



STEM-INSIGHTS Expression of Interest (EOI) – Frequently Asked Questions

What are the eligibility criteria to participate in the Capability Enhancer project?

- Are a STEM education or STEM learning program provider, that works directly with students or through educators, parents, STEM professionals, or communities.
- Has the goal of increasing participation or retention in STEM education and/or career pathways.
- Has an interest in improving the capability to generate and use evidence to improve STEM education outcomes, and a willingness to share what is learned.
- Not-for-profit, government, and for-profit organisations based in Australia are eligible.
- Be able to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with CSIRO to work together to build evidence capability and share the learnings with the rest of the STEM education ecosystem.
- Organisations that deliver wholly or partly in New South Wales will be given higher priority.

What is the application process?

The first step is to review the eligibility criteria. If your organisation meets the eligibility criteria, you can submit an EOI form via the link on the website.

My program/project/organisation is small, with limited resources. Is that eligible?

Yes, there are no minimum requirements for personnel or resources, however, the program/project/organisation must be able to commit to a reasonable amount of time over a six-month period to the Capability Enhancer Project (e.g. at least 2-3 hours per week).

Who in the organisation can apply?

Engagements can be made with whole organisations or with project teams within larger organisations. Support and approval for participation should be received from the relevant leadership. It is important that those with responsibility for program design and evaluation are involved, though the key liaison can be any appropriate team member.

Partnerships may relate to a single program or the whole organisation and can be at any stage of the project life cycle (i.e. new or established programs).

I have read the selection criteria/eligibility guidelines and do not meet them. I am interested in the project; can I submit an EOI form?

Yes, you can submit an EOI form; however, the level of engagement will be limited to that of 'staying informed' only.

How long after submitting the EOI will applicants find out if they are successful?

EOI submissions close on 23rd February 2025. Once applications close, the STEM-INSIGHTS team will review and aim to provide a response within approximately ten working days.

How are EOIs assessed?

STEM-INSIGHTS aims to collaboratively develop tools and approaches that have broad utility. As such, we will select formal partnerships that most closely align with the strategic aims of the project across its lifecycle. This will include organisations with a range of sizes, intervention types, and levels of evaluation experience.

The EOI form is simply to get an idea of who you are and what your interest might be, we may contact some organisations for further information prior to selecting partners.

While we have limited capacity for formal partnerships, we look forward to working with a wide range of organisations at the collaborator level.

Are EOI applicants guaranteed to be accepted into a partnership?

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a partnership for all applicants. If your program/project/organisation does not meet the criteria, or if the CSIRO STEM-INSIGHTS team do not have capacity to take on new partnerships, then we won't be able to progress the partnership application further at that time. However, the STEM-INSIGHTS team offer two other levels of engagement:

- *Collaborator* – sharing resources and findings as part of a network of stakeholders with an interest in using evidence to design and deliver better STEM education programs
- *Staying informed* – keeping abreast of what's happening with STEM-INSIGHTS.

If unsuccessful in round one, will further partnership opportunities be made available?

Yes, the partnership lifecycle is six months. Partnerships will become available on a regular basis, approximately twice yearly.

If unsuccessful in round one, will an application need to be submitted for future rounds?

No, round one applications will be kept on file for future rounds. If you are no longer interested in future rounds, please email CEdOimpact@csiro.au and your application will be withdrawn.

Is the information in my EOI kept confidential?

Yes, we do not share this information with anyone outside CSIRO. The CSIRO STEM-INSIGHTS team will review your EOI.

My interest in the project has changed, am I able to change my level of engagement?

Yes, if you would like to receive updates only or be removed from future communications, please email CEdOimpact@csiro.au.