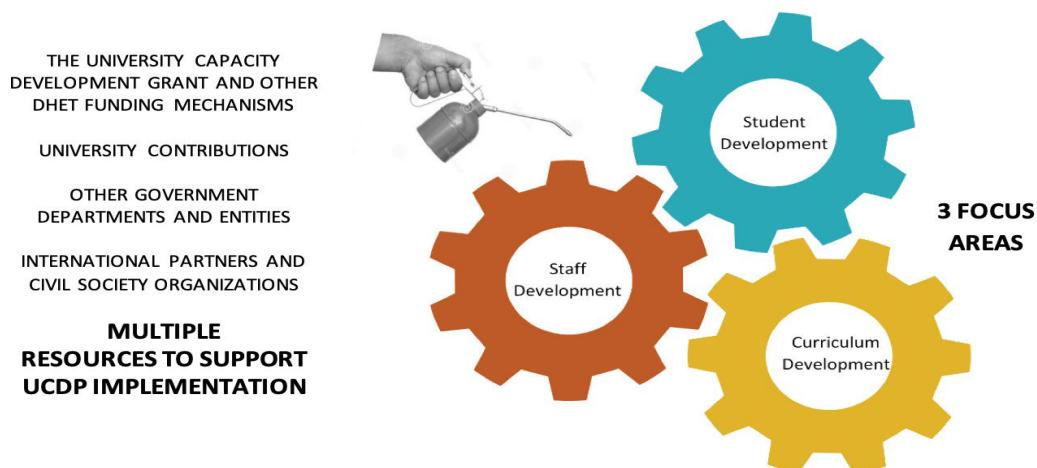# CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2024/25

UNIVERSITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UCDP)
UNIVERSITY-LED COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS SUB-PROGRAMME

1. INTRODUCTION

The University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) is the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET / the Department)'s implementation programme that focuses on advancing the transformation agenda in higher education in three critical areas: student development, staff development and programme/curriculum development. The UCDP draws on multiple resources to enable its implementation.

The UCDP focus areas are addressed via three sub-programmes and multiple sub-projects which are undertaken in each of the sub-programmes and implemented at institutional or national level:

- Institutional Grant Sub-Programme;
- University-led Collaborative Projects Sub-Programme and
- Nationally-led Sub-Programme.

The UCDP is meant to be transformative and views transformation as being both about addressing the clear inequalities that persist in our higher education system and about building quality in order to enhance access and success. These are non-competing imperatives that we must work on together. It also enables a collaborative approach to capacity development, enabling universities to work together to address common needs.

2. UNIVERSITY-LED COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS SUB-PROGRAMME

The University-led Collaborative Projects Sub-Programme is a system-wide intervention that relies on the contribution of multiple role-players at all levels of the higher education system to support its effective implementation. A collaboration fund has been provided at national level and the Department strategically directs the fund to enable the implementation of University-led Collaborative Projects that will build the capacity of the university system in the national focus areas. Where applicable, appropriate and desirable, individual universities should build participation in relevant university initiatives, into their University-led Collaborative Project proposals. These projects must be led by one of the 26 public universities and implemented in partnership with other universities and relevant higher education partners in the system.

The Department has approved the University of Limpopo (UL) as the implementing partner for the University-led Collaborative Projects Sub-Programme of the UCDP. The role of the implementing partner acts as the fund-holder and coordinator on behalf of the Department.

3. PROPOSED FOCUS AREAS

The university-led collaborative projects funding is aimed at supporting priority areas and initiatives that fit within the UCDP framework. These priority areas were identified in consultation with the sector and were funded from the 2022/23 as well as 2023/2024 funding:

1. Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education (Academic Development)
2. Academic Leaders Forum
3. Strengthening African Indigenous Languages
4. Post Graduate Quality Improvement
5. Instructional Designers Development
6. African Women in Research
7. Capacity Development Programme on Grants Management
8. Internationalisation / Africanism – Curriculum Transformation
9. Blended learning – Student Development Initiatives

4. FOCUS AREAS THAT CAN BE FUNDED IN 2024/25

- Improving Teaching, Learning & Research Capability for Students with Disabilities in higher education and addressing Inequalities.
- Instructional and Curriculum Design Capacity Development within the context of modern global pandemics and other teaching and learning disruptions.
- Commercialisation of Research and other Academic Initiatives.
- A colloquium on the collaborative projects funded from the UCDP; and
- Psychosocial and wellness programme for students and/or staff.

Other focus areas found to be of priority for the higher education system (benefit across all 26 Universities) and meet the requirements of the UCDP University-led Collaborative Projects will also be considered. These include projects that are already funded and are showing success and in demand and will continue to further phases.

Projects aimed at improving collaborations with other African universities will be given more attention.

5. GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

Universities are invited to submit proposals for support of the UCDP University-led Collaborative Projects Sub-Programme that are aligned to the UCDP principles, priority areas that were identified and agreed upon by universities and the Department for the current cycle in January 2022 and that will address the objectives of the programme.

University-led Collaborative Project Proposals should consider the following:
- Be of strategic importance to the higher education system;
- Have sector-wide participation and sector-wide benefit;
- Be aligned to one or more of the focus areas identified for support through the UCDP;
- Be collaboratively developed at institutional level to ensure input and buy-in of all who will be involved in its implementation;
- Have clear performance targets for each project to be achieved over the three years, aligned to institutional and national targets;
- Be cost-effective and include a detailed, activity-based, itemised budget;
- Clearly illustrate the governance and management structure that will be in place to support the successful implementation of the plan;
- Include a monitoring and evaluation component that will allow the implementation of the plan to be monitored from the outset;
- The Vice-Chancellor of the coordinating university will be required to approve and sign the project plan;
- UL and the Department will set up a panel to review the project plan and recommend whether or not it should be supported. Recommended proposals will be submitted to the Director - General of the Department for approval and once approved, the Collaborative Project will be managed as an additional project in the approved UCDP Plan of the coordinating University, and all reporting on the project will be done using the standard operating procedures that govern the implementation of the UCDP;
- Proposals submitted must be based on an identified capacity development need in the system which a group of universities will work together to address;
- The Collaborating Universities must be representative of the University types in South Africa; and
- The funding provided should be used to leverage partnerships that enable additional resources to be available to support the implementation of the University-led Collaborative Projects Sub-Programme. It will provide a facility that enables the Universities to partner with other role-players who are contributing or wanting to contribute to specific areas of university capacity development targeted by the UCDP, with the view that combining resources can assist to maximize impact e.g. through securing partnerships with other organisations that can contribute towards resourcing the projects.

The funding provided cannot be used to fund:
- General infrastructure and equipment;
- Appointment of regular teaching, administration and technical staff, except in the case of contract staff to support teaching, learning and research development activities, and in the case of appointment of tutors and mentors (plans should be put in place to employ people contracted in this way permanently on the university establishment, using university funds as these become available.);
- General research projects;
- Payment for researchers employed/paid to do research to boost the research profile of the university;
- Any activities that should be funded as part of the University's core business costs; or
- Monetary incentives to students and staff for participation in the projects.

The exclusions listed above are not exhaustive, and the evaluation and final approval of University-led Collaborative Projects Sub-Programme proposals will determine the appropriate projects and/or activities to be funded.

6. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted on the standard proposal template (**Annexure A**) for the University-led Collaborative Projects Sub-Programme.   Decisions on submitted proposals, once communicated, are final, and no further discussion on the outcomes can be entered into.