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**ALDinHE Research Grants for Learning Development**

**Application Guidance**

Each year ALDinHE allocates funding for innovative research projects that focus on aspects of learning development. The grants aim to encourage educators to contribute to the field of Learning Development by designing new, or evaluating existing practices and resources, or by expanding the existing knowledge base.

This year, as a response to increasing interest in the ALDinHE funding, the association has made a decision to raise the total amount of funding available from £3000 to £5000 (with a maximum of £1000 per individual bid). Applications are open to ALDinHE institutional members.

Collaborative bids are encouraged, where the research project lead is affiliated with an institutional member of ALDinHE.

1. **Who is the grant available to?**

* The grant is available to colleague(s) working within the UK higher education sector, interested in researching any aspect(s) of learning development.
* Applicants affiliated with an institutional member of ALDinHE (the list of institutional members can be found [here](http://www.aldinhe.ac.uk/membership.html?p=2_2)).
* Cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional collaborations are welcome – in this case, the research proposal lead should have an affiliation with an organisation currently holding the ALDinHE institutional membership.
* Applicant(s) do not have to be based in a learning/academic development unit or working in the role of academic/ learning development; they do not have a track record of research in the field of learning development. Demonstrating the value and the feasibility of the project will be required.

1. **What is the grant for?**

* All proposals will have the key aim of either enhancing the student learning experience through pedagogically motivated and evaluated development of practice, or expanding the research-driven evidence base for learning development activities.
* There are no specific themes for the call. Applicants are encouraged to apply for funding to support research on any aspect of learning/ academic development which enhances students’ learning.
* Some of the examples of the previous winning projects can be found [here](http://www.aldinhe.ac.uk/research.html).

1. **What support is available?**

* Grants up to a maximum of £1000 are available for colleagues to research any aspect of learning/academic development.
* Mentoring, guidance and support will be offered to the winning grant holders as appropriate.
* Support around disseminating the project progress and/ or outcomes via the Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education and the next ALDinHE conference.

1. **What are the criteria for evaluating the grants?**

The bids are peer-reviewed against the following criteria:

1. Clear alignment with the ALDinHE values, as outlined below:

* *Working alongside students to make sense of and get the most out of HE learning*
* *Making HE inclusive through emancipatory practice, partnership working and collaboration*
* *Adopting and sharing effective LD practice with the HE community*
* *Commitment to scholarly approach and research related to LD*
* *Critical self-reflection, on-going learning and a commitment to professional development*

b)   The extent to which the research will directly impact or further enhance students’ experiences of higher education.

c)   Evidence of collaboration and clear implications for the field of Learning Development, beyond the individual’s immediate practice.

d)   Appropriate and achievable aims within the context of the project, including details as to how the project will be evaluated and shared with the Learning Development community.

e)   Appropriate scope of research question/s, methodology, and how this builds on the current literature within this field in an innovative way.

f)    Demonstration of how the project builds on, and enhances the research of Learning Development pedagogies.

g)   Clear demonstration of value for money: detailed breakdown of financial details

1. **How can the funds be spent?**

Please note that the awarded funding can be used for the following purposes:

* Transcription services
* Student rewards (including subsistence as part of research participation)
* Materials and resources
* External expertise (i.e. guest facilitator)
* Research assistant (clear details and justification of the role should be provided)
* Travel for collaboration or dissemination purposes (up to £100)

The awarded funding cannot be used for:

* Paying for staff cover
* Software and Hardware
* Conference attendance (please inquire about the hardship fund if you are in need of funding to attend the ALDinHE conference)

1. **How to apply?**

Applicants are required to complete an application form (document attached). Please note that you need to submit two versions of the application:

* Application with full details
* Anonymised application for blind review (see guidance in the application form)

Please return **both** the full and the anonymised versions of the application to [**research@aldinhe.ac.uk**](mailto:research@aldinhe.ac.uk) **by 12 noon on 27 August 2018**.

1. **Who will review your applications?**

Anonymous proposals will undergo a double review. Reviewers include members of the ALDinHE Steering Group and the Research and Development Working Group. Final outcomes of the review will be announced by 30 September 2018

1. **Any other requirements?**
2. The project lead should be an institutional member of ALDinHE
3. Successful applicant will be expected to disseminate their interim and final findings:

* Submit a one page interim report
* Conference contribution to share the interim findings at the next ALDinHE conference (a poster, video presentation)
* Submit a final report on completion of the project- to be made available on the ALDinHE website
* Provide a news item for the ALDinHE newsletter on completion of the project; or
* Submit an article or case study for the Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education within six months of the project completion. Please note the applicants will be supported in writing the article. Submission of an article does not guarantee publication; the work would need to meet the publication expectations of the journal.

1. **What are the key dates?**
2. Deadline for submission of application: 12 noon 27 August 2018
3. Final decision on your funding application to be announced: 30 September 2018
4. Submission of 1-page interim report: spring 2019
5. Submission of abstract for the ALDinHE conference (a range of interim outputs): Please follow [conference guidance](http://www.aldinhe.ac.uk/events.html)
6. Presentation at the ALDinHE conference: see [conference guidance](http://www.aldinhe.ac.uk/events.html)
7. Completion of the project, submission of the final report and a news item: by 20 December 2019
8. Submission of an article or case study for the Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education: within the six months of the project completion
9. **Who to contact in case of any queries?**

Please contact Research and Development Working group Co-Chair [maria.kukhareva@beds.ac.uk](mailto:maria.kukhareva@beds.ac.uk)