

Expression of Interest: Development of Freshwater Biology & Ecology Training Modules

FWR/FBA is seeking to appoint an independent contractor (or contractors) to develop a structure and learning materials for, and delivery of, two online training modules on freshwater biology and ecology, following the publication of the [Freshwater Biology and Ecology Handbook](#) in July 2022.

This is a pilot project to develop and test training modules for water professionals. Findings from the project will be used to determine whether to develop a more comprehensive training course.

The pilot project will be overseen by the FBA and the contractor will work closely with the FWR/FBA project team.

1. Overview of the project

This project aims to enhance the quality and expertise of water management professionals through the development and delivery of training modules on freshwater biology and ecology. The course will aim to improve decision making, skills, reporting and communication on water quality and ecosystems, in the UK, Europe and overseas.

The pilot project will involve the development of two online training modules on topics of freshwater biology and ecology aimed at water professionals. The content of the modules should be aligned with current best practice in the water sector and should incorporate systems-thinking principles. Content will be informed by the recently published Freshwater Biology and Ecology Handbook and associated graphics. The book contains a significant portion of the technical information needed and the book authors are able to assist with elements of the module development. The training modules should consist of a number of complementary resources, including an active participation element.

The pilot project will also assess the feasibility of establishing a wider training course covering the key topics within freshwater biology and ecology. The training materials and resources will have IES/FWR/FBA branding only and will need to be approved by IES before delivery. Copyright of the course materials and resources will be assigned to FWR/IES.

Pilot project objectives

- Identify training priorities and needs within the water sector on freshwater biology and ecology
- Develop two stand-alone training modules, one technical, skills-based module and one strategic, to address identified priorities
- Trial training resources and refine as needed
- Evaluate project and assess feasibility of wider training programme

Pilot project deliverables

- Develop evaluation criteria of pilot aligned with the objectives above
- Conduct market research of target audience/s to identify needs and priorities for training around freshwater biology and ecology, and potential price points, with a view to different audience types (e.g. biology, ecology, policy, research, water professionals and citizen scientists) through survey data and interviews with employers, where appropriate.
- Identification of two topics to explore through dedicated training modules; this will consist of one technical module and one strategic module, and articulation of learning objectives
- With an eye to audience type, determine appropriate components of training modules, with inclusion of an active participation element, e.g., online workshops, face-to-face training. Other resources could include online resources, supporting documents/activities etc.

- Development of two online training modules and associated resources.
- Test delivery of modules at Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences: June 2023, to achieve IES Short Course Endorsement and make any subsequent refinement as needed.
- Two online meetings with project board to provide updates on project deliverables.
- End of project report summarising evaluation and feasibility of developing a wider training programme, including consideration of how the training resources longevity can be assured.

Project key dates

- Start project: April 2023
- Test delivery of modules at Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences: June 2023
- Final project report deadline and project end: August 2023

2. Who we are looking for

We are keen to receive expressions of interest from both experienced scientists/lecturers and early career scientists and post-doctoral researchers. However, all applicants will be expected to have experience of developing or delivering teaching/training courses and good knowledge of freshwater biology and ecology and environmental protection.

This tender requires a person/persons capable of working with IES/FBA to deliver all elements of the pilot programme. The project needs educational expertise to provide high quality training modules for a mixed learning environment. This could include some remote learning, but also elements that might be delivered by IES/FBA experts.

3. Insurance

Ideally, contractors should have full Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance up to a value of £500,000 in each case. However, we acknowledge that this may be difficult for some independent experts. We would be happy to explore insurance options with candidates to overcome this issue. It should not be a primary reason for not applying.

4. Funding available

The budget for this tender is fixed at £8,000 (including VAT, if applicable). For simplicity, the preferred payment method would be to pay on completion, however staged payment could be considered if needed.

5. About the IES/FWR and FBA

This project is being funded by Foundation for Water Research, part of the Institution of Environmental Sciences family (IES/FWR) and delivered in partnership with the Freshwater Biological Association.

The IES is a membership organisation representing the full spectrum of environmental disciplines – from fields as diverse as air quality, land condition, marine science and education – wherever you find environmental work underpinned by science. The IES inherited FWR in summer 2022 and will be taking forward its mission to advance the education of the public in science, engineering and management of water through specialist forums, reviews of current knowledge, publishing and information support. This project is being supported as part of this work.

The Freshwater Biological Association (FBA) is a Non-Governmental Organisation and charitable trust dedicated to understanding and conserving freshwaters across the globe. FBA provides essential conservation actions, long-term data, and training to equip amateurs and professionals to engage with the nature and climate emergencies. We advance freshwater science and conservation action to protect our freshwaters by delivering and enabling freshwater science, conservation action, advocacy and learning programmes. FBA collaborates with public, private, academic, third and civil sector organisations with an interest in better understanding and conserving freshwater ecosystems.

6. Management

A manager within FBA will be appointed and the contractor(s) will report directly to that nominated manager. An informal FWR/FBA project team will be set up. The team will work closely with the contractor to assist in delivery and to ensure transfer of expertise from the book.

All tenders received will be reviewed by IES/FBA. A decision to offer a contract to undertake the work will be made on the basis of a combination of experience relevant to the brief and the strength of the tender.

7. Format of Expression of Interest

We are seeking expressions of interest for this contract.

Your EOI should be no more than 4 sides of A4 (+summary CV) and contain the following information:

- Contact information
- Personal/company information/summary CV
- Statement of capability, including relevant experience and technical expertise
- Proposed methodology and costings
- Knowledge and availability
- References

8. Contact details

Any questions or queries in relation to this brief should be directed to:

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9. Closing date for Expressions of Interest

Please ensure your expression of interest is submitted by Friday 24th March 2023 by e-mail to SJohnson@fba.org.uk