

eSTEeM Induction Brief

eSTEeM is the OU centre for STEM pedagogy. It is currently managed by two Directors, Diane Butler and Trevor Collins; a Centre Manager, Diane Ford with administrative project support provided by Rachel Redford.

We operate by bringing together academics in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to promote innovation, scholarship and enterprise in open and distance learning whilst being responsive to the strategic objectives of the University. We have a well-established presence within the faculties and across the University and are working closely with external partners both nationally and internationally.

The core of what we do centres on the effective use of learning technologies at scale, this is achieved by inviting scholarship proposals that focus on a selection of strategically important areas. Calls for project proposals are usually made twice a year. Our portfolio of projects includes work on innovative assessment, retention and progression, technologies for STEM learning, supporting students and STEM engagement. This focus enables us to have richer scholarship conversations, generate critical mass and make greater impact.

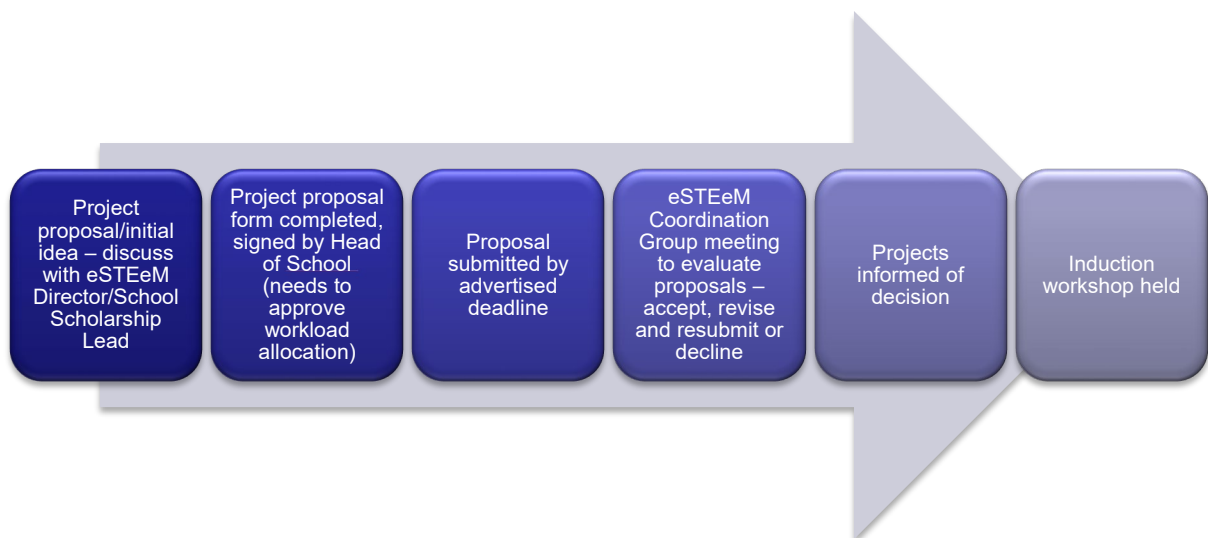


Diagram A - eSTEeM project proposal submission process

Projects may be proposed by individuals or groups of academics, academic-related personnel and staff whose work is related to the curriculum. We also welcome cross-school project teams. All projects are expected to have clear outputs and strategically relevant effects. Where approved,

projects are managed from within eSTEEem with individual academics taking responsibility for project delivery.



Diagram B – eSTEEem project progress and completion

One of our main aims is to build a community of excellent teachers. There are a series of eSTEEem and wider OU events which are aimed at providing you with community building, dissemination, networking and educational research development opportunities. We have established a STEM Education Research Group which comprises of STEM scholars working together towards the REF submissions into the Education UoA. Also, an eSTEEem project can be used as the basis of a claim of HEA fellowship through Applaud. For more information please visit the Applaud website <https://applaud.open.ac.uk/>.

To find out more about the work of eSTEEem and its portfolio of projects, please visit the eSTEEem website (www.open.ac.uk/esteem). Please also view the Scholarship Exchange (<https://openuniv.sharepoint.com/sites/units/lds/scholarship-exchange/SitePages/Home.aspx>) which is university-wide platform for the sharing of scholarship projects and documents.

We always welcome proposals which fall outside official project calls so if you have an idea for a project that you would like to discuss further or if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us at esteem@open.ac.uk

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