

Call for applications for Learning by Questions Innovation Evaluation Grants

February 2020

LbQ Innovation Evaluation projects

Learning by Questions (LbQ) is a classroom app filled with curriculum-aligned Question Sets providing immediate feedback to pupils and teachers. LbQ Question Sets are available for English, maths and science from Years 1 to 11; you can find out what Question Sets are available for each year group here <https://www.lbq.org/QuestionSets>.

This grant round will provide schools with funding and support to run an evaluation involving the LbQ app. This might involve comparing using the LbQ app to usual teaching approaches, or comparing different ways of using the LbQ app in their school. For example:

1. Year 2 pupils in four neighbouring schools are learning about punctuation. In two of the schools the LbQ app will be used to teach punctuation. In the remaining two schools the teachers will use their usual approach to teaching punctuation.
2. It has been decided that all Year 8 classes in a school will start science lessons by carrying out a recall quiz of information from previous lessons. Four Year 8 classes will carry out the recall quizzes using the LbQ app while the remaining four classes will carry out recall quizzes on paper.
3. The LbQ app will be used for classroom activities in Year 4 maths lessons. One class will use the LbQ app to carry out activities based solely on the content they have just been taught. The parallel class will carry out LbQ activities based on the content they have just been taught interleaved with content from previous, related lessons.

You can read about current and completed LbQ innovation evaluation projects here <https://the-iee.org.uk/learning-by-questions/>.

Amount of funding

A grant of up to £5,000 will be awarded to cover the costs of the project. Additional funding will be available for projects involving multiple schools.

Learning by Questions licence and use

Participating teachers will receive a free Learning by Questions licence for three years. If your school does not already have tablets available for use in the project, you may apply to borrow tablet sets for use in the evaluation free of charge; these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. It may also be possible to lease or buy tablet sets as part of the grant funding. (More details available on request.)

Application process

Please submit an expression of interest describing an issue you want to address in your school, the outcome you wish to improve and how you will use the LbQ app to address the issue. Workshops are being run in Stockport, York, Birmingham and London in February and March 2020 to support applicants to complete the expression of interest, although you can still submit an application if you have not attended a twilight.

Expressions of interest which meet the application criteria (outlined below) will be invited to attend one of the evaluation planning days in early May 2020 (venue tbc depending on the location of successful applicants). Applicants will learn about evaluation methods and start to plan their evaluation. They will be given ongoing support with planning the evaluation during summer 2020. Once evaluation plans have been approved a grant agreement will be signed and tablets (if needed) may be delivered to the school. Learning by Questions will provide training to all teachers who will use the LbQ app as part of the evaluation.

Timeline

Activity	Dates
Call for applications opens	February 2020
Workshops	February and March 2020
Schools submit expression of interest	By 3rd April 2020
Applicants notified of outcome. Successful applicants invited to evaluation planning day	By 24th April 2020
Evaluation planning day	5th or 7th May
Successful applicants receive continued planning support from the Institute for Effective Education. Grant agreement signed once evaluation plan is agreed.	Summer 2020
Learning by Questions provide training and technical support for grantees	Summer 2020
Grantee conducts evaluation, with ongoing support from the Institute for Effective Education and Learning by Questions	September 2020 onwards
Grantee submits final report	Within 3 months of post-test

Application criteria

- Is the proposal suitable for use with the LbQ app?

If the proposal is not suitable for use with the LbQ app, it will not be considered further.

If the proposal is suitable for use with the LbQ app the following application criteria will be used to assess the expression of interest:

- The problem is described and the outcome of interest is named.
- The expression of interest shows familiarity with current evidence in the field.
- The innovation is described clearly.
- The innovation has potential for improving the named outcome.
- The expression of interest is well written (ie, clarity, organisation, presentation).

All application criteria will be given equal weight.

How to prepare your application

The expression of interest form can be downloaded from here: bit.ly/LbQ_round2

The first page of the expression of interest form asks for the following information.

- Title of the project
- Lead School name
- Name and position of lead applicant
- Contact details of lead applicant
 - Work address
 - Work email
 - Phone number
- Names, positions and schools of co-applicants (if applicable)
- Year level(s) involved in the project
- Subject(s) addressed by the innovation

Description of proposed project

Please provide a concise summary of your proposal. There is no formal word limit, but 500 words should be plenty.

a. Problem

Describe the problem, challenge or issue facing your school(s) that you hope to address.

b. Outcome

Name a single outcome you want to improve, and which you would monitor in the evaluation. If there are multiple outcomes you would eventually like to improve, choose one to focus on first: you could choose an outcome which you think would make the most difference to the problem or which you believe would be relatively easy to change.

c. Existing evidence

Summarise any research in the area and describe what existing evidence says about how your problem could be addressed.

d. Innovation

Describe the approach you will use to address your issue. Explain how long you plan to implement the approach for. Describe the evidence that leads you to believe the innovation will address your problem.

If you have decided what comparison you will make in your evaluation (e.g. using the LbQ app vs usual teaching practice; using the LbQ app at the beginning of lessons vs. at the end of lessons), please include this here.

e. Use of Learning by Questions

Please explain how the LbQ app will be used as part of the evaluation.

References

Provide references to any research, articles, books etc. mentioned in the application.

Important information

If you have questions or would like advice about your proposal, please contact Alicia Shaw, Innovation and Evaluation Lead at the Institute for Effective Education (01904 328108, alicia.shaw@york.ac.uk).

The deadline is **17:00 on Friday 3rd April 2020**. Late proposals will not be considered for this round.

Submit your proposal by email to Alicia Shaw (alicia.shaw@york.ac.uk). She will send you an acknowledgement of receipt. If you don't get a response within two working days, please call her on 01904 328108.

Institute for Effective Education

The Institute for Effective Education (IEE) is an independent charity working to improve education for all children by promoting the use of evidence in education policy and practice. The IEE will support grantees to plan and carry out LbQ innovation evaluation projects. <https://the-iee.org.uk/>

Learning By Questions

LbQ is a classroom app filled with curriculum-aligned Question Sets and immediate feedback to super-charge learning. <https://www.lbq.org/>