# Overview

**Aim:** To support current institutional initiatives, and to help inform future developments, this is an open call for individuals or teams of UHI staff to undertake evaluation or research in the topics identified below.

**Bid deadline**: 1200 Thursday 14 October 2021

**Outputs to be completed by**: Friday 29 July 2022

**Amount**: £2,000 to £8,000

## Topic 1: Embedding values from the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy

The University’s [Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/learning-and-teaching-academy/innovation/ltes/) is underpinned by 12 [values](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/learning-and-teaching-academy/innovation/ltes/values/) which provide a common language for the further development of learning and teaching. The strategy is due to be revised or possibly succeeded by a new LTES is 2022/23. Submissions under this topic should seek to illuminate how, and to what effect, the values within the strategy have been embedded within practices in teaching, learning and assessment, and/or how the strategy itself should be revised going forward. Proposals under this topic could include, but are not limited to:

* Identifying examples of the values (or specific sub-set of the values) in practice, evaluating their implementation and the impact of this on learning, teaching and the student experience
* Investigating awareness and use of the values in policy or practice amongst a range of stakeholders (e.g. academic staff, students, management, Academic Partners)
* Exploring how the current strategy could be revised or expanded upon for 2022/23, potentially including how relevant or ‘fit for purpose’ the current strategy and LTES values are as we move ‘post-pandemic’

## Topic 2: resilience

The QAA Scotland national Enhancement Theme for 2020-2023 is [Resilient Learning Communities](https://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/resilient-learning-communities). For this topic, we are seeking proposals aligned to the three strands of [Theme institutional work](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/learning-and-teaching-academy/innovation/enhancement-themes/strand-1/). Proposals under this topic could include, but are not limited to:

* Investigating good practice in teaching, learning and student support that can help to develop resilient learners
* Identifying and investigating the extent to which staff are equipped with skills to adapt to a changing world of education and employment which could be focussed on the following areas:
  + Using technology for learning and teaching
  + Diversifying learning, teaching and assessment
  + Reflective practice
* Exploring the current use of, or potential for, flexible and alternative curricular models such as micro-credentials which would enhance the resilience of the institution.

## Topic 3: responding to covid

The COVID pandemic led to a rapid change of practice for most programmes of study. Submissions under this topic should seek to explore the impact of these changes on staff, students and the institution. Proposals under this topic could include, but are not limited to:

* Creating a sense of belonging for students when studying online
* Alternatives to practical activities and placements
* ‘Flipped classroom’ and other approaches to maximise the benefit of synchronous classes
* Identifying best practice and lessons learned during COVID and investigating their implications for future delivery

## Topic 4: Developing pedagogic research

Proposals under this topic should extend an existing and recent piece of small-scale (and not externally funded) pedagogic scholarship and research through further data collection and/or analysis.

# Project outputs

Project outputs will be dependent upon the nature and scale of the project, and the funding awarded. However, **minimum requirements** are for each project to produce:

* At least one academic paper for submission to an appropriate peer-reviewed journal (you will be expected to indicate target journals and paper topics in the application form)
* A 300-word summary of the project and its findings to be published on the Learning and Teaching Academy website
* A webinar in which the findings of the research are presented to university colleagues

Bids for the larger sums will be expected to **exceed these minimum requirements**. Additional outputs may include:

* Further academic journal papers
* Presentations at relevant conferences
* Good practice case studies to be shared with university colleagues via the Learning and Teaching Academy website

# Key dates

* Bids to be submitted by 1200 **Thursday 14 October 2021**
* Applications for ethical approval to be completed and endorsed the applicant’s supervisor/manager by **Monday 29 November 2021**
* Interim project report (up to two sides of A4) to be submitted **Monday 07 March 2022**.
* Final project outputs to be submitted by **Friday 29 July 2022**

# Small team proposals

If your proposal is for a team rather than individual piece of research, the research to be undertaken must be co-ordinated from within one Academic Partner, who will be responsible for the administration of the budget and appointment and housing of any temporary staff within their existing structures. The work itself can of course involve teams of colleagues from more than one Academic Partner.

# Submitting your bid

Please submit your bid by 1200 on **Thursday 14 October 2021**. The bid should consist of:

* A completed LTA Scholarship Fund 2021/22 Application Form (see separate document). All fields to be completed in full. Please see the application form for further guidance on completing each section.
* Letter of support from the Principal or Assistant/Depute Principal of the lead Academic Partner and any other contributing Academic Partners. Letters should indicate that:
  + the application, including budget, is endorsed
  + the Academic Partner will ensure that staff will be remitted from teaching time to undertake the project, or that additional staffing support to undertake the project (as outlined in the proposal) will be provided.

If you have any general queries about this LTA Scholarship call, including the proposal process, please contact Dr Heather Fotheringham, Evidence-Based Enhancement Lead via [LTA@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:LTA@uhi.ac.uk).

Bids should be emailed to [**LTA@uhi.ac.uk**](mailto:LTA@uhi.ac.uk) with the subject: LTA Scholarship 2021/22. Outcomes will be communicated by **Friday 29 October 2021**.

# Ethical approval

All research conducted by university staff must first receive ethical approval. For most research projects, this is a straightforward process involving the completion of an online form and uploading of relevant documents such as a copy of the research proposal, participant information sheets and consent forms etc. Where Internet Mediated Research (e.g. use of online surveys, social media etc. for the recruitment of participants or the gathering of data) is used, a further checklist must be completed as part of this online process. **Please build this into your project timeframe**.

For more information please see the university’s ethics webpages: [www.uhi.ac.uk/en/research-enterprise/resource/ethics](http://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/research-enterprise/resource/ethics)