Call for applications: Curriculum Innovation Travel Grants

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Summit recommendation:
Sharing good practice through an inter-university teacher exchange programme. For example, a lecturer may teach some classes or work in a maths support centre at another university. A lecturer may visit another university to observe and learn from some good practice, which could be brought back to the home university. Alternatively, a lecturer with some good practice to share might work in another university to establish use of that good practice there.

Although we decided the suggestion of staff teaching classes at other universities was too complex a model in the timescale, we have taken forward the spirit of this recommendation, facilitating visits to share good practice, through a travel grants scheme which is now available.

Curriculum Innovation Travel Grants are made available to lecturers to support travel between institutions and subsistence for one of the following reasons:

1. To pay for the travel of a speaker to offer a seminar on an innovative curriculum development used elsewhere that the institution is interested in taking up;
2. To pay for the travel of a member of staff to travel to observe an innovative curriculum development in practice that the institution is interested in taking up;
3. To pay for travel to bring together members of staff from two institutions to discuss collaboration on innovative curriculum development.

Bids to this fund must demonstrate a credible plan for transfer of practice or new innovation. In order to avoid money being spent on activities that produce no outcomes, grants will not be issued for highly speculative activities. Funding will not be available for attendance at conferences.

Curriculum Innovation Travel Grants are available for the benefit of HEFCE- and HEFCW-funded institutions. In the case of type 1 and 2 grants the benefitting institution must be HEFCE- or HEFCW-funded. In the case of type 3 grants both partners must be HEFCE- or HEFCW-funded.

Grants will not support travel by private vehicle and receipts must be provided to claim.

Recipients of grants must write a short report (500-1000 words) on the seminar that was given, the practice that was observed or the collaboration that was planned. This must detail how practice will change as a result of the grant.

A simple application form is available via www.mathstore.ac.uk/hestem. To avoid complicated procedures, successful grant recipients will be asked to submit receipts with a standard expenses form.

N.B. subject to uptake and continued availability of funding, these travel grants will be available for the remainder of the National HE STEM Programme.