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Ward, Lisa J.

Keynote Presentation: Applying for Teaching and Learning Funding

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Applying for T&L Funding

Supporting and connecting colleagues to develop inspiring and innovative teaching and learning

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Overview

• The role of the T&L Institute – annual report
• Why apply for funding?
• Types of funding?
• What’s in it for me?
• Some success stories
• What do reviewers want to see
• Challenges, dissemination and what next
Where we sit

University Strategy Map

University T&L Strategy

Teaching & Learning Institute

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Institute Remit

Coordination

Teaching and Learning Institute

Evaluation

Dissemination

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Responsibilities and Activities

Communities of innovative T&L practitioners

- Annual T&L conference
- Networking events
- T&L Innovation Grants
- T&L Research Support
- Institute website and blog/twitter
- T&L Staff development programme
- Support professional recognition (HEA/NTF)
- Strategic involvement

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Why Bother?

• Solve a problem?
• Find out more about T&L practice
• Gain support from TALI
• Support from other colleagues in the T&L community
• How does money help?
  – Gain extra resource: people, equipment
  – Go to conferences
• Support you towards PhD or publication
• Journey to NTFS, UTF or professorship
• ‘fosters critical thinking by being curious creative and open to challenge’
• Research interests: education in HE including disability, the use of creativity, reflective practice, ethics
• TQEF -> YHS HA ‘Managing Impairment in Professional Practice
• ALPS -> Confidence in practice using self-assessment tool
James McDowell – 2011 UTF

- SL in Digital Media from Computing and Engineering.
- PhD underway
- Course with high numbers of students with disability
- Video feedback – asynchronous
- Applied to other subject areas
- Studying for PhD

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Andrew Walsh – 2011 UTF, 2011 NTF

- Interested in student engagement
- Make using the library fun, gaming concept - Lemon tree
- Register, earn points and rewards by interacting with library, leaving comments and book reviews.
Previous TALI Priority Areas

- Assessment and feedback
- E-learning
- Employability and professions
- Inspirational teaching
- Retention and student success

- Collaborative – finding others?
- New priorities for 2013-18 Strategy Map

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What we provide

• TALI funding. Historically approx £60-80K per year. currently under internal review
• Support to successful bids – 3 inspire sessions each.
• Feedback to unsuccessful bidders
• Help find partners
• Critical friend (not bid drafting) for external bids
• Mailing list with news on new bids
• Co-ordinate bids requiring limited number of institutional bids
What do you need to make projects a success?

- What immediately comes to mind as an area of teaching and learning you want to research?
  - No Barriers
  - Unlimited time, resource, enthusiasm
  - 2 minutes then feedback
What do reviewers like to see?

- Exciting project, ‘hooked’ from first paragraph
- Committed team
- Research question, could be reflecting on your practice
- Clear rational backed up with evidence
- A project that meets the criteria
  - Match, adapt or ditch
- Achievable but ambitious deliverable
- Finance involvement evident (get involved early)
- Student Involvement
- Comprehensive dissemination
What they don’t like to see

- Messy forms – sections not filled in properly
- Inaccurate or unexplained costings
- Pet projects, lack of engagement with T&L
- Similarity to recently funded projects
- Too long forms – over word limits
- Rushed form, idea not developed.
- Fantastic idea – just don’t understand it!
Writing Your Proposal

• Timing of funding calls – plan. Resubmit and improve.
• Highly competitive, don’t waste time, submit to right call
• Quote vision and strategy
• Micro check and confirm funding criteria – phone funder.
• Strong case and context within the sector.
• Financially viable and achievable.
• Get peer feedback. Another area if general funding
• Who’s doing what? Active participants
Managing Risk

- Address ethical considerations
- Redundancies, absences, capacity (inc. partners)
- Difficulties in engaging staff/students. Sometimes around timing, forward planning, who will be available?
- Technical problems dependency upon kit
- Changing priorities
- Risk awareness, personal planning process
- If things go wrong, alert funder
Dissemination

- 2 most common: Conference (often funders), Paper – where?
- Wider society: stakeholder’s, schools, comm. groups; how?
- Starts on day one: local press, colleagues, manager, meetings.
- Funder engagement – plan ahead
- Grant holder networks
- External stake holders - discipline community.
Dissemination Methods

Institutional Newsletter; Project website; Press release; Flyers; networking meetings; Conference presentations, posters, workshops; Demos; Online discussion lists; Journal articles; Case Studies; Twitter; Promotional t-shirts
What next?

- TALI funding under internal review
- TALI Writing retreats
- TALI T&L events
- How can we help you?

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Contact Details

Lisa Ward
Head of Teaching and Learning Institute
L.Ward@hud.ac.uk | 1578

Jane Gaffikin
Staff Development Advisor -Teaching and Learning
j.a.gaffikin@hud.ac.uk | 3146

Ola Aiyegbayo
Kathrine Jensen
Research Assistants | 1577
Teaching and Learning Institute
o.aiyegbayo@hud.ac.uk
k.jensen@hud.ac.uk

Trish Moore
Administrator
t.moore@hud.ac.uk | 1576

Teaching and Learning Institute website: www.hud.ac.uk/tali/
Teaching and Learning Institute blog: http://theinstituteblog.co.uk/

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