Between 2017 and 2019, the project members facilitated a series of 3-day Learning Design & Course Creation (LDCC) workshops at three Open Universities in China – Shanghai OU (Nov 2017, Sept 2018, June 2019), Guangdong OU (Dec/Jan 2018) and Jiangsu OU (July 2019).

A total of around 250 academic and academic-related staff from these institutions participated in the workshops. By introducing the STEM-OU approach to learning design and course creation to a community in China with a different educational culture, the project has effectively set up an experiment to test the universal applicability of STEM-OU educational design approaches.

Through the lens of an adapted set of Hofstede Dimensions (Parrish & Linder-VanBerschot, 2010) this project aims to evaluate the degree to which the LDCC workshops have led to STEM-OU learning design and course creation principles being adopted in these 3 very different educational contexts and the extent to which cultural differences may have been a barrier to adoption.

This evaluation will allow us to:

1. challenge, critique and suggest enhancements from a cultural perspective to our own teaching and learning practice

2. help us shape our design of professional development activities with international institutions for the future