

Taith Grant Assessors' application pack

Pathway 1 and Pathway 2

Rolling deadline: Applications can be submitted at any time



1.0 What is Taith?

Taith is a Welsh Government funded international learning exchange programme. It is designed to provide life-changing opportunities for learners and young people in Wales through educational international exchanges.

Taith funds international mobility projects for education providers across Wales, including:

- Schools
- Youth
- Adult Education
- Further Education
- Vocational Education and Training
- Higher Education

Taith has two Pathways. Pathway 1 projects support the mobility of individuals or groups, providing flexible short and long term opportunities to learn, study, work or volunteer abroad. Pathway 2 projects focus on Partnerships and Strategic Collaboration. These projects create Welsh-led international partnerships that develop project outputs which address a specific issue or sector priority.

Ensuring that Taith encourages applications from participants and organisations who may have additional barriers to their participation is part of Taith's core mission, and one of the programme's central targets.

2.0 Taith's main objectives

Taith has five main objectives:

1. To deliver an inclusive, all-Wales programme to get more people involved in international exchanges, to broaden the horizons and confidence of young people, learners and staff at all levels in Wales, give them life-enhancing opportunities and support them to become ambitious, capable learners throughout their lives.
2. To promote collaborations between Welsh and international organisations that enable two-way learning exchanges to benefit everyone involved, build international links, and support the education sectors, including youth work and adult education.
3. To encourage ambitious, innovative and creative activities that represent the best in international education exchanges and collaboration.
4. To raise the international profile of Wales as an open, outward-looking and globally responsible nation, committed to building on its legacy of international partnerships and relations.
5. To help deliver Welsh Government priorities in transforming international engagement and developing the best in international education and youth sectors through sustainable actions that benefit current and future generations in Wales.

3.0 Grant Assessors – Call for applications

Applications are invited from interested and experienced individuals, to be grant assessors for the Taith programme. Taith has a pool of grant assessors, from which it will select individuals with the appropriate experience and expertise, to assess applications for funding from eligible organisations.

Assessors will be from a range of backgrounds and preferably will include colleagues with experience of working within an international context.

4.0 Grant Assessor Role

The Taith “Guide for Grant Assessors”, will be available for successful candidates, and outlines details of the roles of grant assessors. Taith shall ensure that the assessment process for funding applications shall follow a transparent process that guarantees impartiality and equal treatment of all applicants.

Each appointed grant assessor must therefore be able to demonstrate that he/she is able to act totally impartially when undertaking the work and must declare any conflicts of interest. Each successful applicant will be appointed to serve as part of a pool of assessors and will be assigned to assess applications for a particular sector(s). Taith will make every effort to assign assessment work to each assessor during a funding call, but no guarantee can be made of this, as factors such as the volume of applications, will determine the assignment of work to individuals.

The following provides an overview of the role and Taith’s expectations of appointed assessors.

- i. Each assessor will be required to undertake and complete a detailed training programme on a set date. The training programme, will include sessions on:
 - The Taith programme, with particular emphasis on the Pathway funding calls.
 - The sectors that Taith focuses on.
 - The Taith Programme Guides.
 - Taith’s Assessment Criteria.
- ii. Each assessor will need to be available to assess organisations’ applications between a set time period.
- iii. Assessors will be required to read and assess each application against agreed assessment criteria. Assessors shall provide a fair, impartial, consistent and accurate assessment of project applications measured against the funding Pathway’s objectives.
- iv. Assessors will be required to provide a detailed report on the assessment of each application, within the set deadlines, by means of comments and by assigning marks on whether the respective criteria had been met. Furthermore, the assessor shall determine whether the application meets the award threshold, by using the following grading structure:
 - a. Meets the award threshold.
 - b. Fails to meet the award threshold.

The report will be used to provide feedback to the applicants.

- v. Assessors will also reassess and/or consolidate assessments by peer assessors.
- vi. Some assessors will be expected to attend the full meeting of the Funding Committee, at which the decisions on all grant applications will be determined and through which Taith shall be authorised to inform the applicants of the outcomes.

- vii. Assessors will be required to maintain detailed records of their working hours.
- viii. Taith retains the right to withhold payment in cases where the assessment undertaken does not meet the required quality threshold.

5.0 Essential and Desirable Criteria for Grant Assessors

Prospective Assessors will be assessed on their ability to undertake the main tasks as outlined in section 4.0, based on the evidence submitted in the application form including expertise and knowledge in the relevant Taith sector(s). Prior experience of assessing funding applications of National/International Mobility programmes would naturally be a strength.

Essential Criteria

- Extensive experience of having worked in the one of more of the Taith education and learning sectors.
- A broad knowledge of the delivery of the learning activities within the relevant sector.
- Wide knowledge and/or practical experience of mobility programmes e.g. Erasmus +, Turing or similar programmes.
- Knowledge or experience of submitting a grant application or assessing a grant submission.
- Experience of report-writing.
- Competence in the use of IT applications, including Microsoft excel.
- Hold a UK bank account registered in their own name or business name. Nominated bank accounts will not be accepted and payment will be in sterling.
- Be available for training on set date(s) and time and to assess applications from a set time period.

Desired Criteria

- The ability to understand and/or speak and write in Welsh.
- Knowledge of the Welsh education and learning sectors.
- Experience of having undertaken mobility projects.

6.0 Training

Compulsory assessors' training (as stipulated) will be delivered by the Taith Programme Executive on set date(s). The training programme will be delivered remotely. The programme will cover the following topics:

- General background on the Taith Programme, its objectives and priorities.
- Detailed background on the principles of the Pathway application calls, with an understanding of the differences between the six sectors.
- An understanding of the bilingual policies and an explanation of the translation process for applications submitted in Welsh.
- Background information on the structure and specifics of the Taith sector(s) in Wales.
- Detailed overview of the Taith Programme Guides with particular emphasis on the nuances for the relevant sector(s) and any specific requirements or exclusions.
- Assessment methodology for the assessors, and reporting process, to include marking criteria and determination of meeting the award threshold.
- Sign off procedures and the role of the Funding Committee.
- Taith Assessment Criteria.
- Taith Funding Methodology.
- Assessors Remuneration.

- Contractual arrangements.
- Mock assessment which must be successfully completed to be eligible to assess applications for Taith.

In addition to the formal training sessions, each grant assessor will be offered technical training on the IT system which will be used to support the assessment process.

Each grant assessor will be provided with a “Grant Assessor’s Guide”.

7.0 Application Process and deadline

Applicants can submit an expression of interest and an up-to-date *curriculum vitae* at any point to enquiries@taith.wales

Applicants will be notified in due course from the date of submission as to whether their application has been successful. Details will also be provided of next steps for successful applicants.

Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have no conflicting contractual obligations which would prevent the work from being undertaken and will be expected to confirm this, in advance.

Applicants will be asked to indicate which sectors applications they wish to assess.

8.0 Contractual issues

Remuneration rates

£75 per assessment
 £50 per consolidation
 £75 re-assessment
 £50 review - not a re-assessment
 £100 panel
 £100 per training session

Contract period

Assessments will be completed between set dates.

Funding Committees will take place on set dates.

There will be possible follow up assessments from set dates.

Availability

Applicants will need to be available for training on set dates and able to complete assessments between set dates. Some applicants will be requested to attend at least one Funding Committee on set date(s).

Remuneration

Remuneration will be made as per the remuneration rates above. This will be paid directly to the individual.

Conflicts of Interest

Once appointed, all grant assessors are required to declare any private, professional or commercial interests that might conflict with the interests of Taith or which might be perceived by others as creating a conflict of interest