



Welcome to the September e-bulletin from the UK Physical Sciences Centre, bringing you key information about forthcoming Centre events, news and developments from the Centre and any other related news, every month. This will be in a quick and easy-to-read format.

If you have any problems viewing this bulletin, it is also available on the website:

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/publications/ebulletin>

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## 1. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### i) Departmental Project Funding

The UK Physical Sciences Centre is pleased to invite bids for funding for Departmental Projects that promote change and enhancement in learning and teaching in chemistry, physics, astronomy or forensic science across an academic department. Projects should involve a number of colleagues from across a department, impact on more than one module and a significant proportion of the department's undergraduates. Projects should address one of the following Academy themes:

*Better teaching*

*Flexibility of deliver*

*Graduates with impact*

Projects that produce resources or approaches that can be applied beyond the originating department will be particularly welcomed, as will collaborative bids across different departments.

Funding of up to £15000 is available for each project. Funding will be available from October 2010 and all projects must be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. There will be no contribution to FEC. Funding should not be used to purchase equipment. Any IPR arising from the project will remain the copyright of the author (or their institution) but all outputs from the projects should be made generally available under a *Creative Commons* licence.

Applications must be made on the application template and submitted electronically to [psc@hull.ac.uk](mailto:psc@hull.ac.uk) by **30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**. Applications should be no longer than three A4 pages. Successful applicants will be notified by late October 2010. The template can be found at <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/home/projects/departmentalprojects>

### ii) Higher Education Academy Scotland Travel Fund 2010-11

This initiative, launched by Academy Scotland in the 2008-09 academic year, is aimed at encouraging the exchange and dissemination of good practices, at the discipline level, throughout the UK. It is specifically aimed at enabling staff and students in Scottish HEIs to engage with colleagues from other parts of the UK and to support their institution's priorities and developments in learning and teaching.

The funding may be used to help colleagues attend conferences, network meetings and special interest groups organised (or jointly organised) by the Higher Education Academy and its Subject Centre network, that are being run in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. Please note that funding may not be used for events that are being held in Scotland or for events that are being held outside the UK.

Applications are now open for the 2010-11 travel fund. There are no set closing dates for applications. Applications from staff and students in Scotland's 20 HEIs are invited throughout the academic year. Bursaries will be awarded to a maximum value of £200 each. For further details, and to apply for funding, please see the Academy website: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/scotland/events/travelfund>

## 2. PUBLICATIONS/ RESOURCES

### i) STEM OER Guidance Wiki

This work constitutes a collection of guidance documents on all aspects of open educational resources (OER), prepared by the project teams from a number of Higher Education Academy/JISC OER Programme projects. These projects ran from May 2009 to April 2010, and this guidance is based on the teams' combined experiences working with practising academics over that time, to explore the issues surrounding OER production and release. Though written by those working within STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) disciplines, the work is of use to anyone seeking insight into this area.

<http://stemoer.pbworks.com/>

### ii) Turning a resource into an Open Education Resource (OER) Briefing Paper

The Centre has produced a briefing paper giving advice on how to turn pre-existing resources into open resources that can be shared and therefore reused by others. The briefing paper is available to download: [http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/ps/documents/briefing\\_papers/oer.pdf](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/ps/documents/briefing_papers/oer.pdf). We also have a few paper copies available. Please email the Centre, [psc@hull.ac.uk](mailto:psc@hull.ac.uk), to request one.

## 3. MORE EFFECTIVE WORKSHOP SERIES

The Centre has organised a series of workshops around the theme of doing things more effectively. The aim of these workshops is to make the student learning experience more effective in a rapidly changing Higher Education environment.

- **More Effective Learning in Laboratories**, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010, CELS, Nottingham Trent University
- **More Effective Lectures**, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010, University of Edinburgh
- **More Effective Tutorials/Workshops**, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Loughborough University
- **More Effective Assessment and Feedback**, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011, University of Leicester
- **More Effective Physical Science Graduates**, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011, University of the West of Scotland, Paisley
- **More Effective Transition to HE**, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011, Manchester

There is no registration fee for these meetings for those working in UK HE and lunch and refreshments will be provided. For those not working within a UK Higher Education Institution, an administration charge of £50 may be charged. Please email the Centre, [psc@hull.ac.uk](mailto:psc@hull.ac.uk), for details.

Registration is available online: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/events/forthcoming/centre>

#### **4. FORTHCOMING CENTRE EVENTS**

##### **i) Modelling in physics: getting our students to think like physicists, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010, Higher Education Academy, York**

This meeting will look at modelling in physics education. Topics covered will include the nature of models and modelling, the importance of qualitative reasoning, the role of mathematics, and the cognitive science of thinking and reasoning with models, including the potential to promote a deeper understanding of physics through modelling. Examples of different modelling practices within physics education will also be given. Anyone interested in contributing should contact David Sands, [d.sands@hull.ac.uk](mailto:d.sands@hull.ac.uk).

This meeting has been jointly organised with the Higher Education Group of the Institute of Physics. There is no registration fee for this meeting for those working in UK HE and lunch and refreshments will be provided. Online booking is available (see link below.) For those not working within a UK Higher Education Institution, an administration charge of £50 may be charged. Please email the Centre, [psc@hull.ac.uk](mailto:psc@hull.ac.uk), for details.

Registration is available online:

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/events/detail/2010/modelling\\_in\\_physics](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/events/detail/2010/modelling_in_physics)

##### **ii) New and Aspiring Lecturers and Teaching Fellows Workshop, 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010, Novotel Hotel, York, UK**

A residential workshop for new and aspiring lecturers and teaching fellows in physical sciences. The aim of this workshop is to give subject specific support to new and aspiring lecturers and teaching fellows. The event will be delivered by physical science practitioners in a context relevant to chemistry, physics, forensic science and related disciplines. The meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss issues related to teaching your discipline and raise awareness of the wide range of discipline specific resources that are available. Participants should leave the workshop with ideas and resources that they can use in their teaching.

There is no registration fee for new and aspiring lecturers working in UK HE. Dinner, bed and breakfast will be provided at the hotel. Lunches and refreshments will also be provided.

Registration is available online:

[http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/events/detail/2010/new\\_and\\_aspiring\\_lecturers](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/events/detail/2010/new_and_aspiring_lecturers)