

EDLAB educational research fellowship – Call for proposals

Introduction

This call for proposals is an invitation to all UM faculty staff members to apply for an 18-month (0.3fte) educational research fellowship at EDLAB. The fellowship programme offers an opportunity to conduct research and/or evaluate the effect of educational practices relevant to the UM classroom. In addition, the programme stimulates a direct connection between research and actual education innovation activities within the UM learning environment.

As the Maastricht University Centre for Teaching & Learning, EDLAB endorses educational research and evaluation of education innovation applicable to the UM learning environment. The educational research fellowship plays an important role in strengthening an evidence-informed approach within UM's educational development and innovation activities.

EDLAB furthermore aims to be a central hub for educational research communities and activities in the years to come. With educational researchers involved in the Learning & Innovation research theme, EDLAB facilitates the sharing of expertise between faculties and builds UM-wide communities of practice revolving around educational research. Such activities are part of EDLAB's larger vision for inspiring, connecting, and professionalising innovative and applicable educational research at UM.

Goals

The instalment of annual educational research fellows serves both the fellows and the UM community in multiple ways:

- 1) it allows academic staff members to engage with education innovation and research/evaluate its effect on learning;
- 2) it produces scientific evidence and contributes to a body of knowledge that supports future education innovation at UM;
- 3) it connects and facilitates exchange among academic staff members regarding UM educational research initiatives, and it extends the Learning & Innovation community within UM;
- 4) it establishes an additional infrastructure for educational research collaboration and knowledge exchange at UM;
- 5) it provides a stepping stone for academic staff with educational career ambitions and strongly underpins the 'reward & recognition' initiative.

Programme details

- The fellowship focuses on educational research/evaluation
- 0.3 fte EDLAB secondment for 18 months
- One fellow per faculty
- The fellow plays a role in the dissemination and sustainability of the project's findings

Guidelines for application

Who can apply?

This call is open to early– and mid-career, academic and non-academic staff members from UM faculties with a 0.8-1.0 fte appointment. There is no requirement regarding the type of contract as long as the applicant can commit to a fellowship of 0.3 fte for at least 18 months and the responsibilities connected to it.

Proposal standards

- Educational research is a core component of the proposal;
- A connection between ‘education innovation’ and ‘educational research’ is encouraged;
- The research should be directly applicable to the UM educational context; when connected to educational innovation, the research can involve impact evaluation;
- Articulation of a specific research question can occur during the fellowship itself;
- The activities and findings within the fellowship can be part of explorative or preparatory work for large (educational/research) grant schemes, such as the Comenius programme;
- The research should contribute to UM educational research, education innovation activities, teaching staff professionalisation or provide input to the overall conceptualisation of (PBL-CCCS) education and educational practice at UM. It may also cover managerial, procedural or systemic educational questions, such as the *Smarter Academic Year* initiative or the online/blended learning environment.

Assessment standards

- *Research idea*
The proposal shows a relevant and original research topic in the context of education at Maastricht University, i.e. PBL – CCCS education, and the environment in which education takes place, possibly connecting to an innovative practice or didactic pilot in the classroom.
- *Research approach*
The research proposal demonstrates insight into the topic’s conceptual underpinning, presents a methodological approach (including a description of research methods), and is ethically sound.
- *Quality of the project plan*
The project plan shows the project’s feasibility, presenting a coherent and stylistically sound proposal, including an overview of deliverables, timeline, resources, a concise budget overview, and dissemination activities.
- *Dissemination of outcomes*
EDLAB research fellows are expected to share the outcomes of their project with the UM educational research community. Indicate in the proposal which format you intend to use for this (e.g. blog, presentation at an EDLAB event, publication in an academic or practice-based journal).
- *Professional status of the applicant*
You are an early or mid-career academic or non-academic staff member at a UM faculty with an 0.8-1.0 fte contract of sufficient duration to fulfil all fellowship-related responsibilities.

Deadline

The application deadline for the proposal is Friday 17 March 2023, 17:00 CET.

Selection

Each UM faculty will internally select one proposal for the fellowship and communicate this to EDLAB by Monday 10 April 2023, 17:00 CET.

Support

EDLAB, in collaboration with members of the Learning & Innovation research theme, will provide the educational research fellows with the following:

- A place to work with a collegial atmosphere
- Opportunity for interdisciplinary networking
- Support and reflection with regard to conducting educational research
- Support with regard to student assistants and office management
- An overall sounding board, providing reflection and feedback

Timeline

Date	Phase
Monday 16 January	Publication of the call
Friday 17 March 2023, 17:00 CET	Application deadline
Monday 10 April 2023, 17:00 CET	Faculty selection result
April 2023	Publication of results
July-September 2023	Envisioned project start
July-Sep. 2023 – Dec. 2024	Project period
t.b.a.	Progress presentation at designated EDLAB event
t.b.a.	Presentation of project and updates at a variety of relevant EDLAB events and presentation of final results at EDLAB during the closing event