

## Q and A

### General Questions

**Q. Are the funding levels stated in the call fixed, or can they be flexible?**

A. The levels stated in each funding call are the maximum amount available for that call. The figures are there for guidance and projects should not try to match them exactly. The JISC are happy for the project budget to ask for less than the budget available if that is appropriate for the work to be done.

**Q. Is there any flexibility on the start dates of the projects? Can shorter projects start later?**

A. No. The start dates for all of the projects will be the same, as they will be informing other parts of the programme.

**Q. Are there any standard guidelines for the levels of full economic costing (fEC) that the JISC expect to see in a proposal?**

A. No. Further information on full economic costing can be found at: [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/bidguide/full\\_economic\\_costing.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/bidguide/full_economic_costing.aspx). The call asks bidders to estimate the value to the institution of a project and then the JISC expect some institutional contribution to match this.

**Q. When it comes to evaluating the bids is a distinction made between those bids where 100% funding is requested from the JISC and those where only partial funding is requested?**

Matched funding or some institutional contribution is generally seen as a good thing.

**Q. Should proposals make a distinction in the project plan as to which work is being funded by JISC, and which work is being funded using the institutional contribution?**

A. This is generally looked upon as a good way of structuring the budget and an example proforma showing how to do this is provided in Appendix C. Institutions should also look at individual requirements of the calls as there are some aspects of some calls which the JISC will not fund.

**Q. If a proposal involves working with an external company, what are the rules on “right to exploit”?**

Institutions should look at the IPR issues of the individual call. JISC funded work must be freely available to the HE community but generally can be exploited elsewhere.

## **e-Learning Questions**

### **MORNING SESSION**

**Q. Should the 'scenarios' asked for in the call be included in the main body of the proposal, or can they be added as appendices?**

A. The scenarios should be incorporated into the main body of the proposal within the specified page limit. They should be kept as succinct as possible.

**Q. In the previous call, there was a requirement to demonstrate that the project will be sustainable for 12 months after the end date. There doesn't seem to be this requirement in this call. Please clarify.**

A. The requirement is still there but unfortunately had been missed from the documentation. This has now been amended. The sustainability of the project will be taken into consideration by markers in the evaluation of proposals.

**Q. Can the JISC provide advice on potential consortia?**

A. If bidders wish to discuss potential consortia with the JISC, please contact David Kernohan (d.kernohan@jisc.ac.uk ). It is highly recommended that existing consortia are used, rather than creating new consortia which can be very time consuming. The JISC are not in a position to facilitate new consortia. It was suggested that bidders may wish to contact the following bodies for assistance in identifying potential consortia and partners:

- Regional Support Centres (RSC)
- Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN)
- Lifelong Learning Networks (LLN)
- Higher Education Academy (HEA) subject centres

**Q. Should student led evaluation be included as part of a proposal?**

A. The JISC would not expect this to be included in the bid, but it would be seen as being useful. Support will be given to successful projects to help them with the evaluation aspects of their projects..

### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

**Q. Would a valid consortium consist of an HEI and an employer?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Does the definition of a life-long learner include alumni or does it have to be someone engaged in a course of study?**

A. The latter. The JISC would expect life-long learners to be undertaking some sort of study/learning.

**Q. Paragraph D16 talks about a “significant proportion of the project time” being “spent” on the system. What does this mean exactly?**

A. A large proportion of the project must actually involve using the system/processes. The JISC does not want to see projects which just build something but then do not adequately test it or use it.

**Q. Do bids have to fall neatly into one of the activity areas outlined in Tish Robert’s presentation explaining the work of the JISC e-learning programme or can they cross over into more than area?**

A. They can do both although it is important to provide, within the bid, an explanation of how the proposer sees the work fitting into the work of the JISC e-learning programme. So where there is cross over this should be identified.

**Q. Do bids under this call have to provide the balance/impact scorecards?**

A. No. The completion of these scorecards applies only to the Institutional Exemplars call.

### **Institutional Exemplars**

#### **MORNING SESSION**

**Q. It has been stated that bids should not put in place or replace existing institutional frameworks/systems. What does this mean?**

A. JISC are not looking to fund the putting in of new systems or to give money to institutions to simply ‘buy kit’. Projects must offer more than this.

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

**Q. With funding for these bids coming from different funding councils, are there quotas for the number of successful bids per region?**

A. No, there are no quotas but the JISC will look at the balance of successful bids across the regions. It is also important that HE Institutions look at the additional criteria specified for bids from different regions.

**Q. Will it be possible to amend/adjust the balance/impact scorecard if unexpected outcomes arise once a project is up and running?**

A. Yes. All projects are subject to change once they commence and it is not anticipated that these will be any different. It will be important to discuss the changes with the project manager though.

**Q. The call suggests a lower limit for the budget of £250,000. This is still quite a large sum. Would smaller projects be considered?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Much emphasis has been placed on the involvement of senior managers. What sort of contribution from the Institution is necessary to support this?**

A. No particular level.

**Q. Is there a level of Institutional contribution that the JISC would regard as derisory?**

No. The measure of the adequacy of the contribution is the estimated value that the Institution will get from the project. Markers and the JISC will look at value for money.