



Q: What's the link between LIFT and sustainability?

LIFT is part of the University's teaching and learning enhancement work and helps to deliver the academic innovation goal of the Sustainability Strategy 2017-2022.

LIFT projects reflect our Education for Sustainability approach in two ways:

1. **Content or Specialism** - they develop understanding of sustainability in ways relevant to the subject or professional field.
2. **Pedagogical Methods** – they develop teaching and learning approaches that support change and challenge existing practices.

LIFT has 6 pedagogical principles which, together with relevant points of focus, generate an Education for Sustainability approach for the learning experience:

- **Futures thinking**
- **Systems thinking**
- **Critically reflective practice**
- **Decolonised learning**
- **Stakeholder engagement**
- **Learner empowerment**

Successful projects are supported to develop their sustainability focus and pedagogical approaches, particularly at the early stages of planning, in ways that suit the course and the nature of the project.

Q: What are the benefits of taking part?

Project leads and teams are provided with a tailored support package of support that includes:

- Dedicated funds to cover time and costs for professional development and project activities
- 1-1 support through the process, with advice to help develop project concepts and value
- Activities with other LIFT project leaders to enable professional exchanges and share ideas
- External mentoring as appropriate from visiting experts and scholars working in the area
- Advice on best practice, networks, events and resources relevant to the project focus
- Support to engage in professional recognition and profile development activities
- Guidance on developing impact, resources, publications, dissemination and further bids

Q: What kinds of project ideas will LIFT fund?

- Projects must point to how they seek to connect with the LIFT principles - and can place emphasis on certain themes that are well suited to the project focus or the curriculum area
- Projects can show how they meet other institutional or departmental enhancement needs (e.g. enterprise, internationalisation, e-learning, research outputs, partnerships, employability)
- Projects can involve one or more subject areas or programmes; can be cross-departmental or cross-faculty; and can involve professional services, outreach and partnership activities
- Projects need to include an element of 'co-creation' in the design and approach, so they are actively involving students in shaping the focus and goals of the project
- LIFT projects can include external partners and collaborate with other groups and bodies, but the project must be led by an internal department of the University

For more on LIFT and the University's work in this area, visit <http://sustainability.glos.ac.uk> to find:

- LIFT film – an introduction to the programme with project examples
- More on Education for Sustainability plus links to further resources
- More on sustainability and the global Sustainable Development Goals

Q: What will the panel be looking for, when awarding LIFT funds?

The selection panel will look for exploratory but well-focused concepts that will lead to changes and lasting legacy in the curriculum, learning experiences and professional practice. They will want to see:

- ✓ Clear signs of **strategic alignment** between the project concept and the aims and principles of LIFT, to create transformative learning experiences that support sustainability goals
- ✓ Potential for **tangible impact on learning and teaching**, with novel and easily transferable outcomes for the curriculum and/or student learning experiences
- ✓ Commitment to follow an **action inquiry approach** in developing the project and engaging with students, staff and other stakeholders during the process
- ✓ Projects that are **driven by pedagogy and learning processes**, to develop the capability of people to respond to sustainability and not just to transmit expert knowledge about sustainability
- ✓ Plans to maximise the **project legacy** and use LIFT funds to trigger long-lasting changes to the curriculum and academic practice, or create innovative learning initiatives

Q: What are the expectations of project leaders/teams?

LIFT offers colleagues the opportunity to carry out innovation projects that progress the University's commitment to sustainability through learning and education. The scheme is led by the Sustainability Team in collaboration with the Academic Development Unit as its main partner.

The expectation on receipt of funding is that project leaders/teams will commit to:

- Develop the agreed deliverables as per the agreed project plan
- Disseminate findings at the annual University LIFT event
- Provide a brief report on the project on completion in summer 2017
- Ensure relevant project materials are publicly available on the LIFT website
- Communicate project results across the University and in the sector

Q: What can the budget be spent on?

LIFT proposals must include an indication of itemised costs for the project at the initial stage. The 'in principle' approval of the relevant Head of Department is needed on the proposal form.

Funds can be spent on:

Staff Time – budget should show estimated expenditure for any staff time to be 'bought out' from an existing balance of duties and this can be negotiated with the relevant line manager. Where staff time is claimed, the finalised project plan needs to show the days or hours of staff time budgeted, based on the relevant pay grade. Faculty or departmental accountants can advise on the correct daily rates for salary spine points, which are found in the University's PIMS project costing tool.

Activity Costs – budgets should indicate approximate costs to deliver the project for items such as:

- core project development activities (e.g. venue hire, catering, materials)
- subcontracted expertise from outside the University (e.g. evaluation, training, services)
- travel costs and fees for UK-based activities (e.g. student activities, partner meetings)
- dissemination activities in UK or overseas (e.g. conferences, workshops, exchanges)

LIFT funds are not allocated for the purchase of new equipment for departments (e.g. IT devices) – but the University's e-learning fund can be approached for support in this area.

LIFT funds can support international travel if there is clear value and need for project delivery, e.g. to engage in curriculum development with overseas partners, not just conference attendance.

LIFT allows for students to receive funding for their professional activities, learning experiences or enterprise/innovation projects, but project leaders must ensure that expenditure is appropriate.