

Higher Education Teaching and Learning Series 2026/27

Guidance Notes for Proposers

1. Overview

The IMA, LMS and RSS recognise the importance of disciplinary networks in supporting learning and teaching within the mathematical sciences. Through the Higher Education Teaching and Learning Workshop Series, the three societies support the development of a national community that encourages collaboration, the sharing of effective practice, and discussion of learning and teaching within higher education.

The scheme provides funding to support in-person workshops focused on learning and teaching in the mathematical sciences. Whilst workshops may address themes of particular interest to the host institution, they must be open to the wider mathematical sciences community and demonstrate relevance beyond the hosting department. A diverse range of themes and topics will be supported.

2. Key Dates

- **Proposal deadline:** 23:59 on Monday 7 December 2026.
- **Notification of outcomes:** By Friday 12 February 2027.
- **Workshop delivery period:** April – July 2027.
- Successful proposers must discuss preferred workshop dates with the IMA by **Friday 12 March 2027** to enable timely publication of the programme.

3. Important Information for Proposers

Eligibility and Submission

- Proposals must be submitted online via **myIMA**. Information submitted will be reviewed by and shared among the IMA, LMS, RSS and ORS for review and administration purposes.
- Only proposals from individuals working within UK higher education institutions will be considered.
- The initiative is jointly funded by the IMA, LMS and RSS, with administration undertaken by the IMA. Funding will be paid directly by the IMA.

Membership Requirements

- Proposers do not need to be members of the IMA, LMS or RSS. However, applications from non-members must be countersigned by an IMA, LMS or RSS member based at the same institution. Members and representatives from these societies are present in most mathematical sciences departments.
- If you are unsure who your IMA Academic Representative is, you can download the [List of Academic Representatives](#).

- If you need assistance identifying an RSS member or Fellow within your department, please contact membership@rss.org.uk.
- For information about your LMS Representative, please contact membership@lms.ac.uk.
- If you are unable to identify a suitable individual to support your proposal, please contact Vanessa Thorogood (IMA Education Manager) at education@ima.org.uk.
- Whilst membership is not a requirement, successful proposers are expected to consider joining one or more of the societies to support their continued work in the sector.

Previous Workshops

The Higher Education Teaching and Learning Workshop Series has been running since 2018. Reports from previous workshops are available on the [Higher Education Teaching and Learning Workshop Series Funded Workshops](#) webpage and may be useful when developing a proposal.

Workshop Themes and Scope

- Any well-argued theme relating to the learning and teaching of mathematics and/or statistics in UK higher education will be considered.
- Proposals should clearly explain the rationale for the workshop and its relevance to colleagues beyond the host institution.
- Priority will be given to achieving a diverse programme of themes across mathematics and statistics.
- Collaborative proposals between institutions are encouraged. Where similar proposals are received, the societies may facilitate discussions between proposers to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Workshop Format and Delivery

- There is no prescribed format; however, workshops should comprise a programme of sessions or contributions centred on a common theme.
- A one-day event with external contributors has proven particularly effective in previous years.
- Workshops are expected to be delivered in person. Hybrid participation may be offered, but speakers and attendees should be able to engage in person.
- Successful proposers will work with the IMA to agree final scheduling, taking account of other sector activities and events.

Speakers and Community Building

- Proposed speakers listed within applications do not need to have formally committed at the application stage.
- Workshops should provide opportunities for a diverse range of speakers and institutions to share practice and ideas.
- Successful proposers are encouraged to involve students as speakers where appropriate to the workshop theme. Student perspectives can provide valuable insight and help enrich discussions around learning, teaching and the wider student experience.
- Workshop organisers will be put in touch with one another to help ensure a varied programme and avoid unnecessary duplication. The societies may also recommend speakers and facilitate introductions where appropriate.

Funding

- Up to four grants of £600 are available.
- Funding may contribute towards workshop costs, including refreshments and speaker expenses.
- Funds are not normally expected to cover room hire or speaker fees.
- Applications should demonstrate value for money, and contributions from the host institution, whether financial or in-kind, will be considered.

Selection Criteria

In addition to quality and relevance, consideration may be given to:

- Geographical distribution.
- Subject balance across mathematics and statistics.
- Accessibility to the wider community.
- Previous participation by proposers or institutions in the workshop series.

Promotion and Support

- The IMA, LMS and RSS will promote successful workshops through their networks.
- Organisers should also consider how they will attract participants from outside their own institution.
- Members of the IMA Higher Education Committee will be available to offer informal advice and guidance to successful proposers.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The IMA, LMS and RSS are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. Applications are welcomed from all eligible colleagues regardless of background, personal circumstances or career stage.

Funding decisions will be based solely on the quality and merit of proposals. Successful organisers should also consider diversity when finalising speaker line-ups.

4. Reporting Requirements

- A report must be submitted in Microsoft Word format within one month of the workshop.
- A reporting template will be provided.
- Where available, links to presentations, recordings and speaker materials should be included.
- Failure to submit a report may affect future applications to IMA, LMS or RSS funding schemes.

Participant Feedback and Permissions

Please collect participant feedback where possible. Any feedback or quotations included in the workshop report may be used by the IMA, LMS and RSS in future publications and communications. Organisers are responsible for obtaining any necessary permissions from participants.

5. Suggested Themes for 2026/27

Whilst any well-argued proposal will be considered, the societies particularly welcome workshops focused on:

- Teaching, learning and assessment in HE Mathematical Sciences.

- Preparing mathematical sciences graduates for AI-enabled futures.
- Creating an inclusive student experience for mathematical sciences students.

6. Informal Queries

Institutions running events aligned with the aims of the series are welcome to discuss inclusion within the programme. Whilst funding will not be available, the IMA, LMS and RSS may be able to support promotion and dissemination.

For informal enquiries or to discuss workshop ideas, please contact: Vanessa Thorogood (Education Manager) education@ima.org.uk

October 2026