

ESRC TEACHING AND LEARNING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Sections 1 – 18 of this document relate to the commission of research networks (to see full document: <http://www.tlrp.org/manage/pdf/first.pdf>)

Research Fellowships

19. The intention in funding Fellowships is to stimulate research activity involving practitioners and make an immediate contribution to capacity building in the field with particular reference to methods of acquiring firm evidence of effectiveness in improving outcomes. The Fellowships will be for new researchers. They will be for two or three years and will require collaboration with practitioners. Fellowship proposals will involve working directly where learning and teaching take place, contributing to the evidence base of pedagogy.
20. Beyond the above requirement, there is flexibility of approach, discipline, sector and tenure in order not to constrain the emergence of imaginative and original proposals. Fellowships will be expected to start in January 2000.
21. The following general conditions will apply to the Fellowships:
 - The aim of the Fellowships is to allow for concentrated research activity. They will provide a significant career opportunity for promising researchers, who would benefit from a period of intensive research activity and development.
 - Fellowships are open to applicants proposing research activity in any aspect of teaching and learning. Fellows will have a mentor, usually within their own institution, who will support and appraise the Fellow's progress annually and submit a report to the Programme Director. Where the Fellowship is held as a constituent part of a Research Network, the mentor will be the Network Co-ordinator.
 - An element of career development should be incorporated into the Fellowship. Proposals may be made for up to 120 hours (including not more than 30 hours teaching) annually of the Fellow's time to be spent in this way, for example in enhancement of research skills, research management, dissemination skills, discipline-based knowledge, teaching skills. Institutional confirmation of support for this should be stated at the application stage, together with details of which activities are to be included.
 - The institution will be expected to support Fellows with the provision of research facilities and accommodation, together with any additional research costs not covered by the Fellowship payment (although additional funding could be sought from another research funder). The ESRC will meet the indirect costs associated with the Fellowships.

- The individual's full salary will be paid, along with superannuation and National Insurance costs. Support for travel, subsistence and some equipment and training will normally be limited to a maximum of £5k per year. These costs will be subject to specification, in accordance with Research Funding regulations (July 1997 edition).
- All other conditions of Fellowships are in accordance with ESRC Research Funding (July 1997 edition).

22. Outline applications are invited for the Fellowships.

Applicants should specify:

- how the Fellowship will contribute to the Programme's aims;
- the proposed programme of work, including arrangements for partnership with practitioners;
- any proposed extra activities, such as teaching and supervision;
- the proposed training opportunities;
- the proposed mentoring support from the institution or from the Research Network Co-ordinator as appropriate;
- salary costs and support costs of up to £5,000 per year.

Before awards can be made, institutions will be asked to:

- confirm support for the Fellow;
- confirm the research support facilities available to the Fellow;
- confirm any additional financial/training support available to the Fellow.

23. Research Fellowships may be applied for independently of a Research Network proposal. In such cases, candidates are invited to submit an application form which includes a synopsis of the research proposal in not more than one side.

Submission of Applications for Fellowships and Networks

24. Outline applications for Fellowships and Networks are invited. The closing date for receipt of completed outline applications is **5.00 pm on Tuesday 13 April 1999**. Applications arriving after this time and date will not be accepted.

25. Completed application forms along with five copies should be sent to:

The Registrar
The Economic and Social Research Council
Polaris House

North Star Avenue
Swindon
SN2 1UJ

All applications received by the due date will be acknowledged.

Assessment of Proposals

26. Outline applications will be considered by the Teaching and Learning Research Programme Steering Committee. Applicants will be informed at the end of May 1999 whether or not their application has been successful at this stage. Successful applicants will be invited to prepare a more detailed proposal for submission by 30 June 1999. Full applications will be assessed by peer reviewers, practitioners and users over the summer. The Steering Committee and the ESRC Research Priorities Board will decide on successful applications in autumn 1999. The final outcome should be announced in November 1999.