sigma, the Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Statistics Support, is pleased to be able to offer secondment opportunities to anyone interested in contributing to our programme of during academic year 2007/8.

Background

One of sigma’s main aims is to stimulate and encourage growth of proactive engagement within mathematics and statistics support across the HE sector. In addition, sigma aims to develop and promote more interactivity in teaching mathematics. This may involve, but will not be restricted to, using new and emerging technologies such as voting systems, tablet PCs, interactive whiteboards and interactive classrooms.

Sigma is keen to develop work with anyone interested in developing new and innovative approaches to teaching, including the development of mathematical or statistical resources that will prove beneficial to students or staff involved in mathematical support. Sigma will also benefit from sharing the secondees’ own expertise and experience.

What is available?

Successful applicants will work on a project of benefit to sigma and their own institution. It is envisaged that the secondment will take one of two forms:

• Long-term secondment: 1 semester, 1 day per week, or equivalent.
  Value: up to £3,750 for replacement teaching and travel expenses.

• Short-term secondment: 1 week visit.
  Value: cost of travel expenses and accommodation.

Alternative arrangements proposed by potential secondees will be considered.

Secondees will have access to sigma expertise, including learning technologists, and will be able to exploit innovations currently being explored by sigma staff. Once material has been developed, it is hoped that this will be trialled with students at the next available opportunity.

It will be a condition of the secondment that the secondee produces an evaluation report at the end of the secondment period. These reports will be published through our website: www.sigma-cetl.ac.uk.

Who can apply?

Secondment opportunities are available to any full or part-time member of staff at a UK HEI. Applicants may be based in a mathematics or statistics department, but applications from staff in other departments, including central support services, will also be considered.

How do I apply?

Applicants should submit an expression of interest to Moira Petrie by email (moira@sigma-cetl.ac.uk). This expression of interest should detail the following:

• Experience in the area of work in which they would like to develop and share new approaches (guideline: 300 words and a curriculum vitae);

• An outline of their aims, any anticipated outputs (resources, processes etc) and potential benefits to specific groups of students or staff (guideline: 300 words);

• An indicative schedule, including a proposed start date;

• Their name and contact details, to include full postal address, email address and telephone number;

• A covering letter from their line manager, indicating their support for the applicant to participate in this sigma initiative.

Applications may be submitted at any time until 31st December 2007. Applicants will be notified whether their secondment application has been successful within six weeks of application.