

## **TLRP ‘Associated Projects’**

ESRC’s Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP) aspires to conduct research on learners at all stages of the life-course and in all major learning settings within the UK. Clearly, this is somewhat ambitious. It is not surprising then, that TLRP’s portfolio of projects leaves some significant gaps. With this in mind, the Steering Committee has approved an ‘associated project’ initiative. This makes provision for projects funded *outside* TLRP to benefit from all major Programme activities. It is hoped that this will be an attractive proposition. It is anticipated that the number of associated projects will be relatively small – probably no more than six.

This paper describes TLRP’s enabling framework for associated projects.

### **Expectations**

Associated projects would:

- benefit like all other TLRP projects in terms of communication and academic exchange. For instance, they would receive the internal Bulletin, feature in Newsletters and on the website. They would attend Programme conferences and other events as appropriate.
- have access to TLRP’s supplementary funding schemes on the same basis as any other project.
- benefit from the TLRP dissemination and impact infrastructure, with use of the data-base, Research Briefings and publication partnerships.
- use appropriate TLRP branding of outputs, as negotiated and agreed with other funders and ESRC on a case-by-case basis.

### **Key criteria**

Associated projects should:

- be consistent with, and have the potential to enhance fulfilment of, TLRP’s core aims. This includes, for example, a concern with teaching and learning, outcomes and user engagement.
- offer clear added value for the Programme. It might be felt, for example, that a further project in early years education, or on the learning of the elderly would enhance TLRP’s lifecourse portfolio. Other areas of interest include research on family and community learning and cross-sectoral pedagogy. The Programme does not have a project on initial teacher education or one on international or historical comparison.

- be of very high quality. This means that such projects should have gone through a peer-review process which is at least comparable with ESRC's procedures.
- be independent. Projects are likely to be funded by research councils or charities, though projects funded by government departments or agencies would be considered on their merits.
- fit TLRP's schedule. This means that any associated project would be likely to complete empirical work before the end of 2007.
- have a research team which is keen to join in with TLRP's activities and which agrees (with funder support) to participate fully.
- be entirely funded for all their core activities. TLRP would then provide access to TLRP activities and to supplementary funding opportunities as for any other project.

## **Procedures**

Where projects seek association, following discussion with the Directors' Team and ESRC colleagues, a formal application must be made to the TLRP Steering Committee.

Applications should include:

- project documentation from their original application
- a statement in relation to each of the TLRP criteria for associated projects (above)
- a signed statement of support from the applicant project's funder.

The Steering Committee's decision will be final.

Approaches to discuss this can be made at any time, but it is hoped to propose a first group of applications by June 2004. Applications will not be considered after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.