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Overview of the N8 Equipment Sharing Toolkit

Overview of the N8 Equipment Sharing Toolkit:

What has been done and the
vision for how the toolkit may be
used

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What is it?



- The toolkit makes available in one place the collective thinking of a wide range of research and financial support professionals across the N8 universities on how best to share equipment in a complex environment.

The aim and purpose

The aim of the toolkit:

Our aim in making it easier to share equipment is to allow us to do better research more cost-effectively

The purpose of the toolkit:

The purpose is to help the academic community to find the most appropriate solution for their circumstances

Key underlying principles



- To share equipment, where appropriate to do so
- Not a compliance-based approach
- Proportionate

Banding to help with use of the toolkit



Band 1 – New Infrastructure Framework Applies

- Strategic Facilities as defined by N8 Universities that are part of the competitive award winning process and research growth of the 8 universities

Band 2 – New Infrastructure Framework Optional

- Larger pieces of equipment where formal/informal sharing may already exist as a result of collaborative working
- Equipment with the capacity and capability to be shared. For this equipment uptake of the model is optional

Band 3 – New Infrastructure Framework Unlikely to apply

- Smaller equipment that does not normally lend itself to sharing and identified via the N8 database

What does the toolkit contain?



Navigation and pathways through four strands:

- Pricing and Charging
- Health & Safety and Training
- VAT
- Contacts and Legal

What does the toolkit contain?



In addition to four work strands:

- Background and context for the work
- Suggested approaches
- Two case studies
- Worked up examples
- Downloadable templates
- Questions and answers

A flexible and collaborative approach



- Consulted touch stones and critical friends within our respective HEIs
- Work strand leads consulted with academics and other stakeholders
- Took note of good work being developed elsewhere, e.g., M5 group of universities and the SES 5
- Tested ideas as we went along
- Consulted with national bodies who had a policy or regulatory interest, RCUK; HEFCE; HMRC; Govt depts
- Sought legal and financial advice
- Weren't slowed down by not knowing all the answers

Our vision for how it will be used



- Thrive as a living project
- The toolkit to be regarded as a valuable resource for the user community in challenging times ahead
- The user community will want to own the toolkit and be engaged in helping to improve its effectiveness
- Be comfortable that we don't have all the answers – next steps approach
- To be of help to the broader HEI sector

Contacts



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<http://www.shef.ac.uk/departments/professional-services/executive>

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/ris/>

<http://www.n8research.org.uk/asset-collaboration/n8-est/>