



UK CENTRE FOR

**bioscience**



## Departmental Teaching Enhancement Scheme

### Call for Expression of Interest

**For this scheme we have broken the application process into two stages:**

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. <b>Expression of Interest:</b> | Due Friday, 15 January 2010 |
| 2. <b>Full Proposal:</b>          | Due Wednesday, 7 April 2010 |

All those submitting an expression of interest will be notified of an outcome by 8 February, with the successful bidders invited to complete a full proposal by 7 April 2010.

### Overview

- A key role for the UK Centre for Bioscience is to support enhancements in bioscience learning and teaching practice. Our Departmental Teaching Enhancement Scheme will provide bioscience schools and departments with additional funds to develop and implement some aspect of practice that will lead to an improved learning experience for students in their department.
- Project funds must be used to effect change across entire department(s) rather than within a single module or one individual's teaching practice.
- Although this call refers to single departments, collaborative projects across departments/institutions are very welcome.
- A total of £45,000 will be available for this round of funding with the maximum award for any one project being £15,000. It is anticipated three to four projects will be funded in this round. NB proposals for projects of less than £4,000 should be directed to the UK Centre for Bioscience Teaching Development Fund. [www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/tdf/](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/tdf/)
- The Departmental Teaching Enhancement Scheme will:
  - facilitate strategic change in departments to bring quality enhancement to the student experience across one or more departments
  - support evidence-based research in the development and evaluation of departmental change
- The grant should be used to fund developments which are not otherwise being undertaken by the school or department, or bring clear added value to changes which are underway.
- To help others determine whether the methods would be applicable within their own contexts, projects must address the context and rationale for change and include an evaluation study.
- Funds will be allocated on the basis of a competitive bidding process, judged by a panel including members external to the Centre using the criteria set out below. Projects will normally not exceed one year although evaluation may extend beyond the initial year.
- Proposals will only be accepted if countersigned by Heads of Unit, or equivalents, of UK HE Institutions and FE institutions delivering HE programmes in bioscience subjects. Joint proposals that involve the transfer of practice across departments or institutions are encouraged.

- Examples of the type of project that might be funded include:
  - pedagogic research or professional development for staff in relation to teaching and learning
  - curriculum redesign
  - development and embedding of effective feedback to students
  - strategies for the improvement of numeracy or literacy within the curriculum
  - development of the teaching of ethics within the curriculum
  - development and embedding of problem-based learning materials
  - development and embedding of computer-aided assessment
  - audit of the curriculum in relation to sustainability, diversity or employability

## Responsibilities of project holder

The project holder will be responsible for carrying out the project in a timely and financially accountable manner, including completing deliverables and dissemination activities and full disclosure of the work to the UK Centre for Bioscience. IPR will normally remain with the proposer, although this may be subject to negotiation in particular cases. It may be a requirement that a licence is provided to allow free use of any original material within UK HE.

## Monitoring project progress and financial arrangements

A member of the UK Centre for Bioscience staff will be allocated as the principal contact person for each successful project, and will monitor progress against plan and advise and support the project holder throughout the project. The Centre would like to trial using a Wiki to support project holders, if you are interested in taking part in this trial please indicate this on your application form. The Centre contact will also assist with developing a dissemination plan.

Any disagreements between the project holder and the UK Centre for Bioscience should be brought to the attention of the Centre Manager in writing. If matters cannot be settled to the satisfaction of both parties then issues shall go before the Chair of the UK Centre for Bioscience Advisory Group for arbitration.

We will aim to keep bureaucracy to a minimum. The UK Centre for Bioscience will monitor the funded proposals through the submission of a simple proforma-based interim report and a final project report.

The arrangements for payment of the grant will be as follows:

- One half of the funded amount will be paid on receipt of a signed agreement and invoice from the project holder's institution.
- A further 25% of the grant will be paid on receipt of an invoice from the project holder's institution no earlier than half way through the grant period, and following receipt of an interim report from the project holder.
- The final 25% will be paid on receipt of an invoice from the project holder's institution upon completion of all the deliverables of the project including the final evaluation report.

You consent if you fail to deliver any part of your agreed project outcomes (deliverables) the UK Centre for Bioscience is entitled to receive immediate repayment of any monies paid.

Payments will be made on a subcontract basis from the University of Leeds from the UK Centre for Bioscience. Any funds unspent at the end of the project will be retained by the UK Centre for Bioscience.

## Expression of Interest - Stage 1

Only fully completed proposal forms which reach the UK Centre for Bioscience by the deadline will be considered for funding. Expressions of interest should be made on the current application form, which you can download from [www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/dtes/](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/funding/dtes/). These may be submitted electronically as an email attachment sent to: [heabioscience@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:heabioscience@leeds.ac.uk). Proposals sent by post should be addressed to: The Centre Manager, UK Centre for Bioscience, the Higher Education Academy, Room 9.15, Worsley Building, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

The Expressions of Interest will be evaluated by a panel made up of senior staff and the Director of the UK Centre for Bioscience, and measured against the criteria noted below. An outcome will be advised by 8 February 2010, with the **successful bidders invited to complete a full proposal by 7 April 2010**. NB an invitation to submit a full proposal does not guarantee the project will be funded as we may offer more opportunities to submit bids, than we have funding available for.

### Criteria applied to evaluate expressions of interest are:

- The main aim(s) of proposal are clearly stated and are feasible.
- The appropriateness of the methodology, including consideration of the evaluation and dissemination of the project.
- The expected impact on students and staff and how these will be evaluated.
- Demonstrates clear evidence of commitment from staff within the department to the project

## Full Proposal form – Stage 2

Following confirmation of success from your Expression of Interest, **please submit a full proposal by 7 April 2010 to include:**

- Project Title
- Clear objectives to achieve the aim(s) of the proposal – these need to be clearly stated and the means by which they will be achieved
- A rationale for the proposal. This must be supported by evidence from published research or evidence of success within other departments
- A description of the expected impact on students and staff
- A description of methods or tools integral to the scheme, such as audit tools, survey instruments, software
- Details of collaborating departments in your own or other universities (if any)
- Details of how you will work with the local learning & teaching/educational development and/or staff development units to develop and embed the proposed project outcomes
- Details of external advice to your project - we would encourage you to identify critical friends/outside experience/consultancy where appropriate
- Evidence of commitment across the department – identify staff who will carry out the work and areas of expertise
- Details of how the effects of change (from student and staff perspectives) will be evaluated. Evaluation can take place subsequently – but we require you to provide details of results to the UK Centre for Bioscience
- Details of linked work. Where the work relates to existing initiatives and projects either within the institution or externally (for example, Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning) this should be made explicit in the proposal
- A statement indicating how the proposed work is supports the institution's learning and teaching strategy
- A statement to justify why the work cannot be funded internally, or if it builds on existing work, what added value the work will bring

- A description of how the wider bioscience community and the UK learning and teaching community might benefit from the outcomes of the project. It is intended that the UK Centre for Bioscience will lead dissemination, in which you will be involved, on outcomes to other departments.
- A timetable for the programme of work
- The costs associated with the work including matched funding from the Department (25% of total cost to be funded by the Department). This may include costs for staffing, equipment, travel or consumables. Provide a brief justification of costs and list additional support provided from elsewhere. Provide brief details of existing staff or additional consultants working on the project. Funds may be used to buy in consultancy, employ staff or buy out staff time. (See Section 3 of the Proposal Form.) Overhead costs will not be funded.
- All teaching materials, web sites etc must comply with appropriate accessibility guidelines (such as the W3C 'AA' Web Content Accessibility Guidelines [www.w3.org/WAI/](http://www.w3.org/WAI/)) in order to ensure fulfillment of your obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act (revised 2005) and specifically Part 4 (SENDA). (For further information contact TechDis at [www.techdis.ac.uk](http://www.techdis.ac.uk))

## Evaluation criteria for full proposals

- **Potential benefit to students and staff**  
What impact will the project have on the student and staff experience within the department? How broad is the impact across the department?
- **The nature of the development and how it will be embedded**  
Are the objectives clear and achievable? Is there evidence of appropriate expertise to carry through the proposal? Is there evidence of a programme of change? Is the proposed work feasible and practical? Is enhanced practice likely to be effected across the whole department? Is the methodology appropriate? Is the timescale appropriate? How do you envisage sustaining the proposed project development after the life of the project?
- **Commitment to change**  
Is there evidence staff within the department are committed to the project? To what extent does the proposed work link with existing teaching/curriculum development strategies?
- **Rationale and evaluation**  
Does the proposal include the development of an evidence-based rationale for the work? Is evaluation of the effectiveness of the development included?
- **Value for money**  
Is the amount of funding requested justified? Is there any commitment from the host department, institution or other sources? Is the proposal good value for money? Is there potential for the work to be extended to other departments or institutions?
- **Applicability and transferability of the development**  
Has the development received local learning & teaching/educational development and/or staff development support in your institution? Can the project development be replicated and adopted in another department, particularly in another institution?

## How full proposals are reviewed

Once we receive your full proposal, we will proceed through the following stages:

- The proposals will be checked for completeness and appropriateness according to the criteria.
- Proposals will be circulated to members of the UK Centre for Bioscience panel. Each proposal will be assessed by the panel and judged against the criteria listed above.
- Decisions on projects to be funded will be made no later than 26 May 2010
- Authors of unsuccessful proposals will be given feedback on why the project was not funded.
- For successful proposals, the UK Centre for Bioscience will draw up a letter of agreement to be signed by the project holder, the Head of Unit or equivalent, and the UK Centre for Bioscience.