

ACDS project: Repository of online resources for science and mathematics teaching and assessment

INFORMATION and GUIDELINES

About the ACDS

The Australian Council of Deans of Science (ACDS) was constituted in 1995 to be the voice of science teaching and research in the university system. It comprises the deans of science faculties and senior representatives of science from across Australia's universities. The ACDS has a strong commitment to 'be a national forum for developing and sharing ideas of best practice in research, education and industry/community interaction, in Australia's science faculties and schools.' (ACDS, 2016).

In 2013 the ACDS established the ACDS Teaching and Learning Centre to inform science faculties and their stakeholders about quality teaching and learning in science and mathematics, promote innovation in teaching and learning, and foster widespread improvement in practice. The Centre seeks to identify and promote consensus, providing a strong national voice on teaching and learning. Its members consist primarily of Associate Deans Learning and Teaching, discipline education networks and other recognized learning and teaching leaders.

Resource sharing project

Due to the current global health crisis, universities have been required to cancel all face-to-face classes and switch to emergency remote teaching. With not much time for planning, Faculties of Science had to think creatively about how to deliver their classes online. In this emergency planning academics and support staff were required to think outside the box to generate solutions that would allow their students to complete the subjects they were enrolled in. While some solutions put in place were emergency solutions not to be applied in normal times, it is likely that in this flurry of activity and creative thinking new approaches and resources were developed that will be adopted after the crisis is over.

This project provides a mechanism for sharing these resources across its member institutions. It provides funds to create a repository of curated remote teaching and assessment resources developed across Faculties of Science, particularly those resources that would benefit teachers and students of large mainstream subjects.

The ACDS expects to support the repository to remain active in acquiring further resources following its establishment. Its processes of curation and review should promote wide discussion and shared understanding of the learning goals, pedagogies and evidence based evaluation of the resources that it contains.

The resource web-based repository will consist of discipline components for chemistry, physics, life sciences and mathematics, each led by a discipline leader appointed through a competitive process. The role of the four discipline leaders is to

- Liaise with colleagues across all Australian institutions to identify suitable resources within their discipline.
- Work with the Director of the T&L Centre to establish a process for collating, curating and reviewing resources.
- Collate and curate existing resources according to the established process.

- Appoint an expert panel to assist in the assessment and curation of the resources identified and summarised by the discipline leader.
- Prepare the curated resources for web publication, liaising with the web developer.
- Run a webinar for broader engagement with the discipline and promotion of the published resources.

The Director of the T&L Centre will coordinate all four discipline groups and their implementation on the website.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Up to \$10,000 will be available to each discipline leader to identify, collate and curate the resources as outlined above. Funding can be applied for buying discipline leader's time release from normal duties and/or use of a research assistant

Individuals who are employed by an ACDS member institution are eligible to apply.

Selection criteria

Nominations will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Capacity to liaise with colleagues at a national level.
- Capacity to identify and interrogate good teaching practice.
- A sound plan to carry out the project within the given timelines.
- Endorsement from head of budgetary unit.

Reporting and accountability

The discipline leaders carrying out this project will be required to report to and work with the Director of the Teaching & Learning Centre throughout the duration of the project.

A final report will be required upon completion of the project.

Important dates

Call for applications opens: 1 July 2020

Applications close: 30 July 2020

Applicants notified of outcome by: 15 August 2020

Work must be completed by: 30 November 2020.

Application requirements

Applicants must submit:

- A written proposal of no more than two pages addressing the selection criteria, and including a budget.
- A completed application form, including endorsement of their head of budgetary unit (see proforma below)
- A short CV.

[Download application form.](#)

Enquiries

[ACDS Teaching & Learning Centre.](#)