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Planning

T1121 - Card Acquiring Services 2025

University of Essex

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-047706

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-058550

Published 11 August 2025, 3:17pm

Scope

Reference

T1121

Description

This pre market engagement is to scope potential suppliers interest for the provision of Merchant Services for processing, authorisation and settlement of the University's debit and credit transactions via all payment channels including customer present (Chip and PIN/contactless payments (including mobile wallets such as apple pay, google pay), customer not present (Mail Order / Telephone Order) and online (e-commerce).

The University is seeking to develop efficient and cost-effective merchant service arrangements which will be capable of meeting future market and technological changes, and which will meet, and often exceed, user expectations. It is looking for a relationship with an organisation which it can be confident will fulfil all the University's current and future requirements.

It is important that any potential acquiring partner can add value through an effective

dedicated corporate support team backed up by a proactive education sector specialist Relationship Manager.

The following legal entities are involved in this tender:

University of Essex

University of Essex Campus Services Limited

This tender is for all merchant services activity for the University and its subsidiaries across all acceptance methods.

Total value (estimated)

- £3,500,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 10 August 2026 to 9 August 2029
- Possible extension to 9 August 2031
- 5 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 66172000 - Financial transaction processing and clearing-house services

Contract locations

- UKH3 - Essex
-

Engagement

Engagement deadline

29 August 2025

Engagement process description

This pre market engagement is to scope interest from suppliers for the provision of Merchant Services for processing, authorisation and settlement of the University's debit and credit transactions via all payment channels including customer present (Chip and PIN/contactless payments (including mobile wallets such as apple pay, google pay), customer not present (Mail Order / Telephone Order) and online (e-commerce).

Please register your interest and provide some brief information in the first instance.

Please also feel free to ask questions/provide feedback on the draft specification.

The plan is to run a competitive flexible procedure procurement process for this requirement, with the next stage including a tender notice and a PSQ stage.

Further information will be provided as the procurement process progresses.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 September 2025

Contracting authority

University of Essex

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PQBL-6931-JNGJ

Wivenhoe Park

Colchester

CO4 3SQ

United Kingdom

Email: procure@essex.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.essex.ac.uk>

Region: UKH34 - Essex Haven Gateway

Organisation type: Public undertaking (commercial organisation subject to public authority oversight)

