



Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP) Associate Director (Technology Enhanced Learning)

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Teaching and Learning Research Programme

TLRP is the UK's largest research programme focused on improving learning outcomes for learners of all ages. It provides coordination for over 500 researchers in some 60 teams and over a dozen complementary initiatives of cross-programme thematic analysis across the UK. Managed by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), it was established in 1999 with funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government, Northern Ireland Executive and Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The first projects began empirical work in 2000 and most projects under the Programme's earlier phases will end by early 2008. However, a major new Phase of the Programme, focused on Technology Enhanced Learning, is now being taken forward in a partnership between the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and ESRC, with a number of other collaborators, and will extend into 2012. The total budget for the Programme in the Spring of 2007 was over £40m and this reflects contributions from a wide range of UK government bodies.

TLRP's overarching goal has been to support research which is of both high research quality and of high relevance in terms of policy and practice. At the same time, considerable effort has gone into impact work, capacity building across the field of educational research and in 'bridging' between the worlds of researchers, policy-makers and practitioners.

The Teaching and Learning Research Programme has six more specific aims.

Learning: The TLRP conducts research with the potential to improve outcomes for learners in a very wide range of UK contexts across the lifecourse.

Outcomes: TLRP studies a broad range of learning outcomes. These include both the acquisition of skill, understanding, knowledge and qualifications and the development of attitudes, values and identities relevant to a learning society.

Lifecourse: TLRP supports research projects on many ages and stages in education, training and lifelong learning. The Programme is concerned with patterns of success and difference, inclusion and exclusion through the lifecourse.

Enrichment: The TLRP is committed to engaging users in its work. It works in all disciplines and sectors of education and uses a wide range of appropriate methodology. We cooperate with other researchers within and beyond the UK whenever it is appropriate.

Expertise: TLRP works to enhance capacity for all forms of research on teaching and learning, and for research-informed policy and practice.

Improvement: the TLRP works to develop the UK knowledge base on

teaching and learning and to make sure that the knowledge it develops is applied in practice and policy.

The appointment

The TLRP Associate Director (TEL) is expected to be an employee of a UK Higher Education institution or other institution eligible for ESRC Research funding (or will require the support of an institution willing to administer the grant). The appointee will work for TLRP under the terms of a contract to be drawn up between his/her present employer and the Institute of Education, University of London where the present TLRP Director is located.

The appointee would be joining a Directors' Team of four (Andrew Pollard, Mary James, and Miriam David at the Institute of Education, University of London) and Alan Brown at the University of Warwick). They will take on lead responsibility within the team for co-ordinating the TEL phase from an interim e.team [Prof Richard Cox, (Sussex University), Professor Diana Laurillard (Institute of Education, University of London), Professor Lydia Plowman (University of Stirling) and Professor Josie Taylor (Open University)] which supported the initial commissioning and capacity building phase of activities and came to an end of their appointments in March 2007. In addition to leading the TEL phase, as a part of the TLRP Directors' Team the new Associate Director will be expected to contribute where appropriate to broader Directors' Team activities, including representing the TLRP, user engagement, knowledge transfer and research capacity building activities.

TLRP's TEL portfolio is expected to eventually total over a dozen projects and to represent funding of some £12m provided mainly by ESRC and EPSRC. Details of the 7 developmental awards and 3 large projects funded under the first round of commissioning can be found on the TLRP website at www.tlrp.org. A second commissioning round is expected to be launched in late spring / early Summer 2007 and there may be further commissioning activities in due course.

The principal duties of the Associate Director (TEL) are:

- Contribute to the work of the TLRP Directors' Team and to TLRP's overall aims and objectives
- Support the commissioning of TEL projects, including scientific liaison with applicants and provision of advice to commissioning panels.
- Support and monitor project activities with particular reference to TEL
- Contribute to the enhancement of research capacity with particular reference to TEL
- Engage constructively with research users with particular reference to the support and application of research on TEL
- Sustain liaison between ESRC and EPSRC and with present and potential TEL funders
- Add value to TEL investments by facilitating engagement with other relevant assets and activities within TLRP
- Facilitate and lead appropriate cross-Programme thematic work
- Maximise the impact of TEL research in the context of the Programme as a whole

Current funding for the TLRP Directors' Team is due to end in December 2008 when most phases of research, other than technology enhanced learning, will have largely come to an end. However, some TLRP Directors' Team activities may extend beyond this date, and this date may be subject to change. Arrangements for the co-ordination of the Technology Enhanced Learning Phase beyond 2008 will be subject to review in 2008, as a part of a broader strategy for taking forward outcomes from the TLRP, although it is hoped to provide continuity in the support for the TEL Phase. The

current expectation, *subject to* the outcomes of this review, is that, following the conclusion of funding for the current Programme Directors' Team, the Associate Director for TEL will be invited to take forward their responsibilities for the TEL phase, as associate Director or Director of TLRP TEL Phase, up to the conclusion of the TEL Phase (currently expected to be in 2012). This may be in the form of a new separate / standalone award to the Associate Director's institution. This could include taking forward some responsibilities for supporting continuing outcomes from the broader TLRP, e.g. through maintenance of the TLRP website. However, the detailed role and responsibilities beyond 2008 will be subject to agreement between the ESRC and the Associate Director for TEL.

Work pattern requirements

This post requires some flexibility and capacity to work as required to achieve objectives. This is likely to require regular UK and occasional international travel.

Accountability and responsibilities

As Associate Director (TEL), the person appointed will be accountable to the Director of TLRP, the ESRC Programme Manager and the TLRP Steering Committee. He or she will not have direct supervisory responsibilities for other staff. These arrangements will be subject to review and change beyond 2008.

Terms and conditions

The appointee could be employed at any UK higher education institution. The appointment is expected to be 0.4 FTE to start as soon as after 1st July 2007 until 31st December 2008 in the first instance, though some negotiation over initial time commitments may be possible. Continuity of the appointee's employment will be preserved throughout the contractual arrangement. Leave and superannuation entitlements will be those of the employing institution. Salary is expected to be based on present remuneration and future fte commitment.

Current, or previous, award holders under the TLRP, including the TEL phase, are welcome to apply provided that their time commitments would allow them to make an appropriate time commitment to the role, but applicants do not need to have held a TLRP grant to apply. The successful candidate would not be eligible to personally apply for funding as a part of a research grant under the proposed TEL second call or possible third call (but colleagues/ applications from their institution would not be affected). Applicants not appointed to the post would be welcome to apply under the second call. It is hoped to inform individuals of the outcome of their EoI before the closing date for outline proposals under the second call; in the event that the appointed candidate has been involved in developing an outline proposal up to that point they would be expected to withdraw from it at that stage.

Funding for the post will be provided in line with Research Councils' Research Funding Policies, and will include provision for 80% of the full economic cost of the post and associated other costs.

Criteria for appointment

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Understanding of key issues in teaching and learning research and in research on technology enhanced learning - and capability to see the 'big picture' in both fields.	Educational research experience in a range of appropriate academic and user settings
Strong commitment to inter-disciplinary	Extensive experience of ESRC, EPSRC or similar project work as a researcher or user

<p>research bringing together the social and technological sciences</p> <p>Commitment to the constructive role that research can play in the development of learner outcomes, professional practice and policy making</p> <p>An outstanding track record of innovative research production or use in teaching and learning with particular reference to technology enhanced learning</p> <p>High credibility among user and research communities with particular, but not exclusive, reference to technology enhanced learning</p> <p>Openness to new forms of research design and methodological innovation</p> <p>High capacity for strategic thinking and leadership concerning research development</p> <p>Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to represent the Programme at a senior level to both research and policy / professional/ business communities.</p> <p>Good communication skills</p> <p>The ability to work as part of a team</p> <p>Willingness to travel regularly in the UK and internationally</p> <p>The ability to take initiative and make decisions where necessary, to prioritise a varied workload, to remain calm under pressure and to meet deadlines</p> <p>Flexibility and willingness to adapt to changing circumstances</p>	<p>Comprehensive knowledge of the TLRP</p> <p>Good publication record for a <i>variety</i> of different audiences</p> <p>Experience in using a range of research designs and methods</p> <p>Excellent track record in communicating orally and in writing to researchers, users and the media</p> <p>Experience as a team member and team leader</p>
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Procedure for Submitting Expressions of Interest

Individuals wishing to submit an expression of interest for the TLRP Associate Director (TEL) post should provide the following:

- (i) A full *curriculum vitae* (including details of relevant research experience and of experience of international liaison/collaboration, in networking and in dealing with the policy, practitioner business and media communities).
- (ii) The names of three referees at least one of whom should be from the 'academic' research community and at least one from the non-

academic 'user' community (such as government, policy makers, practitioners, the media, NGOs, business and industry, etc.). Referees may be approached in advance of interviews with shortlisted candidates, if you do not wish us to approach referees in advance of interview please make this clear in your expression of interest.

- (iii) A covering letter of no more than 5 sides outlining their potential contribution to the TLRP and the TEL Phase in particular. This letter should address issues such as: key relevant experience relevant to the post; ideas for networking and thematic development within the TEL Phase of the Programme; potential role of the Associate Director in supporting inter-disciplinary research combining the social and technological sciences and in building inter-disciplinary research capacity; planned approach for supporting the communication of results to the non-academic sector including practitioners, government, business, professional bodies and NGOs and also with the broader research community, building on the existing TLRP Communication and Impact Strategy and outputs portfolio. The proposed time commitments to the post should be clearly stated along with details of other time commitments and how this would fit in with those commitments.

The expression of interest should be emailed to Ian.Farnden@esrc.ac.uk and copied to Gary.Grubb@esrc.ac.uk **to be received by 1600hrs on Wednesday 16 May 2007. EOIs received after this time will not be considered.** The ESRC reserves the right not to consider incomplete EOIs. Alternatively Eois may be posted to Ian Farnden at the ESRC to be received by 1600hrs on 16 May 2007.

Receipt of expressions of interest will be acknowledged to the sender by e.mail within 48 hours of receipt. **If you do not receive an acknowledgement for your Eol by 1600hrs on 18 May 2007, please contact Ian Farnden as soon as possible to confirm receipt of your application.** It is important that applicants raise failure to receive acknowledgement as ESRC will not be able to consider applications which may have gone astray unless this is raised promptly even if sent to arrive for the closing date.

Applicants who wish to discuss the post and the Initiative informally before submitting an application are welcome to contact the Programme Director, Professor Andrew Pollard (a.pollard@ioe.ac.uk tel 020 7911 5577) or Gary Grubb at the address above, by telephone: 01793 413086, or by e-mail: Gary.Grubb@esrc.ac.uk.

Appointment Process

Following receipt of expressions of interest a shortlist will be agreed for interview and shortlisted applicants' nominated referees approached for comment. A draft timetable is outlined below but may be subject to change. It is hoped to hold the initial selection interviews in London in the w/c 4 or 11 June, applicants who would not be able to attend an interview at this time are asked to point this out in a covering note to their Eol.