



GUIDANCE NOTES

Second funding call for the development of Mathematics/Statistics resources

Introduction

The **sigma** Network for Excellence in Mathematics and Statistics Support is pleased to be able to offer funding for the development of resources in the area of mathematics, statistics or operational research. On offer are 5 grants of £2,000 for the delivery of resources that will be made available to the wider community via mathcentre.ac.uk and/or statstutor.ac.uk.

About the sigma Network

In 2013, HEFCE recognised the continued work of the **sigma** Network through an award of over £800,000. This three year funding is enabling higher education institutions in England to tap into a wealth of expertise and resources that have been developed by **sigma**. The money is being 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 provision of new resources for the use of students and staff. Examples of such resources might include:

- A set of videos or screencasts, OR
- A bank of online questions, OR
- A group of help leaflets (typically a leaflet would be two sides of A4).

However, you should not feel bound to produce only these kinds of resources; we are keen to support new and innovative ways for you to deliver support to students and staff.

Note that the resources can also relate to staff training within the field of mathematics and statistics support.

Key Dates

Call for proposals	Tuesday 23 September 2014
Closing date for proposals	Friday 7 November 2014
Successful proposals announced	Monday 1 December 2014
Resources available to community	Friday 29 May 2015

Who can apply?

Any full or part-time member of staff at a HEI can apply. 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.

As we are required to contract with a Lead Organisation (e.g. HEI, FEI or equivalent), we are unable to accept applications from individuals who would be undertaking the work as a contractor.

What can the funds be used for?

The funds can be used for the development and production of teaching support resources. The funding is not available to cover the costs of research projects. The rationale for this call is to enable practitioners to share their expertise with the wider community so it is expected that the work will be undertaken by the grant recipient.

What is expected from the successful project?

The outcome of each funded project will be peer-reviewed resources that will be made available to the wider community, through the **mathcentre** and/or **statstutor** websites. As such, all proposers are expected to take full responsibility for the integrity, quality control and any copyright issues associated with the resources that they produce.

All proposers are expected to produce deliverables which have been carefully checked/tested and are ready for immediate use by the community without a further stage of checking/testing being required by the **sigma** team. To this end, each proposer(s) is required to nominate an individual (distinct from the lead author and from a different organisation) who will be named on the product and who takes responsibility for the mathematical/statistical integrity of the product.

Note that for video based resources, we would also expect the provision of transcripts of the video content to enable us to meet accessibility requirements.

What support will be provided by sigma?

Members of the **sigma** team will be available to offer support and guidance throughout the development process. This will include support relating to Creative Commons licencing.

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 7 November 2014**.

The successful bids will be announced on **Monday 1 December 2014**. It is expected that the resources will be available to the community before the end of May 2015.