



GUIDANCE NOTES

Funding call for student summer internship projects

Introduction

The **sigma** Network for Excellence in Mathematics and Statistics Support is pleased to offer funding for the delivery of student summer internship projects. Building on the success of the intern projects funded through the National HE STEM Programme, the **sigma** Summer Internship Programme is designed to enable students to undertake developmental projects relating to mathematics and statistics education and/or support.

At the 2011 CETL MSOR Conference there were, for the first time at the Conference, several presentations in which students themselves described outcomes of working in partnership with staff to improve the teaching and learning experience of their peers, for example through revision of course notes or preparation of additional learning resources. This was repeated in 2013 with a keynote session called “Staff – Student Partnerships in Teaching and Learning: Hearing from the students themselves”, presented by students from the universities of Birmingham, Cardiff, Loughborough and Newcastle. This session was very well received by the delegates.

Click [here](#) for a intern’s perspective on their 2013 experience.

On offer are 6 grants of £2,000 for student projects that will typically run for around 6 weeks over the summer of 2014. **The grants can only be awarded if the hosting institutions match the funding to provide a second concurrent internship.** Our previous experience has shown the real benefit of student interns having a fellow student to work with, even if their projects are separate.

About the sigma Network

In 2013, HEFCE recognised the continued work of the **sigma** Network through an award of over £800,000. This new three year funding will enable any higher education institution in England to tap into a wealth of expertise and resources that have been developed by **sigma**. The money will be used to help fund new mathematics support centres and related activities, encourage and support existing centres and practitioners, run workshops and conferences focusing on effective teaching and learning support and create new resources for practitioners and students needing mathematics support.

What is the aim of the funding?

The aim of the funding will be to facilitate the development and delivery of short projects relating to mathematics and statistics education or support. These projects are to be undertaken by undergraduate students (usually progressing 2nd year students) and their findings will be presented at the 2014 CETL MSOR Conference.

Key Dates

Call for proposals

Closing date for proposals

Successful proposals announced

Monday 24 March 2014

Friday 25 April 2014

Friday 09 May 2014

Who can apply?

Any full or part-time member of staff at a HEI can apply. The institutions where the intern is employed should be an English one, although the student's home institution need not be. Applicants may be based in a mathematics or statistics department, but applications from staff in other departments, including central support services, will be also be considered.

Applications can be accepted from Further Education institutions that offer courses at higher education level and where it is the higher education students who are expected to benefit.

What can the funds be used for?

The funds can be used for the development and delivery of student intern projects, including the payment of the student to undertake the projects. The funding is not available to cover the costs of staff only research projects.

What is expected from the successful project?

Each project will have a member of staff as named supervisor. Projects are expected to undertake activities to enhance the overall mathematics support offering, either within a particular institution, or more widely across England. This might include, but is not limited to, analysing data relating to student participation/engagement with mathematics support, developing promotional materials to encourage students to engage with mathematics support, or developing mathematics support resources. All proposals should make it clear how the proposed activity will enhance the mathematics support offer either locally or nationally.

There is an expectation that the successful grant recipient (or nominee) will attend the 2014 CETL MSOR conference to give an account of the project, either on behalf of or with the student(s) concerned. We have a limited number of free places available for students.

What support will be provided by sigma?

Members of the **sigma** team will be available to offer support and guidance throughout the lifecycle of the projects.

How will the successful proposals be selected?

The proposals will be assessed, by the **sigma** management team, against the following criteria:

- Clearly outlined project proposal with realistic timescales and outputs.
- Firm commitment from the institution that matched funding will be made available to fund a second intern.
- Clear statement on how the project proposal will benefit the mathematics support community.

Consideration will also be given to the spread of projects across the **sigma** regional hub network.

How do I apply?

Proposals for funding must be made using the submission form template, which is available for download from www.sigma-network.ac.uk. Completed forms should be sent via email to Moira Petrie (m.g.petrie@lboro.ac.uk) by 5pm on **Friday 25 April 2014**.

The successful bids will be announced on **Friday 09 May 2014**.