

Landscape Research Networks

Guidelines

What is an LRN?

Landscape Research Networks (LRNs) are networks of landscape researchers and practitioners, bounded by a geographical region, or theme. They offer Landscape Research Group (LRG) members regular opportunities to exchange and forge partnerships ‘on the ground,’ and help further landscape thinking in that region, as a ‘hub.’

The LRG wishes to support ongoing interdisciplinary work and exchange in landscape, with a particular focus on work that contributes towards greater justice and sustainability. Local and regional networks of people in landscape-related fields, from artists to ecologists to planners, are a tangible way to:

- Facilitate exchange
- Promote an interdisciplinary, and ‘landscape’ approach to the complex issues we face
- Provide a visible space for landscape work in that region

LRNs may host a number of meetings or events each year, for their own members or for the public. Themes may mirror LRG (for example ‘language and landscape justice’), or may differ, depending on the interests and priorities of the network and region.

LRNs are organised and run primarily by members themselves, with support and oversight from the LRG Board of Directors and staff; see below.

Support provided by the Landscape Research Group

- Small amount of funding over 3 years, see below.
- Strategic support, when developing the plans for a specific LRN, and annually via the reporting process.
- Communication support and promotion of the LRN and its activities. This includes branding guidelines, use of the LRG logo, and promotion of the activities of the LRN on LRG channels: website, Twitter and Facebook.
- At public events run by the LRN, LRG will aim to have a staff member present, to help record the event and create content which can then be shared.
- LRN online: A dedicated space will be provided on the LRG website for each network. This will include a description, contact details of the coordinator and outline information about key events and developments. It can also feature content produced by the network, including reports, photo galleries, podcasts, films of the network’s workshops, fieldtrips and debates. We can easily share this content with a wider audience to promote the work of the LRN and support exchange at a broader level.
- Translation support, to enable content to be shared across different countries (e.g. subtitles).
- Further work: LRG is open to supporting an LRN work towards larger-scale activities, for example a conference or article submissions/special issue in our journal Landscape Research.

Indicative funding support:

Year	Funds available	Rationale
Year 1	£1,000-1,500	The largest funding amount, to help establish the LRN and secure a solid first event, at which more revenue/partnerships/support-in-kind can be made
Year 2	£750-1,000	A smaller amount to take into account the revenue made at the event(s), or in other ways e.g. partnership support-in-kind
Year 3	£500-750	A smaller amount again, to take into account the increased diversity of income/support the LRN has established
Year 4 onwards	£TBD	If the first three years go well, we wish to continue supporting the LRN with a small annual amount
TOTAL	£2,250-3,250	

There will be some flexibility around amounts given per year, taking into account the LRN's context, existing resources, achievements, relative costs in that region, as well as LRG's own financial situation.

Final amounts will be decided by LRG with information provided by the LRN. For example, if smaller-scale meetings are planned for Year 1, the LRN could have the smaller Year 1 budget, and then a larger budget in Year 2 for the first large event.

Proposals for LRNs will be strengthened by demonstrable partnership working and support-in-kind, which will help indicate the longer-term sustainability of the LRN, beyond our financial support.

The LRG will continue to support the LRN with communications and online support beyond any funding period.

LRN criteria/requirements

An LRG member may propose an LRN at any time, provided a number of conditions are met to ensure the LRN has the best chance of longevity, engagement and sustainability. These are:

- An LRN must be proposed by a minimum of two LRG members, preferably three. Those proposing an LRN can be from any category of [LRG membership](#).
- One member must take the role of main LRN co-ordinator and liaise closely with LRG. Proposals need to specify the overall objectives and planned activities.
- The proposal should explain how the LRN's focus will relate to and help implement [LRG's Research Strategy](#).
- Individuals wishing to join an LRN must be LRG members. They can be an existing member or must join LRG at the point of joining the LRN.
- The LRN co-ordinators/members will develop/grow the network and undertake all operational logistics such as organising an event.
- LRNs will organise at least one event per year, such as seminars, workshops, field trips, walk and talks:
 - The event(s) should be organised with at least two of the LRN co-ordinators present

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- At least one of the events each year should be open to the public
- The event(s) should feature the work of network members
- Ideally, the event theme will link to an LRG research theme in some way. In most cases this should be fine. If there is no way to link it, please let me know!
- All events will be documented in some way (with support from LRG staff), to ensure research transfer, and to promote and grow our LRG community.
- An assessment of potential income generation/support-in-kind, to outlast the funding we provide.
- An assessment of how the LRN plans to engage groups to ensure diversity of perspectives; member backgrounds, ages and ethnicity; and LRG's interdisciplinary nature, including what networks you will utilise and the potential for exposure and growth.
- Proposals need to specify an operating language(s). Knowing this will enable LRG to better support the LRN in terms of personnel and any additional support (e.g. translation) we can provide, if applicable.
- LRNs must report annually on their activities to LRG staff and the Community Development Coordinator, and/or we may invite the LRN to present their activities and findings at an LRG event, traditionally held in either May or December (please note expenses for this will be covered separately so do not need to be included in LRN budgeting). If English as a reporting language would be a barrier to the ongoing success of the LRN, we will mutually agree alternatives for updates and reports which could include translation, subtitles etc.

The LRG intends to issue an open call for proposals for 1-2 LRNs each year, and offer funding to support networks over a minimum of three years, but will accept expressions of interest for LRNs at any time.

Establishing an LRN

The process for proposing an LRN is as follows:

1. Informal chat

If you're interested in establishing a Landscape Research Network in your region, please be in touch with Sarah Hobbs, Membership & Communications Manager for an informal chat, in the first instance: sarah.hobbs@landscaperesearch.org.

If English as a spoken language is a barrier, we can arrange alternatives. Please let us know.

LRG can also provide outline details of numbers of existing members in the chosen region to help gauge what interest and scope there might be for establishing an LRN. We are also able to email all members from a specific country or region, and can do this on behalf of the LRN to help establish and promote it.

2. Submit proposal

Please submit a proposal document (will be posted online when applications are open), which contains details on all the above criteria, to Laurence le Du-Blayo, LRG's Community Development Coordinator. The proposal will be considered by a committee acting on behalf of the LRG Board. It may be a few months before you hear from us. We may also require clarification or further information – the process is open and we want to support you to establish the network.