



Student-Staff Collaborative Projects

Resilient Learning Communities

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What will our learning communities look like by 2023? Who will our students be and how will they want to learn? And how can we prepare for the learning communities of the future?

The Quality Assurance Agency Resilient Learning Communities Enhancement Theme is exploring the changing needs and values of an increasingly diverse student community, and a rapidly changing external environment.

As part of the University's work to support the Theme, we have a small amount of funding available to support student-staff collaborative projects which may help us to consider and explore some of these questions and more.

- How will we gain a clear understanding of the nature and learning needs of our current and likely future student population?
- What granular information do we need to enable us to support their learning better?
- How can we capitalise as a sector on the attributes students bring into their learning?
- How do we ensure we are able to support our diverse learning communities? What might this mean for our staff and our infrastructure?
- How should we anticipate, influence and respond to the changing external environment?

We want to explore what will make a difference to students and their own sense of resilience as learners and as students, and we welcome proposals which take a broad interpretation of the theme.

For example, you may choose to explore themes around environmental sustainability, or issues that have arisen in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. Projects may focus

on initiatives to enhance student mental health or that tackle loneliness. We welcome applications from all staff (Schools and the Professional Services) and students.

There is a lot of flexibility in terms of how you might use the funding. You may consider funding external speakers, to purchase equipment or materials, or to incentivise participants. In developing your proposal, you should also consider the evidence you will gather to know if your initiative is making a difference.

Available funding

We intend to support between eight to ten small projects this academic session. These should be completed between November 2021 and June 2022. Individually, these will offer interpretations of resilient learning communities at Edinburgh Napier University. Collectively, they will help build a picture of the diverse approaches around resilience and will inform ongoing activity over the coming years of the Theme.

A total of c.£3000 is available for this suite of work in this academic year.

We anticipate that funding requests will be in the region of £200–500 per project. Successful projects will be required to spend their budgets in full and no later than the end of June 2022, a light touch evaluation should be provided at the same time. You will also be expected to participate in dissemination and sharing practice events in 2022/23.

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from across the University community. We would particularly welcome proposals developed collaboratively by students and staff. Project teams successful in Year 1 of the Theme are also invited to submit proposals to extend their projects.

How to apply

Please complete the [online application form](#) before the application deadline of **Friday 15 October 2021**.

Criteria for selection

Projects will be selected by a panel made up of members of the Edinburgh Napier Enhancement Theme Institutional Team (including staff and student representatives). Selection will be based on:

1. **The nature of the proposed activity.** Are the objectives clear? Is the development relevant to the Theme activity? Is the proposed work feasible and practical? Is the timescale appropriate?
2. **Potential application and benefit to the wider Edinburgh Napier and HE community.** Will the project make a contribution to institutional understanding of resilient learning communities?
3. Is there appropriate collaboration between staff and students in the development of the project?
4. **Cost and value for money.** Is the budget transparent and justified?
5. Are there any **ethical considerations** in the development of the project?

While the quality of the specific proposals will be the primary focus, we will also take into consideration the balance of the overall suite of projects to maximise the learning from this strand of work. Priority will be given to projects which are student-led.

Evaluation and reporting on projects

It is expected that project leads will contribute as members of the Enhancement Theme Institutional Team for the remainder of the academic year. Further details will be provided to successful projects.

Contact details

For further information, please contact Katrina Swanton k.swanton@napier.ac.uk