



Engaging and Future-oriented Education for the Agenda 2030

Faculty of Wellbeing Education
and Language Studies (WELS)

Call for doctoral projects starting in October 2025

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Contents

Project description	3
Schools	3
Members	3
Background	3
Aims	4
Methodology	4
Contribution	5
Websites	5
PhD/EdD/DHSC project	6

Project description

Schools

Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport

Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

Languages and Applied Linguistics

Members

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Background

In 2015, UN Member States committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to secure a future of prosperity and peace for people and the planet, leaving no one behind. With only five years left to achieve the 2030 Agenda, urgent and coordinated efforts are essential. Research and Education play a key role.

The European Union-funded project METEOR – Methodologies for Teamworking in Eco-Outwards Research involves twelve countries: Austria, Brazil, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom.

Aims

The general aims are to:

- Benefit research ecosystems by promoting Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) with Open Science and advancing engaging and future-oriented education for the SDGs.
- Support researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in developing their capacity to collaborate, work in groups, and create international transdisciplinary projects that enhance doctoral employment opportunities and impact the 2030 Agenda.

Methodology

METEOR – Methodologies for Teamworking in Eco-Outwards Research includes:

- Collecting, analysing, and reporting evidence for researchers' professional development towards SDGs.
- Developing a comprehensive transversal skills training program with online training resources.
- Employing participatory research methodologies towards Agenda 2030 co-created with doctoral researchers, Early Career Researchers (ECRs), institutions, and researchers.
- Implementing resources and related activities through online and face-to-face events enhanced by qualitative and quantitative research approaches.
- Establishing Peer Mentoring Groups consisting of 4-6 researchers collaborating for 15 months, forming 50 groups across Europe to prepare 50+ proposals based on UN SDGs and focused on impact.
- Creating policy and exploitation routes to increase the scope of doctoral and postdoctoral research at local and national levels.
- Communicating and disseminating METEOR activities and results to a wider audience including researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and

academic practitioners to ensure the project's continuity beyond the funded period.

Contribution

The project contribution in the UK by the OU aims to:

- **Advance** the UN SDGs and UKRI, with a particular emphasis on quality education (SDG 4) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).
- **Address** pressing issues within the UK and global contexts, promoting sustainable development through education. Our team supports projects across the UK including South America (Brazil, Chile), Africa (Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Africa), and Asia (Indonesia).
- **Foster** innovative solutions and transdisciplinary frameworks at both national and cross-national aligned with UN, EU and UKRI agendas to enhance engaging, future-oriented education for Sustainability including Green Digital Transition, Humanitarian Settings, Human-Centred AI , and Global Education Development.
- **Partner** with the Open Societal Challenges Programme, involving ECRs and doctoral researchers in Education.
- **Enhance** the CARE-KNOW-DO framework in education and research for sustainability:
 - **CARE:** Cultivating concern and empathy towards open societal challenges.
 - **KNOW:** Developing knowledge and skills in context and for action.
 - **DO:** Empowering action and practical solutions for sustainable development.

METEOR activities will benefit:

- **Doctoral candidates:** Improved job prospects and earnings.
- **Institutions:** Better recruitment, supervision, and more impactful research.
- **Industry/Public sector:** Employees with high-level research and transversal skills.
- **Society:** More research focused on addressing societal challenges.

Websites

<https://wels.open.ac.uk/schools/education-childhood-youth-and-sport>

<https://research.open.ac.uk/societal-challenges>

PhD/EdD/DHSC project

We welcome proposals from practitioners, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and educators committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Potential research areas include, but are not limited to:

1. Sustainability Education

- Investigate future-oriented curricula and pedagogies designed for sustainability careers and active citizenship.
- Analyse understanding and actions related to the biosphere, society, and economy, supporting educational projects or programs.
- Evaluate school and university practices aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Examine advancements in Early Childhood Education, focusing on foundational aspects for all children.

2. Green Digital Transition

- Explore emerging technologies such as Extended Reality (XR) and AI in Education.
- Assess STEAMH engagement strategies focusing on sustainability and fun in learning.
- STEAMH= Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths and Humanities.

3. Inclusive and Equitable Learning

- Research diversity, equity, and inclusive practices in education for sustainability.
- Study educational support and programmes for communities affected by conflict and crises.

4. Policy and Partnerships

- Analyse and transform sustainability-focused educational policies
- Develop frameworks for industry-education collaborations in sustainability.

Engaging and Future-oriented Education



Reflexivity for Transformative Research Practices supported by Open Science with and for Society

Interculturality - Inclusion
Collaboration - Teamwork
Supervision - Mentoring
Evaluation - Design
Management - Implementation
Entrepreneurship - Career
Communication - Dissemination

Peer Mentoring Groups with Responsible Research and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.



Source: The OU – METEOR Project 2025–2028

