



GO-GN Pilot Hubs: Call for Proposals

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Background

The [Global OER Graduate Network](#) (GO-GN) is delighted to announce that the network has been awarded additional funding from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to support our exploration of regional ‘hubs’ to expand the network. We will be piloting several hubs in the second half of 2025, and our evaluation of these activities will inform our future planning. This work aims to build capacity and better support our diverse and growing membership. This pilot is also a direct response to members’ request for greater federation (see our [Strategic Review](#)) and contributes to GO-GN's ongoing commitment and work on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in open education.

This extension of our work will focus on identifying, setting-up, piloting and evaluating three regional GO-GN groups (‘Hubs’). Each Hub will define their area of action, propose their own activities and milestones, and explain how their hub meets the strategic needs of GO-GN. In response to this call for participation, hubs are encouraged to explain how they will organise themselves, describe their goals and plans, and foster collaboration with their associated researchers.

We anticipate that each pilot Hub will offer value to the associated region as well as the wider network. The central goal, however, of the piloting phase is to build a knowledge base about effective planning, implementation, organisation, management and resourcing of hubs in different parts of the world. This piloting phase is expected to last until the end of 2025 and will be subject to an ongoing evaluation. The lessons learned during this piloting phase will feed into our future



planning for a potential Phase V of GO-GN beginning in May 2026. We hope to identify sustainable pathways to the expansion of the network, establishing communication and action channels that will share effective practice, build network resilience and cultivate opportunities to engage.

The pilot Hubs will have the freedom to operate and to determine their own agenda and goals in collaboration (not competition) with other Hubs and the GO-GN directorate. Proposals should clearly set out the goals and deliverables for the pilot phase and elaborate how these goals and deliverables will be achieved. This approach will allow us to leverage local and regional knowledge to effectively build capacity and raise the profile of the network. Pilot Hubs are free to propose their own methods of management and conflict resolution. Please note, however, that regional hubs will be bound by the [GO-GN code of conduct](#). The GO-GN directors will act as a final point of arbitration in the event of a dispute.

This document should be used in conjunction with the *GO-GN Pilot Hub Application Form* and *GO-GN Pilot Hub Provisional Budget* Excel spreadsheet. If you have any questions after reading this call, please direct these to: gogn.oer@gmail.com

Eligibility

Only members of GO-GN can apply for this opportunity. You can apply to become a member at <https://go-gn.net/join/>.

Doctoral students, alumni, experts, mentors and postdoctoral researchers working and researching open education are all eligible to apply for this call. We anticipate that Hubs will likely involve some combination of member types. Doctoral students wishing to be involved in a Hub should be aware that there could be a time implication that should be discussed with supervisors. We require current doctoral students to submit a letter from their supervisor supporting their involvement in this initiative.

In all cases, it's important to get all required institutional permissions in place before applying.

One important consideration is the need for an institution in your part of the world to act as a home for your Hub. This institution must be able to reliably process the grant payment, distributing and transferring funds as required, and act as signatory



on the associated contract. We will be unable to consider any applications which do not provide this information.

Scoping and Deliverables

It is for you to determine and describe the region of operations that will be addressed by your hub.

Similarly, we expect each proposal to determine and describes the goals and activities for their hub. These will be relative to the region supported by the hub and proposals should explain why and how these deliverables add value. The GO-GN Strategic Review (https://go-gn.net/gogn_outputs/go-gn-at-10-strategic-review/) provides the wider context for your proposed Hub activities.

In addition to the deliverables determined in the proposal, there are some specific deliverables each Hub is expected to achieve as part of the piloting.

- Recruit at least five new GO-GN members per Hub.
- Organise at least one-face-to-face event and two online events per Hub.
- Present on your Hub's activities during at least one GO-GN webinar during the pilot duration.
- Develop at least three blog posts on activities and progress from each Hub during the six-month piloting phase.
- Be committed to regular check-ins and other evaluation activities as requested by the GO-GN coordination team.
- Contribute to an openly licensed evaluation report, which will include strategic recommendations and lessons learnt.
- Participate in a face-to-face knowledge exchange event (3-4 representatives per Hub) in early 2026 (most likely February 2026 but TBC). This will be organised by the main GO-GN team and participation will be separately funded (not funded from the Hub pilot grants).
- Participate in an online launch event for the evaluation report (April-May 2026).



People & Resourcing

Each Hub will be provided with c.\$40,000 (USD) upon initiation. These funds are to be spent at the discretion of the Hub organisers in accordance with their agreed activity plan. You should plan to spend all funding by the end of 2025. The GO-GN coordinators may advise you to focus on particular activities and adjust the available funding accordingly. Further details on what costs can be covered by the funding are detailed in section (4) of the application form.

GO-GN is a research focused network, and we anticipate that the pilot Hubs will be led by experienced researchers actively working on open education topics. There is no limit on how many GO-GN members might be associated with a particular Hub, and in general we encourage collaboration between members working in similar contexts.

While you must be a GO-GN member to apply for this opportunity, we encourage association with influential local researchers and advocates of open education. These could include supervisors, department heads, UNESCO chairs, research groups, and other leaders in the educational space. It's important to elaborate the value added through such connections in your proposal. Associated experts, mentors and researchers are encouraged to join GO-GN prior to application.

It is the responsibility of applicants to make connections with relevant people (including other members of GO-GN).



Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Applications for running a pilot Hub will be assessed by a panel comprising the current GO-GN coordination team and external experts (including two former directors of GO-GN). There will be two stages to this process. Firstly, each panel member will score applications independently. Secondly, the panel will meet to discuss the applications and confirm scores collectively, making overall recommendations about priority for funding in the pilot phase.

The criteria on which proposals will be assessed are:

- Alignment with GO-GN strategic direction and with existing activities
- Strength of proposed regional Hub concept and alignment of deliverables
- Feasibility and quality of planning
- Proposed leadership and organisation structure
- Value for money
- Added value for GO-GN.

By submitting your application, you consent to your application being shared for review and associated purposes. We may (anonymously) quote or use sections of your application as part of the evaluation process.



Support from GO-GN

GO-GN will support each Hub through:

1. Regular check-in meetings to support monitoring and evaluation.
2. Supporting communication between Hubs.
3. Amplification of regional Hub activities and opportunities through the GO-GN newsletter, social media and our website (<https://go-gn.net>).
4. Holding a face-to-face knowledge exchange event for all Hubs (3-4 participants from each Hub) in early 2026. Please note that this event will be funded by GO-GN and does not need to be accounted for in your funding proposal. (We anticipate that all Hubs will contribute to the co-design of this event.)
5. Facilitating and promoting at least one GO-GN webinar during the six-month pilots to update our membership and the wider community on progress to date.
6. Supporting the development of distinct yet complementary individual Hub identities through collaboration with Bryan Mathers of Visual Thinkery. (Please note that this activity will be funded by GO-GN and does not need to be accounted for in your funding proposal.)
7. Guidance on how GO-GN branding and association should be used during and after the pilots.



Timelines

Date / Time	Activity
Thursday 24 April 2025	<i>Call for proposals opens</i>
Thursday 8 May 2025	<i>Q&A drop-in sessions</i> If you have any questions, please join us for our drop-in sessions at 07.30-8.30BST (Session One) and 16.00-17.00BST (Session Two) via Zoom. Join Session One. Join Session Two. Convert your time zone. Have a question but unable to participate in the drop-in sessions? Please email gogn.oer@gmail.com
Friday 30 May 2025	<i>Call for proposals closes at 12.00 noon BST (UTC+1) (please note that there will be no extension to this deadline)</i> The GO-GN team might reach out to you around this time to request further information or clarification.
During week commencing 9 June 2025	<i>Applicants advised on outcome and next steps</i> For successful applicants, next steps will include a short development meeting to refine their proposal in light of evaluation feedback. We might offer suggestions to better align and refine activities and deliverables. We might also suggest combining applications (e.g. from the same geographical region).
June - July 2025	<i>Development and coordination of visual identities for each Hub</i>
July - December 2025	<i>Pilot Regional Hubs in progress</i>

	The second half of 2025 is when the proposed activities will take place in each Hub. In parallel, we will conduct an ongoing evaluation of each Hub's activities in accordance with the Evaluation Plan. (The Evaluation Plan will be shared with all hub coordinators when the hubs are initiated.) For unsuccessful applications, feedback will be provided in July 2025.
January 2026	<i>Drafting Evaluation Report</i>
February 2026	<i>Face-to-face knowledge exchange event</i> We expect to hold a face-to-face event which will bring together representatives from each Hub to share lessons learned and ideas for the future.
March 2026	<i>Release and promotion of evaluation report</i>
April 2026	<i>GO-GN webinar to share findings and formally launch report</i>