Maths, Stats & OR Network
Mini-Projects in Teaching & Learning

Summer 2006

Call for Proposals

Closing Date: 30th June 2006

The Maths, Stats & OR Network is offering funding for two mini-projects to commence in the autumn of 2006. Up to £5,000 is available for each. Proposals must align with the specific objectives outlined below.

Objectives

During the last few years the Network has been instrumental in providing resources, advice and staff development activities that have sought to address some of the well-documented school-university transitional problems for both specialist and non-specialist mathematicians. It is now keen to develop its support for teaching and learning of single- and joint-honours mathematics undergraduates particularly beyond their first year of study. Emerging research suggests that there is room for improving the experience and support of these students with a view to increasing motivation, engagement and levels of achievement. This is true both of the mainstream and those who are more mathematically gifted. This Call is concerned with the development and embedding of such support.

Whilst any well-argued case will be considered, the following are indicative of the sort of projects that might be funded:

• A pilot study using existing pedagogic research to inform, develop or enhance change in practice.
• A study of the ways in which the wide variety of mathematics support currently used at the transition¹ can be extended.
• A scoping study to inform development of support resources.
• Professional development of academic staff.
• A project to study effective ways of developing independent learners.

¹ LTSN MathsTEAM Project (http://mathstore.ac.uk/mathsteam/)

Outcomes should be transferable throughout the Maths, Stats & OR community and be freely accessible. As a minimum, anticipated outputs should include an article submitted to MSOR Connections and a contribution to the Network’s Annual Conference.

The Application Process

The application form will be the basis upon which your application will be judged. We ask that you include the following details:

• The applicants background in teaching within the area.
• A clear statement of the outputs and outcomes of the project.
• A clear statement of the project timetable.
• A well-defined dissemination strategy.

Section 5 (Proposal and Activities) of the form is where you should provide details of the scope and dimensions of the project and any additional information that supports your proposal.

For the final section (Budget) provide as much detail as is possible. Please note that no payment towards Full Economic Costs will be made. It is anticipated that the contribution of your host institution to the project will be a waiving of Full Economic Costs.

To download a copy of the application form please visit:

http://www.mathstore.ac.uk/lateryears