



**International Research Networks (IRNs)  
WORLD EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION  
Call for WERA-IRN Proposals, 2019**

Deadline for Submission:  
15 February 2019

**OBJECTIVE OF WERA-IRN**

The World Education Research Association (WERA) invites proposals to establish International Research Networks (IRNs). The purpose of WERA-IRNs is to advance education research worldwide on specific scholarly topics. IRNs are collaborative groups of scholars working on a specific research topic primarily through virtual communication or other channels. IRNs synthesize knowledge, examine the state of research, and stimulate collaborations or otherwise identify promising directions in research areas of worldwide significance.

IRNs are required to produce a substantive report that sets forth the state of knowledge worldwide and promising research directions on the topic of the IRN. All IRNs are expected to prepare such a research synthesis report as the first task of their work. Other research activities or initiatives may vary, but an examination of the research worldwide on a topic is the initial contribution. Also, WERA-IRNs are expected to present their work at WERA symposia or keynote sessions or to meet at a WERA Focal Meeting held in cooperation with a WERA member association.

**KEY FEATURES OF IRNS**

All IRNs advance their research areas of interest through producing a major report on the state of the knowledge and promising research directions. They additionally may pursue other activities and initiatives that contribute to the development of new knowledge, findings, or data that chart directions for future research worldwide. All IRNs include participants (i) from different countries and parts of the world to engender worldwide collaboration, and (ii) students and junior scholars to promote capacity building.

All IRNs have a commitment to wide communication and dissemination beyond any one country or region. IRNs are expected to use WERA dissemination platforms, including the WERA website and presentations at WERA Focal Meetings (assuming favorable peer review). It is expected that IRN synthesis reports will be submitted for potential publication in the WERA book series, *Global Perspectives on Education Research*, and that IRNs will pursue additional forms of dissemination.

## OVERVIEW OF WERA-IRN PROPOSALS

Proposals to establish International Research Networks may be submitted by scholars interested in the formation of a new research group or by scholars from an existing group. Proposals should set forth the following:

- 1. Abstract of no more than 150 words:** Set forth the research objective (s) of the IRN, the scope of studies or bodies of knowledge to be considered (from what countries, regions, or cultures), core questions to be examined, and the composition of the IRN (e.g., experienced and emerging scholars, the size of the IRN).
- 2. Research Topic and Plan:** Specify the education research topic, the goals of the IRN, the general outline of a plan for researchers with different expertise and backgrounds to work together in primarily virtual spaces (including email, electronic media, conference calls, and so forth) and/or other channels.
- 3. Outcomes Expected from Establishing an IRN:** Specify the plan for preparing a synthesis report on the state of the knowledge and future research directions worldwide. Describe the outcomes expected from other ambitions of the IRN (for example, to undertake new research, collect or examine new data, develop or advance new methods, convene meetings or conferences, or stimulate new collaborations).
- 4. Participant List:** Include a preliminary list of anticipated participants in the IRN or scholars whose work would fit the IRN objectives. (Name, Affiliation, Position, Address, Email). Include Curriculum Vitae (CVs) as Attachments: No more than one-page CV for organizer(s) and each initial participant that includes key publications, research, or experiences relevant to the research topic or to leading/participating in such an International Research Network.
- 5. Outreach Plan to Extend Membership:** Describe a process for operating an IRN that would permit other experienced and emerging scholars, including graduate students, to join, once an IRN is selected and announced.
- 6. Leadership:** Typically an IRN will have a single convener or co-conveners with complementary expertise, who are from different countries or regions of the world.

- 7. Duration and Timetable:** The duration of an IRN may vary, with a maximum length of three years. The duration should be specified. Also provide a timetable for initial IRN plans/activities, in particular for the research synthesis report. After 3 years, an IRN may submit a proposal to extend its IRN term for review by the WERA IRN Committee.

## **ELIGIBILITY TO CONSTITUTE AN IRN**

IRN members must be individual members of WERA or members of a WERA member association. IRN members who are individual members of a member association of the European Educational Research Association also qualify as eligible IRN members. Individuals are encouraged to become WERA individual members, whether or not it is a requirement of eligibility.

To join WERA as an individual member visit [www.weraonline.org](http://www.weraonline.org)

## **PROPOSAL REVIEW & CRITERIA**

Proposals will be reviewed within three months of the submission deadline by the WERA International Research Network Committee. The following criteria will guide selection:

1. The world significance of the proposed research topic (in terms of the nature of the research problem, its worldwide perspectives and the state of the body of knowledge, future developments, and so forth).
2. The track record or previous work of the initial composition of the group and its potential to grow internationally and regionally.
3. The feasibility of the plan for interested researchers of diverse expertise working together in primarily virtual space and other conference occasions across countries and regions and stimulating international collaboration in research.
4. The expected outcomes of and impacts from the activities of the WERA-IRN in synthesizing knowledge, critically examining the state of research, stimulating collaborations, identifying promising research directions, and so forth.

Once proposals have been reviewed and accepted by the Committee on International Research Networks, WERA IRNs will be formally announced and their work launched under WERA. In addition to selecting WERA IRNs, the Committee will also advise WERA-IRNs and foster their inclusivity.

WERA IRNs will be highly recognized by WERA and visible on the WERA website. While IRNs do not receive direct funding, they draw upon and benefit from WERA human and financial resources.

IRN proposal to be submitted to WERA email account: [wera@aera.net](mailto:wera@aera.net)

## Submissions and Questions

WERA-IRN proposals must be submitted electronically via e-mail to [\*wera@aera.net\*](mailto:wera@aera.net). Please include the surname(s) of the organizer(s) in the subject line of the e-mail in the format “WERA-IRN Proposal – SURNAME(S).”

Questions to the WERA Committee on International Research Networks should also be directed to [wera@aera.net](mailto:wera@aera.net).

**DEADLINE: 15 February 2019**