

# Expression of interest

# Title: NATIONAL PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF ADULT COMPETENCieS (PIAAC) 2021 FOR Participating home nations

**Project reference: 2017086**

**Deadline for expressions of interest: noon, Friday 27 July 2018.**

## Summary

Expressions of interest are sought to form the National Centre to administer the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Developments (OECD) Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) 2021 in England and possibly Wales and Northern Ireland.

Studies such as PIAAC compare education outcomes around the world. They help us to understand the strengths of our education system and where we need to improve. It is DfE’s vision to offer world-class education, training and care for everyone, whatever their background. International comparison studies such as PIAAC tell us how well we are doing this. PIAAC is an internationally comparable measure of adults’ core skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT, triangulated with their qualifications, employment and use of skills both within and outside of work.

**The role of the National Centre will be to:**

* Undertake the National Project Manager role, acting as the UK representative within the OECD’s PIAAC 2021 National Project Management meetings and inputting to the decisions on how PIAAC 2021 will be delivered across all participating countries.
* Administer the PIAAC 2021 field trial and main study in the participating home nations according to the specification agreed at international level by the PIAAC Board of Participating Countries, and meeting OECD requirements in order that data for the nations are included within the international dataset, analysis and reporting.
* Collect sufficient data for results to be reported for England (and for Wales and Northern Ireland if they choose to participate) as sub-national regions in the annexes of the international reports.
* Prepare and disseminate national reports for each of England (and Wales and Northern Ireland if they choose to participate) which present their results in both an international context, and according to the national priorities of each devolved authority.
* The devolved administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland are currently considering participation[[1]](#footnote-1), but if they do participate, the National Centre will need the capacity to deliver a single field trial, encompassing all participating nations, and separate main study surveys in each nation. This may include Welsh language translation.

This expression of interest was posted on Friday 6th July 2018.

## Background

The OECD’s Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) 2021 is a direct and internationally comparable assessment of adult skills and competencies. PIAAC 2021 will survey representative samples of the adult population between 16 and 65 years of age in a household context. In addition to direct assessments of competencies, the survey will seek to capture the use of individuals’ skills in the workplace, as well as background characteristics and labour market outcomes. Participation in PIAAC 2021 is open to member and non-member countries in line with the OECD’s global relations strategy.

The 2021 study will take place 10 years after the first study in 2011. Much of the 2021 study design will remain the same as in 2011 to provide a stocktake on the skills of participating countries’ working-age adults and allow direct comparison with the 2011 results. The high-level timeline for the 2021 study is as follows:

* Platform and Instrument Development: Jan 2018 – March 2019
* Preparation for Field Trial (FT): March 2019 – March 2020
* Field Trial Data Collection and Analysis: April 2020 – Dec 2020
* Preparation for Main Study (MS): Nov 2020 – July 2021
* Main Study data collection, analysis and reporting: Aug 2021 – Dec 2023
* A consortium of organisations, appointed after competitive tendering and led by the US-based Educational Testing Service (ETS), has a contract with the OECD to coordinate PIAAC 2021 internationally.
* More background on the OECD and PIAAC can be found at <http://www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/>.
* The international report for the 2011 study can be found at <http://www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/skills-matter-9789264258051-en.htm> and national reports <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-survey-of-adult-skills-2012>

## Evaluation aims

The main aims of the PIAAC 2021 study are to:

* Produce skills data to analyse recent reforms and to shape and inform the overall adult skills national policy areas.
* Provide an international comparison of our skills levels.
* Provide the opportunity to monitor trends in adult learning and skills since 2011.

## Methodology

An OECD led Board of Participating Countries (BPC) governs PIAAC’s research methodology. A consortium led by the US-based Educational Testing Service (ETS) has a contract with OECD to coordinate PIAAC internationally.

*We would expect our National Centre to:*

1. Work with OECD’s international contractors to finalise the design of PIAAC 2021 such that it best meets the needs of the Department for Education (DfE) (and possible other Government Departments).
2. Design the national research project to align with the OECD requirements, in the context of the UK.
3. Deliver the national research project in the UK. This will include:
   1. Adapting instruments to the context of England (and other UK nations if applicable).
   2. Testing the instruments for suitability in the national context of UK;
   3. Piloting the study in such a way that the pilot can be used to develop the main study design nationally and internationally;
   4. Developing a plan that can achieve strict response rate targets;
   5. Finalising the main study samples in each of the countries;
   6. Delivering the laptop-based assessment[[2]](#footnote-2) and background questionniares in the sampled households;
   7. Processing and marking responses, and returning the coded data to the international contractor in accordance with the standard specification;
   8. Conducting analysis of the international dataset (to meet the aims outlined above).
4. Disseminate findings of the survey through the production of national reports, infographic and slide packes, accessible data analysis and manipulation tools, dissemination events and thematic publications.
5. Undertaking additional analysis as necessary.

## Timing

* Deadline for EOIs – 12 noon Friday 27th July
* Invitation to Tender issued – W/C 20th August
* Deadline for tender submission – Friday 28th September
* Clarification interviews – W/C 22nd October
* Contract signed – November 2018

The overall project timetable is set out below, but be advised this is indicative only at this stage.

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| Field test preparation | March 2019 – March 2020 |
| Field trial fieldwork and analysis | April 2020 – December 2020 |
| Main study preparation | November 2020 – July 2021 |
| Main study fieldwork, analysis and reporting | August 2021 – December 2023 |

We envisage national reporting on a similar timescale. The contract will run until March 2024.

## Assessment criteria

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the following criteria:

The successful bidder will provide evidence they have:

* effective project management skills and experience of administering national and international assessments or research programmes in the education sector similar in scope and scale to PIAAC
* a record of success in engaging households (securing high response rates) in a face-to-face testing setting
* proven ability of using and combining sources of data and applying advanced statistical techniques to produce high quality analysis relevant to the priorities of a range of stakeholders
* political awareness and the ability to identify relevant evidence gaps and tailor products to these where required

Evidence against each of these four criteria will be scored using the following scale:

0. No relevant evidence provided

1. Evidence provided was limited or failed to show how the bidder meets the criteria

2. Evidence meets the criteria

3. Evidence offered exceeds the criteria

Only organisations that score a 2 or higher on each of criteria A, B, C and D will be invited to Tender.

Each one of these criteria has equal weighting.

Expressions of interests submitted must be no more than 1000 words overall including any website links – please note anything longer will be disregarded.

| **Closing date for EOIs: Noon on Friday 27 July.**  **Send your EOI form to:** [**international.surveys@education.gov.uk**](mailto:international.surveys@education.gov.uk) |
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## How to submit an expression of interest

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) in order to be considered to be invited to tender. To do so, please complete the NEW EOI Form which can be found under attachments. A submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and the Department does not routinely advise organisations that they have not been successful in being invited to tender. Feedback is however available on request.

All contracts are let on the basis of the [Department’s Terms and Conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eoi-guide). You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

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1. We will have final confirmation before issuing the full invitation to tender, which will include full details on sample sizes and coverage required. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. We have taken the decision not to include a paper-based alternative to laptop administered assessments and questionnaire. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)