

eSTeEM Project Proposal Supplementary Information

All submissions will be acknowledged. If you are applying for more than one project, then please submit a separate form for each.

Before completing the submission form please ensure:

- You have discussed and had your project endorsed by your School Scholarship Lead, or eSTeEM Director if you are based outside a school.
- You have received approval from your Lead Line Manager (Associate Lecturers).
- You have gained approval from your Head of School, or Line Manager if you are based outside of a school.
- You have conducted a search on the [eSTeEM website](#) and [Scholarship Exchange](#) to check whether there has been any similar research/projects in the area you wish to investigate; and
- You have read the criteria and notes below.

Eligibility criteria

Due to budgetary constraints, please note that funding for projects will be limited and the eSTeEM Coordination Group will be considering all projects based on the following criteria:

- How closely the project addresses one or more of the priority areas.
- The range and scope of project (e.g. how many modules/schools within STEM will benefit).
- How it builds upon previous projects from across STEM/the university and other research.
- The breadth and diversity of project team and others involved with the project, including the use of Student Support Team members and involvement of students as partners.
- The potential for impact of the project as based on the criteria within the [Impact Evaluation Tracking Tool](#) (IETT).
- The number of ongoing and/or unfinished projects by members of the project team.

The expected maximum amount of funding for each project will be £3,000 for the total duration of the project. Funding for external dissemination to UK or international conferences will be considered separately and should not be included within the budget section of the proposal form. Any requests of funding for external dissemination will only be considered once evidence of progression in the form of an interim report or final report has been submitted and engagement with internal dissemination has occurred. Requests for funding must be made to the eSTEEem Management Team before the submission of an abstract and is dependent on remaining budget within eSTEEem for that academic year.

Notes

1. You may find it useful to complete the *eSTEEem initial planning activity* which is available on the [eSTEEem website](#) to help you formulate and shape your project idea.

2. Please note that the following deliverables should be produced as part of the project and will be made available through eSTEEem.

- Short news items for the eSTEEem website.
- Short and final reports.
- Contributions to annual conferences i.e., papers, presentations, posters.
- Journal publications, book chapters.

3. Funding is limited and any requests for external dissemination to UK and international conferences will only be considered upon evidence of progression in the form of an interim report or if a final report has been submitted and engagement with internal dissemination has already occurred. Requests must be made to esteem@open.ac.uk before the submission of an abstract and is dependent on remaining budget within eSTEEem for that academic year. Limited funding may be used for:

- Consultancies for Associate Lecturer involvement or Students as Partners engagement. These will need to be arranged through the Senior Manager, Scholarship.
- Transcription costs.
- Other items negotiable with the Senior Manager, Scholarship once projects have been agreed.

A note about additional resources

Some projects may require input from other units. Once projects have been agreed you will be invited to discuss your needs with us, we will attempt to negotiate necessary resources from other units (e.g., software development) on your behalf or find other cost-effective solutions. For the benefit of the project proposal process, please provide as much information as you can; we accept this area may not be fully formulated.

Aligning your eSTEEeM project with Applaud

Applaud is the Open University's Advance HE accredited professional development programme. Participants have the opportunity to demonstrate their eligibility for one of the four categories of Advance HE by reflecting on their practice as teachers or supporters of student learning. As a member of an eSTEEeM project team, you are encouraged to consider whether you could use your project as the basis of a claim of Advance HE fellowship through Applaud.

The requirements are set out in detail on the [Applaud](#) website and the scheme aligns with the Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education (PSF 2023) and is accredited by the Advance HE. Applaud claims take as their focus your practice in relation to student learning. You would be supported in the preparation of your submission by an Applaud mentor.

For example, an eSTEEeM project might investigate a particular approach to assessment. The focus of the project might be the assessment intervention, and its impact on student performance. Your associated Applaud claim would take a more personal focus. You would explain why you were interested in this assessment issue and what motivated you to investigate it. The progress and findings of your eSTEEeM project would be interpreted in terms of your own professional learning and development. You would identify how the project had altered your understanding of the issue and how your future practice would change as a result.

In terms of the Advance HE Fellowship categories:

- For **Associate Fellowship** (AFHEA) developing an Applaud claim based on an eSTeEM project would be normally a very straightforward task.
- For **Fellowship** (FHEA) the requirements are broader, but most eSTeEM projects would provide a sound basis for an application. Your Applaud mentor would be able to provide advice and support.
- For **Senior Fellowship** (SFHEA) the requirements include demonstration through Applaud of both your expertise in learning and teaching and evidence that this expertise had had an impact on the practice of colleagues. Some Applaud projects in the dissemination phase would meet these requirements and your Applaud mentor would be able to advise you how best to match your evidence to the UKPSF.
- For **Principal Fellowship** (PFHEA) very wide-ranging strategic influence must be demonstrated, and it is unlikely that an eSTeEM project on its own would provide a good basis for an Applaud application.

Applaud is designed to be flexible and to align with a wide range of activities, so if your eSTeEM project itself does not fit it is possible to base your Applaud claim for fellowship on other teaching-related work. To find out more, visit the [Applaud website](#) where you will find detailed advice and guidance, a registration form, as well as forums for advice.