

World Education Research Association

Call for WERA-IRN Proposals, 2013

Deadline for submission:
30 September 2013.

Objectives of WERA-IRN

The World Education Research Association (WERA) invites proposals to establish International Research Networks (IRNs). The purpose of WERA-IRNs is to advance education research worldwide on specific scholarly topics. IRNs are collaborative groups of scholars working on a specific research topic primarily through virtual communication or other channels. IRNs synthesize knowledge, examine the state of research, and stimulate collaborations or otherwise identify promising directions in research areas of worldwide significance. IRNs are expected to produce substantive reports that integrate the state of the knowledge worldwide and set forth promising research directions. Also, WERA-IRNs will be invited to present their work at WERA symposiums or keynote sessions or to meet at a WERA “Focal Meeting” held in cooperation with a WERA member association.

Overview of WERA-IRN Proposals

Proposals to establish International Research Networks may be submitted by scholars interested in the formation of a new research group or by scholars from an existing group. Proposals should set forth the following:

1. The education research topic, the general outline of a plan for researchers with different expertise and backgrounds to work together in primarily virtual space (including through e-mail, electronic media, conference calls, and so forth) or/and other channels.
2. The outcomes expected from establishing an IRN. IRNs are expected to prepare a report synthesizing the state of the knowledge and charting research directions. In addition, an IRN could contribute to the development of a research conference, form new collaborations, or directly help to stimulate future research.
3. A preliminary list of anticipated participants in the IRN or scholars whose work would fit the IRN objectives.
4. A process for operating an IRN that would permit other experienced and emerging scholars, including graduate students, to join, once an IRN is selected and announced.
5. Typically an IRN will have an organizer or co-organizers with complementary expertise and from different countries or regions of the world.
6. The duration of an IRN can vary, with a maximum time length of three years.

Benefits of Being WERA-IRNs

Once IRN proposals have been reviewed and accepted by the International Research Network Committee, the IRNs receive the following benefits:

1. The IRNs are formally designated by the WERA as “*The WERA International Research Networks* on [title of IRN].” It represents the high status recognized by the WERA to the IRNs as world leading research groups. The members of the WERA-IRN will enjoy the opportunities to work together with international members.
2. The IRN conveners are formally appointed by WERA as “*The Convener of the WERA International Research Network* on [title of IRN].” These appointments reflect the high recognition and confidence of WERA in the conveners’ capacity to launch, lead, and manage IRNs to advance education research worldwide on specific scholarly topics.
3. The members and activities of the IRNs will be highly visible, recognized and promoted through the WERA website and the worldwide networks of WERA member associations. Through IRNs, active researchers can create a worldwide platform and create numerous opportunities for international collaboration in key research areas.
4. IRNs are provided with public space on the WERA website for outreach and dissemination of information. IRNs are also provided with video conference support and web-based communications tools to allow for IRN communication, sharing information, and archiving IRN documents and information. WERA disseminates IRN reports and work products.
5. Conveners and members of IRNs are invited to contribute to symposiums, keynote sessions, or presentations at WERA Focal Meetings held annually. WERA Focal Meetings are embedded in international conferences organized by WERA member associations.

Proposal Review & Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed within two months of receipt by the WERA Committee on International Research Networks. The following criteria will guide selection:

1. The world significance of the proposed research topic (in terms of the nature of the research problem, its worldwide perspectives and the state of the body of knowledge, future developments, etc.);
2. The track record or previous work of the initial composition of the group and its potential to grow internationally and regionally;
3. The feasibility of the plan for interested researchers of diverse expertise working together in primarily virtual space and other conference occasions across countries and regions and stimulating international collaboration in research; and
4. The expected outcomes and impacts from the activities of this WERA-IRN in synthesizing knowledge, critically examining the state of research, stimulating collaborations, identifying promising research directions, and so forth.

Elements of WERA-IRN Proposals

1. **Research Topic/Title of IRN:**
2. **Abstract** (maximum 150 words):
3. **Names of Organizer/Organizers:** (Name, Affiliation, Position, Address, E-Mail)
4. **Description and Purpose** (maximum 1,500 words, excluding any references):
 - Significance of the proposed research topic worldwide
 - Aims and objectives of the WERA-IRN
 - Relevant research literature or initiatives
 - Outreach and process for adding scholars (including emerging scholars and advanced graduate students)
 - Workplan and expected outcomes/scholarly products
5. **References** (list only those cited in Description and Purpose):
6. **Initial Participants List:** (Name, Affiliation, Position, Address, E-Mail)
7. **Curriculum Vitae (CVs)** as Attachment:
(No more than 1-page CV for organizer[s] and each initial participant that includes key publications, research, or experiences relevant to the research topic or leading/ participating in such an international research network.)

Submission

Deadline for 2012 submissions is: **30 September 2013.**

WERA-IRN proposals must be submitted electronically via e-mail to wera@uera.net, with cc to co-chairs: Y C Cheng (yccheng@ied.edu.hk) and Lejf Moos (moos@dpu.dk)

Please include the surname of the organizer(s) in the Subject line of the e-mail in the format "WERA-IRN Proposal – SURNAME(S)."

Questions

Questions to the WERA Committee on International Research Networks should also be directed to wera@uera.net with cc to co-chairs: Y C Cheng (yccheng@ied.edu.hk) and Lejf Moos (moos@dpu.dk)

Committee on International Research Networks

Co-Chairs:

Yin Cheong Cheng, WERA President

Lejf Moos, President, European Educational Research Association

Members:

Hidenori Fujita, President, Japanese Educational Research Association

Brian Hudson, Trustee, Scottish Educational Research Association

Felice J. Levine, WERA Secretary General; American Educational Research Association

Sari Lindblom-Ylänne, WERA President-elect

Theo Wubbels, President, Netherlands Educational Research Association