the-art Cyber Competence Centre to address regional and national digital and cyber skills gaps. The Centre will include three main components: the upgrade of existing cyber education facilities, the establishment of an AI-powered Security Operation Centre of the Future, and the creation of an inclusive learning environment with briefing and specialist training areas. These facilities will support industry-informed education, lifelong learning and community engagement, aligned with Dorset LSIP priorities and the Industrial Strategy. The Centre will also offer short courses and flexible training, supporting a more digitally resilient local workforce and further enhancing Dorset's SME-driven (small and medium-sized enterprises-driven) economy. The project is integrated with Bournemouth's existing cyber education offering.

Burnley College (UKPRN 10001000): £986,542

This capital investment will enhance the college's Engineering and Manufacturing Centre of Excellence by integrating new virtual reality and extended reality technologies, to address regional skills shortages identified in the Lancashire LSIP. The project will establish an Insights Hub, a digital monitoring and analytics centre that supports a new 'Connected Curriculum' and equips students with skills in both traditional and digital manufacturing technologies. A refurbished classroom will serve as a central control and simulation suite, enabling students to interact with real-time data, digital twins and simulated environments to improve sustainability and operational efficiency. The Hub will also support higher education computing students in developing data analytics, visualisation and cybersecurity skills.

Central Film School London Ltd (UKPRN 10024024): £300,000

The project will deliver a capital upgrade to enhance Central Film School's technical, academic and public-facing facilities. The project includes five integrated developments:

- a digitally enabled, inclusive library to support independent and collaborative learning
- an on-campus Bertha Dochouse Archive to enrich curriculum and public engagement
- LED lighting upgrades in studio spaces to align with sustainable industry standards
- a high-fidelity, multi-format screening facility for teaching and industry collaboration
- a new sound and composition suite to address local and regional skills gaps in post-production audio.

These enhancements align with the Industrial Strategy and London LSIP priorities in the creative and digital sectors, and will improve the student experience, graduate employability and environmental sustainability.

Court Theatre Training Company Ltd (UKPRN 10034324): £252,866

This is a capital investment project to modernise facilities that will enhance the provider's creative arts provision and support increased student numbers. Developments include upgrading heating and ventilation systems to improve energy efficiency and converting an existing boiler room into a recording studio and media suite for digital production training. Enhancements to the main theatre will involve new seating, improved flooring and refurbished dressing rooms to allow for more flexible use and higher production quality. Accessibility will be improved to ensure inclusive access for all students and users. The provider will also invest in its digital infrastructure to expand in-person, online and blended learning capabilities.

Exeter College (UKPRN 10002370): £1,330,000

Exeter College will deliver a new healthcare training facility to support important local and national programmes including Assistant Practitioner and Nursing Associate apprenticeships and Access to HE courses in Healthcare and Biochemistry. The facility will feature a fully equipped simulated hospital ward replicating acute and community care settings, and two multi-purpose laboratories for health and life sciences teaching and learning. These spaces will enhance clinical skills development for students through practical learning. The investment responds to regional healthcare workforce shortages and national priorities, supporting the NHS ten-year plan and the Industrial Strategy. It will expand training capacity, improve accessibility for adult learners, and develop a sustainable workforce.

Falmouth University (UKPRN 10008640) £1,370,893

The new Creativity and Technology Hub at Falmouth University will support provision that equips graduates with the practical, interdisciplinary skills increasingly required across design and high-value manufacturing sectors, aligned with national priorities in sustainability and innovation. Additive manufacturing, immersive simulation and digital twin modelling, all integral to this project, enable circular design, reduce material use, support innovation in biomaterials and promote resource efficient production. The investment will fund specialist equipment and refurbishment within the Design Centre, including a high-spec digital design IT suite, VR/AR headsets, advanced additive manufacturing tools, and spatial data technologies such as lidar drones and 3D scanners. These upgrades will support immersive, project-based learning and interdisciplinary collaboration. The initiative aims to improve graduate outcomes, promote inclusion and strengthen skills pipelines in areas critical to economic resilience and the net zero transition.

Futureworks Training Limited (UKPRN 10022087): £400,000

Futureworks will reconfigure ten classrooms and laboratories into new flexible, open-plan learning environments. A new virtual production studio will be introduced with motion-capture hardware and real-time rendering engines. The network infrastructure will be upgraded to support improved energy efficiency and hybrid delivery of provision. Incubation pods and hybrid streaming booths will be created to support student entrepreneurship opportunities. The project will embed sustainable design principles and energy-efficient hardware throughout the facility.

Harper Adams University (UKPRN 10040812): £550,000

The project at Harper Adams University will deliver a new Centre for AI in Manufacturing, Agri-Tech and Engineering Skills. There will also be a high-performance computing cluster to enable remote access to a Collaborative Simulation Lab. The Centre will deliver applied AI education in agriculture, automation and agri-food, incorporating immersive learning technologies such as VR/AR, edge computing and AI workstations. The investment will also support flexible and modular higher education delivery, including degree apprenticeships, with strong employer involvement in curriculum design and work placements.

Health Sciences University (UKPRN 10000163): £2,136,638

Health Sciences University will use the funding to implement a significant capital investment programme to address healthcare workforce shortages, aligned with regional and national priorities. The project includes the creation of new teaching clinics and high quality simulated clinical environments to support the training of 120 dental care professionals, 100 clinicians and 45 healthcare degree apprentices annually. Planned facilities include an expanded Integrated Rehabilitation Clinic and a new ‘SimSuite’ featuring an Oral Health Simulation Suite, a Diagnostic Radiography and Multi-Use Simulation Ward, and an immersive VR room. A new Digital Delivery Suite will also be established, incorporating AI-enhanced image interpretation, digital cancer

treatment planning, a Telehealth Hub and a Telerehab Consultation Hub. These developments aim to increase student placement capacity, reduce reliance on external placements and prepare students for a modern NHS.

Leicester College (UKPRN 10003867): £963,236

Leicester College will upgrade specialist higher education teaching facilities across five sectors: Health and Social Care, Creative Industries, Business, Computing, and Construction. It will install immersive healthcare simulation environments, industry-standard creative equipment and modern IT infrastructure. Dedicated construction higher education zones will be established with surveying tools and project management software. Refurbishment will span four campuses, including new networking labs and AV systems. All works are scheduled for completion by February 2026. The investment will support new higher education courses that align with these priority sectors and accommodate over 200 additional students in the long term.

Liverpool John Moores University (UKPRN 10003957): £659,172

Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) will upgrade its maritime simulation infrastructure to further strengthen education and industry collaboration. The project entails replacing existing simulators with advanced systems designed to enhance teaching, promote curriculum innovation and improve graduate employability. In alignment with its Research Informed Teaching approach, LJMU aims to expand capacity in areas such as green shipping, autonomous vessel operations, digital twins, smart ports and cyber-resilience through the deployment of modernised simulators. Key milestones include the reinstallation of the improved simulators by February 2026.

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (UKPRN 10003958): £2,493,226

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) will use this capital investment to enhance its training infrastructure and address critical skills shortages in Health and Social Care, Life Sciences, and the Digital/Technology sectors. The project includes four integrated workstreams:

- a state-of-the-art Clinical Skills and Simulation Space for hands-on training in the treatment of infectious diseases
- a Digital and Translational Health Innovation Lab equipped for AI, data science and diagnostics training
- advanced diagnostics and imaging infrastructure to support experiential learning in genomics and digital pathology
- upgraded digital learning spaces to enable flexible delivery.

These developments align with national priorities and the Liverpool City Region LSIP, and will be completed by March 2026.

Loughborough College (UKPRN 10004112): £521,378

Loughborough College is developing a new Performance and Recovery Centre to support its new Strength and Conditioning degree and expand its higher education sport provision. The facility will include a sports science lab, strength and conditioning suite, performance testing space and rehabilitation rooms, equipped with specialist tools. OfS funding will deliver important equipment enhancements, such as an environmental chamber and medical-grade testing facilities. The Centre aligns with the priorities of the Leicestershire LSIP and supports the region's growing sport and rehabilitation sector expertise. The project will increase student capacity from 330 to 400 annually and embed sustainability through the use of more energy-efficient systems.

Manchester Metropolitan University (UKPRN 10004180): £1,270,000

Manchester Metropolitan University will create the Digital Education Nexus (DEN), a new healthcare initiative featuring immersive technologies such as a multi-person immersive theatre, anatomage tables and a high-spec computing facility to enhance life sciences, health, and adult social care education. The project aims to embed virtual and immersive tools to support NHS workforce digital transformation and improve placement efficiency. DEN will serve as an interdisciplinary platform for developing new simulations and digital education tools, fostering collaboration between academic software developers, engineers and healthcare professionals. The initiative includes the development of bespoke simulation packages and AI-driven environments and should support over 11,000 students in the longer term.

Mont Rose College of Management and Sciences Limited (UKPRN 10023777): £327,240

Mont Rose College will use this capital investment to expand its digital infrastructure and health and social care facilities. Four new servers will be installed to support secure IT operations. A Health and Social Care laboratory will be upgraded with AI-enabled patient simulators and new manikins. Practical training will be enhanced through the use of new interactive healthcare equipment and real world simulations. All installations are scheduled for completion by February 2026.

National Film and TV School (UKPRN 10004511): £1,350,000

This project will deliver three upgrades to support the National Film and TV School's capacity, growth and its investment in campus expansion and redevelopment. These upgrades are in:

- Shared digital storage systems, to expand and modernise the school's high-capacity storage platform, which underpins collaboration across disciplines such as directing, editing, cinematography, sound design and VFX.

- Television studio live production servers and storage, as the live production sector is undergoing a significant shift towards IP-based systems. This upgrade will align infrastructure with the global standard, enabling students to train in environments that match current broadcast and streaming industry practice.

- High-performance media networking, an upgrade to the core media network to ensure seamless access to large media files and enable improved virtual production, remote editing and cloud-based post-production.

New College Durham (UKPRN 10004576): £150,000

New College Durham is investing in a significant refurbishment of its Bishop Auckland Podiatry Clinic to create new and improved facilities for students, staff and the community. The project will enhance the training facilities and environment for students by improving communal areas, the reception and waiting areas, adding new accessible facilities, and upgrading heating, lighting and air conditioning to improve energy efficiency and sustainability. These improvements will ensure the clinic continues to deliver a first-class service for the community and provides podiatry students with continued access to modern, improved and enhanced training facilities.

Newham College of Further Education (UKPRN 10004607): £225,000

Newham College will use this capital funding to refurbish teaching and learning spaces at its Stratford Campus, enhancing and expanding its Higher Technical Education provision in construction-related disciplines. The investment will support growth in existing programmes in quantity surveying and construction management, and enable the launch of new programmes in modern methods of construction, and building services engineering from the 2026-27 academic year. The refurbished facilities will embed new technologies in retrofit, sustainability, offsite construction, and Building Information Modelling (BIM). The project will support around 150 students annually, and promote flexible, employer-engaged delivery models in East London.

Birmingham Newman University (UKPRN 10007832): £2,200,926

This capital project will establish a Community Digital Health Hub by refurbishing parts of the current Birmingham Newman University estate. The facility will expand nursing and allied health provision, adding new programmes in speech and language therapy and dietetics, and two new digital health degrees: BSc Computing and Health Informatics and MSc Applied AI for Healthcare Innovation. The hub will feature new training spaces, VR simulation labs and a data security centre, supporting more employer-led training. The development aligns with regional and national health and digital skills priorities and will be fully operational by March 2026, enabling growth to over 1,000 students and supporting the NHS’s workforce development ambitions.

Northampton College (UKPRN 10007011): £539,371

Through this investment, Northampton College will create and acquire new industry-standard resources including:

- a new digital design laboratory for construction, engineering and creative higher education students
- new construction and engineering materials testing equipment
- engineering and advanced manufacturing equipment for robotic welding, electronics and automation systems
- EV, HV, hydrogen and electrification equipment
- film, television and music production equipment for creative performance and technical higher education students.

The college is working with employers particularly in the construction industry to deliver a range of vital skills needs and qualifications to support students entering the workforce. The equipment will help to build the skills required for both academic success and future employment.

Northern School of Contemporary Dance (UKPRN 10008816): £1,360,117

Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) is embarking on a significant capital project to transform its Riley Theatre space and adjoining lighting studio into a new hub for contemporary dance performance and innovation. The extensive refurbishment will introduce cutting-edge digital infrastructure, including motion-tracking systems, intelligent lighting rigs and immersive projection mapping. This will create flexible, accessible and sustainable spaces that meet the needs of a 21st century dance sector education. The project will enhance opportunities for students, artists and communities to collaborate across dance, digital technology and interdisciplinary practice. It will strengthen the position of Leeds as a national centre for creative innovation, and provide an inclusive environment for accessibility, sustainability and artistic excellence.

Nottingham College (UKPRN 10004577): £1,227,820

Nottingham College will establish a new Centre for Sustainable Construction Technology at its Ruddington campus, to deliver skills and training in modern methods of construction. The centre will deliver HTQs in Modern Methods of Construction and Electrical Engineering. The project includes refurbishment of an existing building and installation of solar, LED lighting and modern heating systems. New and innovative equipment such as new industry-standard BIM workstations to improve data storage, timber frame assembly tables and renewable energy training systems will be installed. All capital works and installations will be completed by March 2026.

Nottingham Trent University (UKPRN 10004797): £2,500,000

Nottingham Trent University is delivering a capital investment programme across three schools to install new cutting-edge facilities and acquire high-tech, industry-standard equipment aligned with national priority sectors. Developments include new, advanced facilities for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education supporting the digital and technology sectors. A new Controlled Environment growth facility will be installed to support the agri-tech sector. Teaching spaces will be remodelled to expand access to provision in architecture and product design, benefiting both the construction and creative industries. These investments will enable the university to expand flexible short courses, enhance technical training, strengthen industry links and improve graduate employability in nationally and locally important skills sectors.

Plumpton College (UKPRN 10005124): £998,000

Plumpton College will refurbish outdated teaching and laboratory spaces, including science labs and its wine sensory suite. The college will expand its smart vineyard and install climate-controlled systems in horticulture facilities. It will also deploy new mobile trailers with digital tools for improved field-based learning. Additional investments include programmable growth chambers and digitally connected animal enclosures. These developments aim to modernise its land-based higher education and address regional skills shortages and priorities in agri-tech.

Point Blank Limited (UKPRN 10019178): £1,692,575

This project will create an inclusive, high specification learning environment across two Point Blank Limited campuses – at Penn Street and Orsman Road – through the refurbishment and expansion of specialist facilities in music production, radio, podcasting and immersive audio engineering. Developments include a dedicated radio and podcasting studio with professional-grade equipment, a modular live broadcast desk and digital console for real-time production, and a state-of-the-art Dolby Atmos immersive audio studio. All facilities will be equipped with industry-standard technologies such as LAWO Crystal consoles, new immersive desks, and Dante digital audio networking. The project directly addresses skills gaps in immersive audio and live broadcasting, supports gender equity in technical creative roles and aligns with national and London LSIP priorities.

Royal College of Music (UKPRN 10007778): £349,191

The Royal College of Music will install a permanent, immersive audio system in its Britten Theatre to support the evolving demands of multimedia and technology-mediated performance. The upgrade will include 80 loudspeakers, new digital processors and new infrastructure to deliver spatial audio, virtual acoustics, compatible with commercial surround formats such as Dolby Atmos. This investment will provide students with a professional, modern environment for developing enhanced skills across opera, orchestral, spoken word and experimental performance.

It will also improve operational efficiency and enhance the theatre's flexibility for student showcases and a range of productions.

Royal Holloway, University of London (UKPRN 10005553): £550,015

Royal Holloway will expand and modernise its Department of Computer Science teaching laboratories, supporting growth in higher demand provision including in computer science, AI, and cybersecurity. The project involves merging two existing rooms to create a flexible 160-seat lab space, enabling more collaborative and scalable teaching. The investment will fund refurbishment, new IT and audio visual equipment, and networking upgrades, increasing undergraduate capacity by approximately 60 students annually. The initiative aligns with national and regional skills priorities, enhances sustainability through more energy-efficient design and supports innovation in teaching and learning.

South and City College Birmingham (UKPRN 10005967): £540,000

South and City College Birmingham will develop new immersive room technology aimed at enhancing student learning experiences to build new skills across a range of local and national priorities. The project includes a new immersive room cube at the Longbridge campus for use in engineering and construction provision, and a mobile immersive space to support computing, business and creative industries programmes. These immersive environments will enable students to engage with interactive learning scenarios, such as computer aided design for engineers and industry-standard BIM modelling for construction students. The capital investment supports Level 4 and 5 programmes and apprenticeships, aligning with the West Midlands and Warwickshire LSIP and other local employment and skills strategies.

South Essex College of Further and Higher Education (UKPRN 10005981): £685,000

South Essex College of Further and Higher Education will use this funding to deliver a suite of specialised training and qualifications in construction, including Level 4 and 5 Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diplomas in drone and digital surveying, and retrofit training. The project includes refurbishing and expanding existing construction workshops and teaching spaces to modernise the facilities. The college will also purchase industry-standard equipment such as passive house models, renewable energy rigs and energy efficiency testing tools. The college will create dedicated learning areas for smart infrastructure and digital construction. These developments aim to support upskilling, reskilling and employability in sustainable and digital construction. The investment aligns with regional regeneration and national net zero and digital transformation goals.

Tameside College (UKPRN 10006494): £562,533

Tameside College is investing in new and enhanced facilities to support digital technologies, advanced manufacturing and clean energy. The project includes the creation of a high specification computing laboratory and an engineering laboratory equipped for 3D printing and renewable energy skills training. These facilities will support HTQs, Level 4 and 5 apprenticeships, and flexible provision aligned with GM LSIP and Skills England priorities. The investment will enhance local skills developments and growth and support environmental sustainability. It also aligns with other regional growth plans, including the Eastern Growth Corridor and the new Get Greater Manchester Working Plan.

The Arts University Bournemouth (UKPRN 10000385): £1,225,432

The capital investment will deliver four strategic projects that will expand and modernise facilities at Bournemouth Film School. The projects are:

- investment in post-production facilities, replacing old equipment and expanding teaching capacity
- upgrading portable equipment to meet changing industry requirements
- installation of professional-standard studio lighting and enhanced screening facilities to support cinema-quality student productions
- expansion into virtual production, creating a space for experimentation with emerging technologies to address skills gaps.

These capital developments will support production-based, collaborative learning model, enhance employability and contribute to the UK’s creative industries growth strategy.

The College of Health Ltd (UKPRN 10066502): £228,706

The College of Health Ltd will install specialist simulation equipment to enhance training capacity and the student experience in healthcare programmes. The investment includes four Force Sensing Simulation Tables, eight Human Analogue Manikins and supporting software and hardware. The technology to be installed provides real-time feedback on manual techniques, improving psychomotor skill development, student confidence and competence in spinal manipulation. It supports student-centred, evidence-based teaching and aligns with national priorities in health and social care. The equipment will be installed by March 2026.

The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (UKPRN 10003945): £2,500,000

The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) will use capital funding to deliver phase 2 of works at One Hope Place, aimed at expanding its digital and creative industries education. The project includes the creation of a specialist AI lab to explore the use of AI applications in the creative industries, enhanced facilities for performing arts integrated virtual production and advanced visualisation, and new digital tools for hybrid music performance spaces. The project also supports broader student access to improved resources, particularly in music, through the MusicFutures partnership with the University of Liverpool. Aligned with the Industrial Strategy and Liverpool City Region priorities, the investment will strengthen regional and national capabilities in the creative economy.

The Open University (UKPRN 10007773): £687,000

This capital project will expand the storage capacity of the OpenComputing Lab, enabling industry-relevant programming and analytical activities to be embedded across more provision, and provide additional specialist equipment increasing the relevance and authenticity of the Life Sciences learning materials produced in the XR Studios. These will help the Open University prepare students for careers in the advanced manufacturing, digital and technologies, and life sciences sectors. This investment will complement the university's OpenSTEM Labs and the recently established eXtended Reality (XR) Studios.

The Royal Academy of Music (UKPRN 10007835): £1,176,604

The Royal Academy of Music will use this capital funding to complete Phases 3 and 4 of a project to integrate emerging technologies and AI into its music education provision and teaching. The works include refurbishing its Concert Room into a black box theatre with a virtual acoustic system and expanding the Digital Technology Suite to enhance digital literacy and creative capability among the students. These facilities will support high-level musical training, enabling students to develop skills aligned with national and local digital and creative industry priorities.

The University of Chichester (UKPRN 10007137): £309,500

The University of Chichester will use this funding to convert two offices into new specialised laboratories for digital pathology training. These will include a cell culture lab and a tissue imaging lab with fluorescence microscopy and bioprinting capabilities. The new facilities will support new and existing programs including BEng Biomedical Engineering and PGCert and MSc in Digital Pathology. The labs will enable improved digital image generation for AI-based analysis. The project aims to enhance digital competencies for students in both healthcare and life sciences.

The University of Essex (UKPRN 10007791): £2,500,000

The University of Essex will refurbish and adapt existing facilities to create the BioSTAR-Lab, a modern, digitally enabled laboratory for the School of Life Sciences. The new facility will include a Molecular and Cancer Diagnostics Laboratory, a flexible Molecular Biology Laboratory, and supporting spaces, enabling high quality training and practical skills development for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. It will support new blended learning programmes, NHS Scientist Training Programmes and outreach activities. The lab will be equipped with advanced scientific, IT and audio visual systems, designed for sustainability, including energy-efficient upgrades and removal of gas services. The project is ready for accelerated delivery and the refurbishment will be completed by March 2026.

The University of Hull (UKPRN 10007149): £2,477,329

The University of Hull will use this funding to develop a new engineering laboratory that will support Level 4 and Level 7 civil engineering programmes, addressing critical regional as well as national skills shortages identified in the Hull and East Yorkshire LSIP and Industrial Strategy. The project includes the refurbishment of existing facilities to enhance curriculum delivery, improve the student experience and support significant growth in student numbers. The initiative aligns with the Industrial Strategy's focus on clean energy and engineering skills, and is particularly relevant to the Humber's role as the UK's 'Energy Estuary'.

The University of Lancaster (UKPRN 10007768): £2,048,901

Lancaster University will use this funding to develop the Lancaster University Flexible and Immersive Nuclear Simulator for Future Skills Development (LUNar), a new educational facility designed to train students as future professionals in nuclear engineering, cybersecurity and related disciplines. The simulator will feature immersive, reconfigurable control room environments powered by high-fidelity reactor simulation codes, supporting a range of reactor types including fusion reactors. It will also simulate cyber-induced failure scenarios, enabling interdisciplinary learning across engineering, computing and encompassing human factors. LUNar will enhance Lancaster's accredited nuclear engineering and NCSC-recognised cybersecurity programmes, supporting regional and national skills priorities in energy production and security.

The University of Northampton (UKPRN 10007138): £800,000

The University of Northampton will use this investment to create a new microscopy and image analysis teaching suite to enhance practical training in scientific and digital skills. The facility will include advanced microscopy equipment, image analysis workstations, specialised software and refurbished laboratories to support modular, work-based learning in bioscience data, AI in life sciences and digital health. Employers will also be able to take advantage of a range of training opportunities. The suite will serve over 420 students, improving graduate readiness for skilled employment and supporting national skills and growth priorities.

The University of Westminster (UKPRN 10007165): £2,496,000

The University of Westminster will use this investment to create an Immersive Experience Lab at its Marylebone Campus, featuring immersive learning pods, and a new 10G network. The Lab will transform existing teaching spaces to support immersive, high quality, skills-based education aligned with priority sectors such as digital technologies, financial services and creative industries. It will incorporate real-time rendering, VR/AR and a digital twin system to enhance sustainability and student learning. The facility aims to foster critical skills such as creativity and systems thinking. The new facilities will be fully operational for the 2026–27 academic year. The project is expected to benefit over 2,000 students annually across all academic levels.

The Windsor Forest Colleges Group (UKPRN 10002107): £152,992

The Windsor Forest Colleges Group will use this investment to enhance higher education healthcare facilities at Slough and Langley College through the refurbishment of technical infrastructure and the installation of anatomage tables in its hospital simulation room. Advanced virtual dissection tools will provide immersive, 3D anatomical learning experiences for students across various programmes. The project also aims to support continued professional development opportunities for local NHS staff, strengthening partnerships with healthcare providers in the region. The investment will support graduate employability and will meet local employer needs through more modern, cost-effective and technologically advanced learning environments.

Truro and Penwith College (UKPRN 10007063): £2,077,087

Truro and Penwith College will use this capital investment to enhance digital and sector-specific education across its campuses in west, mid and north Cornwall. The project includes:

- the creation of a specialist computing lab in Truro for cybersecurity and AI provision
- the purchase of up to date industry-relevant digital equipment for construction, nursing and psychology
- digital infrastructure upgrades, including interactive classroom technology and refurbished learning resource centres.

These developments aim to increase student numbers by 180, and address regional digital and other skills shortages identified in the LSIP. All works will be completed by March 2026.

University College Birmingham (UKPRN 10000712): £900,000

University College Birmingham will use this investment to deliver two capital projects. A STEM project will create an AI and Robotics Lab, with battery testing rigs and smart hydrogen fuel cell demonstrators, and also refurbish current engineering and construction spaces. A health and social care project will install anatomage tables and VR platforms, develop a simulated community space and create digital lived experience health and social care case studies. These investments

will support immersive learning and teaching. All the capital items to be purchased have been selected in consultation with employers to align with occupational standards.

University of Brighton (UKPRN 10000886): £2,486,994

The University of Brighton will use this investment to refurbish teaching facilities across 16 rooms, including full AV and furniture replacement and heating and ventilation upgrades in five rooms. These improvements will enhance the learning environment for students enrolled in courses aligned with priority skills areas identified by the Industrial Strategy and the Sussex LSIP. The targeted subject areas include engineering, technology, computing, AI, creative industries and business and management, to be delivered through the university's Clean Growth Hub, Social Change Innovation, and Health Innovation themes. The project will improve the student experience, particularly for those from non-traditional and underrepresented backgrounds.

University of Cambridge (UKPRN 10007788): £690,949

The University of Cambridge will use this capital investment to adapt existing teaching spaces and acquire specialist equipment to enhance curriculum delivery in priority sectors. The project will create a new Clinical Simulation Centre with immersive room technology for medical training, and a data-intensive Bioscience Technical Training Suite to support education in digital skills such as data science, AI and machine learning. These facilities will serve undergraduate, postgraduate and professional learners, and also support short course provision for local employers. Additional upgrades include converting a meeting room into a high-spec communication skills teaching space and enhancing IT infrastructure to support enhanced hybrid learning. The project is scheduled for full delivery by March 2026.

University of Chester (UKPRN 10007848): £2,498,791

The University of Chester will use capital investment to enhance its business, finance and digital education through the creation of a FinTech Simulation Lab and refurbishment of teaching spaces, including the development of an exterior auditorium for teaching purposes. The FinTech Lab will double existing capacity at its Queen's Park site, equipping it with advanced consoles and new equipment to reflect current and future workplace environments. At its Exton Park site, the top floor of the Binks building will be converted into four flexible seminar rooms to support active learning and accommodate up to 240 students. Additionally, a new outdoor auditorium with tiered seating and an interactive screen will provide a non-traditional learning space to support different ways of accessing teaching and learning. These developments aim to address the growing demand for AI, FinTech and transferable skills, aligning with the Industrial Strategy and Cheshire and Warrington LSIP priorities. All facilities are scheduled for completion by March 2026.

University of Derby (UKPRN 10007851): £2,499,594

The University of Derby will use this capital funding to purchase an extensive range of equipment aimed at enhancing its learning and teaching infrastructure across multiple disciplines. Investments include a mobile health and education bus, anatomical teaching tools, and advanced diagnostic equipment such as ultrasound, near-infrared spectroscopy and portable EEG machines. These resources will support priority sectors identified by the Industrial Strategy and the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire LSIP, while aligning with the university's strategic goals in education, innovation, civic engagement and sustainability. The project will begin in November 2025, with full implementation by March 2026. It is expected to increase student numbers by approximately 1,300 over five years and strengthen the university's collaboration with local employers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The project builds on the successful delivery of the university's Biomedical Sciences Super Lab.

Durham University (UKPRN 10007143): £1,797,832

Durham University is investing in seven projects across three main strands: creative industries and digital media, chemical automation and sustainable materials and engineering and clean energy technologies – in alignment with national and regional skills priorities. The investment includes the development of new facilities for digital image capture, immersive technologies and AI-driven analysis to enhance employability for students and meet current and future skills needs. The funding will also support the creation of a chemical automation facility and a sustainable materials lab (SusMatLab) to embed green chemistry and digital skills into undergraduate education. In engineering, the proposal includes upgrades to teaching labs and the creation of a flight controls laboratory to build more capacity in clean energy and advanced manufacturing skills and training.

University of Gloucestershire (UKPRN 10007145): £2,500,000

The University of Gloucestershire is creating a new Centre of Excellence in Interprofessional Simulation and Technology Enhanced Learning at its Oxstalls Campus. The facility will consolidate three existing facilities into a single AI-ready simulation hub, featuring five modular zones including clinical, forensic, outdoor, virtual patient and crisis response settings. It will be equipped with immersive technologies such as XR/VR platforms, high-fidelity manikins, wearable tech and AI-integrated simulation software. This development will support training and skills development across the health, social care, policing, cybersecurity and AI sectors, with the ability to support a range of student and employer needs. The centre will increase simulation capacity by 25 per cent, and enhance digital fluency through interprofessional education. The facilities will be ready for the start of April 2026.

University of Greater Manchester (UKPRN 10006841): £762,000

The University of Greater Manchester is using this capital investment to establish two new state-of-the-art laboratories to support the development of a new programme specialising in defence

engineering. The funding will enhance the delivery of new provision in BEng Defence Manufacturing Engineering and complement existing laboratory space for students. The new laboratories will provide an environment that replicates industry and employer settings and will offer real world experience to ensure that graduates are ready for employment in the industry. The project will be delivered in collaboration with employer partners.

University of Lincoln (UKPRN 10007151): £1,379,938

This capital funding will accelerate the University of Lincoln's investment in advanced educational and simulation equipment to support the university's expanding portfolio of health-related programmes, including medicine, dentistry, nursing, midwifery, paramedic science and related apprenticeships. The project will deliver state-of-the-art training environments that replicate modern clinical settings, enhancing simulation-based learning. Equipment will be deployed in advanced skills labs and simulation suites ready for September 2026, supporting hands-on, interprofessional learning and improving clinical competency. The project also aims to extend healthcare training into the community. Students will be involved in the development of the new facilities. The project aligns with the NHS ten-year plan and Greater Lincolnshire's workforce requirements.

University of Nottingham, The (UKPRN 10007154): £2,005,712

The University of Nottingham is implementing a new medical curriculum aligned with the GMC's Medical Licensing Assessment and modern clinical practice. To support this, it is refurbishing its Clinical Teaching Centre and parts of its Medical School building to facilitate more small group, interactive and simulation-based learning for students. This funding will procure high specification equipment, including simulation mannequins, digital and VR tools, advanced AV systems and enhanced IT infrastructure. These upgrades will support interprofessional education across healthcare disciplines and improve collaborative, skills-based learning. The project aligns well with national and regional workforce priorities and will enhance graduate employability and NHS workforce sustainability.

University of Suffolk (UKPRN 10014001): £457,600

The University of Suffolk intends to launch an undergraduate Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) programme to address regional pharmacy workforce shortages, with the first student intake scheduled for the start of 2026-27. This capital investment will deliver new laboratory teaching facilities, including a simulated community pharmacy dispensary, specialised facilities and equipment and upgraded biomedical science spaces. The funding will also support the development of a clinical skills suite, fume cupboard equipment and new IT/audio visual infrastructure. Importantly, the investment and infrastructure will also be able to support the expansion of other health and science-related teaching at the university.

University of Worcester (UKPRN 10007139): £2,493,703

The University of Worcester will use this capital funding to further enhance its healthcare education provision. The funding will benefit the university's 3,000 health professional students, who are studying on locally and nationally important courses including midwifery, nursing, medicine, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nutrition and dietetics, paramedicine and diagnostic radiography. This grant will allow the university to create additional simulation facilities for these students, including a specialist midwifery suite and the purchase of a decommissioned ambulance for improved training, along with the purchase of new high-tech digital resources to support learners to simulate interprofessional working, including mobile diagnostic tools and anatomage tables. By increasing its simulation capacity, the university will be able to educate even more health professionals, including through the introduction of a new undergraduate degree for operating department practitioners which will welcome its first students from September 2026. These new facilities will help ensure that students are well prepared for modern, community-based healthcare delivery in line with NHS strategic plans and regional workforce priorities.

Yeovil College (UKPRN 10007696): £2,075,800

Yeovil College will use this capital investment to transform the ground floor of its engineering building, equipping it with specialist technology and reconfiguring teaching spaces to support high-level skills development in advanced manufacturing, clean energy and defence engineering. The initiative responds to regional employer needs and national strategies by embedding new, cutting-edge equipment and aligning the curriculum to meet these skills and training requirements. The project will enable students to gain practical expertise in areas such as additive manufacturing, digital supply chains and sustainable engineering. The college will complete the redevelopment by March 2026, with the new facilities fully operational by September 2026.

Annex B: Formula capital and project funding allocations

Annex B shows the formula capital and project funding allocations for each eligible provider. It is available to download as an Excel file alongside this document at:

www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/capital-funding-for-financial-year-2025-2026/