



Association for Learning Development in Higher Education

## **ALDinHE Annual General Meeting 2025 Report from Research and Scholarship Development Working Group**

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### **Research and Scholarship Development Working Group members**

Working group members and roles\* as of May 2025:

(\* all members contribute to the funding assessment and award process; brackets indicate additional responsibilities).

Ian Johnson (chair, writing retreats), Silvina Bishopp-Martin (vice-Chair; collective scholarship library Project), Bernard Aidoo (writing retreats), Ed Bickle (collective scholarship library project, legacy funding project), Shaun Bremner-Hart, Alexander Cuthbert, Jonathan Denham, Finley Lawson (legacy funding project), Steve Rooney (writing retreats), Steven White (lead on researcher training project)

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### **Main focuses from 2024/25 academic year**

The group's focuses (see below) reflect our missions: to expand opportunities for more ALDinHE members to get involved in Learning Development (LD) scholarship; to increase the visibility of LD scholarship; to fund high-quality LD-centric research

- Developed training for LD-based researchers around project design and applying for funding. This followed from community feedback from an ALDinHE mini-keynote by the chair and vice-chair about the need for such training to help researchers get started. Pilot to be delivered May 2025; 50 sign-ups at time of writing.
- New assessment criteria, scoring, applicant guidance, review form and descriptors launched for the 2024 funding round; training provided for reviewer pool. Positive feedback received from reviewers, while group were pleased that the process enabled research projects strongly in accordance with the ALDinHE values scoring highly and receiving the awards (see table below).
- 'Project partnership' put into place for funded projects – each 2024 project lead has a designated RSDWG point of contact, and regular check-ins are maintained

- Group has completed the background work to launch two new resources in mid-2025:
  - o Collective Library of LD Scholarship: short reviews by the ALDinHE community of seminal texts in various strands of LD scholarship, available to whole community via ALDinHE website
  - o Legacy Funding project: updated record of progress of ALDinHE-funded projects since the scheme's inception, e.g. outputs, subsequent research
- Continued to offer scholarship writing retreats at regular intervals

### **Projects successful in winning funding for 2024-25**

ALDinHE funded six projects in 2024-25 at a total value of £5000, as detailed below.

<b>Applicant(s) and affiliation</b>	<b>Project title</b>
Siobhan Hawke, Bath Spa University	Why some students don't book 1:1 appointments with Learning Development.
Nichola Woods, University of the Arts London	Moving to Learn: the potential of embodied learning in the teaching of academic skills and learning approaches.
Gill Smith and Louise Innes, Lancaster University	Exploring the role of Learning Developers in supporting students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
Zara Hooley, De Montfort University	Learning Development and the future of personalised learning : Do diagnostics and/or confidence-reflection tools help learning development teams to target and personalise their approach?
Steve Briggs, University of Bedfordshire	Learning Development Practitioners access to Professional Development, Recognition and Promotion Routes: An International Perspective.
Rosanne English, University of Strathclyde	Re-engaging Students in Learning Development through Subject Specific Resources

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### **Priorities for the coming academic year 2025/26:**

Extend the researcher training pilot from one session to sequence of three, and in the process broaden its appeal to less experienced researchers

Survey the ALDinHE community in 2025 about what more the RSDWG can offer to encourage/enable more people into LD scholarship. Act upon this feedback when determining events for 2026.

Agreement secured from ALDinHE for increased funding per project to account for inflation plus a small addition. Rise from £1000 to £1250 maximum per project from 2025 funding.

Reflect ALDinHE's strategic priority of student partnerships through the research strand – if this can be demonstrated by applicants, an extended funding amount of £1500 can be requested. Aim to fund at least one project demonstrating genuine student partnership in 2025

Launch 'Collective Library of LD Scholarship' and 'Legacy Project Funding' areas of website as ways to showcase historic LD scholarship and the outcomes of funding

Support ALDinHE 'summer fair' event in 2025 through offering reviewer training and scholarship writing retreats

More debriefing by the group on 2024-25 projects to keep their momentum alive / help them with channels to disseminate after completion of the funded period.

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### **Want to get involved in the Research and Scholarship Development working group?**

If any ALDinHE member would like to join the group or contribute to specific projects, existing or new, please contact [admin@aldinhe.ac.uk](mailto:admin@aldinhe.ac.uk)

ALDinHE currently offers the following channels through which to disseminate scholarship:

- [Blog](#)
- [LoveLD Magazine](#)
- [Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education](#)
- [LD Project Podcast](#)
- Submit a resource to [Learn Higher](#)
- Apply for [ALDinHE project funding](#)
- Present a [poster](#)
- Run an [LD@3 webinar](#)
- Discuss and share on our [mailing list](#)

Those interested in the above may also like to consider joining the [Research Community of Practice](#)