

LIFT: Learning Innovation For Tomorrow 18-19 FAQ for Proposals



Q: What is the focus of LIFT?

LIFT is part of the University's academic enhancement programme, led by Sustainability and supported by ADU. It supports transformative learning aligned to the Sustainability Strategy and the Internationalisation Strategy.

LIFT is grounded in Education for Sustainability principles, so LIFT projects should develop staff and students' understanding of sustainability and its relevance to their subject or profession. LIFT projects aim to create lasting curriculum change legacies at either module and/or course level, not just isolated one-off experiences.

The pedagogical aim of LIFT is to support innovative approaches to teaching and learning that challenge existing practices and drive positive change for sustainability. The 6 pedagogical principles for LIFT support this aim:

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

Successful project proposals will be 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 tailored support that includes:

- Funding to cover staff time and costs for professional development and project activities
- 1-1 support through the process, with advice to help develop project concepts and value
- Interaction with other LIFT project leaders to share ideas and explore collaborations
- Advice from external experts and on best practice and relevant resources
- Support for gaining professional recognition and to develop impact and outputs

Q: What kinds of project concepts will LIFT fund?

- Projects can focus on one or more subject area and can be either module-specific or working at course level; they can also be cross-departmental or cross-School, and can involve professional services teams
- To encourage 'learner empowerment', LIFT projects should actively involve students in 'co-creation' of the learning experiences, so students are helping to shape the project design, approach, and/or goals
- Project concepts are encouraged that focus on public engagement and build external partnerships with other organisations, but the project must be led by an internal department/team of the University

FIND OUT MORE – see the web pages on [Sustainability](#) and [Education for Sustainability](#) or the [LIFT programme](#)

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

The panel includes Sustainability, ADU, SU and an NTF. They will look for exploratory but well-focused ideas that:

- ✓ Show **clear alignment** between the project concept and the core aims and principles of LIFT, to create transformative learning experiences that contribute positively to wider sustainability goals
- ✓ Potential for **tangible impact on learning and teaching**, with novel outcomes for the curriculum and/or student learning experiences that would be easily transferable for other courses to adapt and use
- ✓ Commitment to follow an **action inquiry approach** in developing the project and engaging with students, staff and other stakeholders during the process and to achieve the project results
- ✓ Plans for how to maximise the **project legacy** and use the LIFT funds to create innovative learning initiatives that have long-lasting effects and result in improvements to the curriculum and academic practice

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

The expectation with LIFT funding is that project leaders/teams will commit to:

- Develop the project deliverables as per the agreed project plan on receipt of funds
- Disseminate findings at the annual LIFT showcase event and/or Festival of Learning
- Provide a brief impact report on the project on completion in summer 2019
- Ensure relevant project materials are publicly available for inclusion on the LIFT website
- Communicate project results across the University and in the sector

Q: What funds can I apply for and what can the budget be spent on?

Initial LIFT proposals must have 'in principle' approval of the Head of School /Department. You can apply for either:

LIFT STEPS PROJECT – for smaller scale projects and where the focus is primarily module level so expected activity costs are lower – most suitable for courses/teams that are new to LIFT and Education for Sustainability

LIFT ELEVATOR FUND – for projects seeking wider impact and involving collaboration across Schools/Departments – best suited for courses/teams already engaged in Education for Sustainability or previously funded by LIFT

1. **Staff Time** – show estimated costs to release staff from existing duties to work on the project or the cost of replacement PTHP teaching. This can be negotiated with line managers. School accountants can advise on daily/hourly rates for the staff salary spine point. Confirmed costs will be needed on finalised plans.
2. **Activity Costs** – budgets should indicate likely costs to deliver the project such as:
 - core project development activities (e.g. venue hire, catering and guest expenses, materials)
 - one-off payments to students or subcontracted expertise (e.g. training, evaluation, specialist services)
 - travel costs and fees for UK-based activities (e.g. student activities, partner meetings)
 - partnership development activities that involve overseas travel (e.g. teaching exchange visits)
 - dissemination and scholarship development (e.g. conferences, workshops, exchanges)

Note: LIFT funds are not allocated for the purchase of routine new equipment for departments (e.g. IT devices)