

# Expression of interest

# IEA Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2023 - National Study Center for England

**Project reference:** 20-21/005

**Deadline for expressions of interest:** Thursday 29th October 5pm

## Summary

Expressions of interest are invited to form the National Study Center (NSC) to administer the **Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2023** in England (only).

## Background

England participates in international comparison studies to benchmark our education policy and performance against other countries, review system strengths and weaknesses in an international context, and monitor trends over time. This aligns with DfE’s vision to provide world-class education, training and care for everyone, whatever their background.

Organised by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), TIMSS compares the mathematics and science knowledge of pupils age 9-10 and 13-14 (equivalent to school years 5 and 9 in England). The study is administered in around 150 primary schools and 150 secondary schools in each participating country.

The study also collects important background data that can be used to improve teaching and learning, such as information about the curriculum and curriculum implementation, instructional practices, and school resources. The TIMSS 2023 study will be computer-based (eTIMSS).

A copy of the IEA TIMSS 2023 brochure is attached for information. More background on the IEA and TIMSS can be found at [www.iea.nl](http://www.iea.nl/). The England country results and information about numbers of schools and pupils that took part in the 2015 TIMSS study can be found in the [TIMSS 2015 national report for England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/timss-2015-national-report-for-england) on gov.uk. The TIMSS 2019 results are due to be published on 8th December 2020.

## Evaluation aims

The aims of the TIMSS 2023 study are to:

* provide an assessment of the maths and science performance of year 5 and year 9 pupils;
* gather contextual information to identify and analyse factors that impact on pupil attainment; and
* gather data to enable international comparisons with other participating countries and to measure trends over time.

## Methodology

The TIMSS research methodology is largely determined by IEA in collaboration with participating countries. Bidders can add particular value to the success of the project through the recruitment and support of schools, and presentation and dissemination of findings.

England's NSC will be required to:

1. Provide a National Research Coordinator (NRC) as England’s main contact person for all aspects of the study with responsibility for the implementation of the study in England, including the coordination of all tasks.
2. Work with IEA and its contractors to shape the study internationally to reflect England’s policy priorities.
3. Design the national research project to meet TIMSS requirements in England.
4. Deliver the national research project in England. This will include:

* adapting instruments for context;
* testing the instruments for suitability for deployment in England;
* piloting the study in such a way that the pilot can be used to develop the main study design nationally and internationally;
* completing sampling – populating the study sample frame with details of all eligible schools in England in order to allow the International Study Centre to draw school samples;
* developing a school engagement and recruitment plan that leads to the achievement of response rate targets;
* administering computer-based assessment and background questionnaires in the sampled schools;
* processing and coding responses, and returning the coded data to the international contractor; and
* conducting analysis of the international dataset (summer / autumn 2023) to meet the aims outlined above.

1. Disseminate findings of the survey in ways which meet study requirements including:

* analytical report(s) of study findings for England;
* information for participating schools presenting comparisons of their pupils to others in England and/or internationally; and
* other dissemination outputs and activities to engage/influence education sector stakeholders.

The school engagement strategy and the analysis and dissemination of findings are not directed by IEA. At tender stage, we will invite organisations to present their unique approach to these aspects of the study.

## Timing

It is anticipated that the project will begin upon signing of contracts and end in approximately June 2025. However, except for the deadline for return of expressions of interest, the dates given below are indicative only and are subject to change according to the requirements of IEA and the Department.

*Outline study timetable*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stage** | **Activity** | **Date(s)** |
| Field trial | Fieldwork preparation (field trial) | February 2021 – March 2022 |
| Field trial | Field trial test window | March – April 2022 |
| Field trial | Scoring / marking | April – May 2022 |
| Field trial | Creating the data files and reviewing the data | By end May 2022 |
| Main study | Fieldwork preparation (main study) | April 2022 – February 2023 |
| Main study | Main study test window | March – June 2023 |
| Main study | Scoring / marking | June – September 2023 |
| Main study | Creating the data files and reviewing the data | By end September 2023 |
| Reporting | Completing curriculum questionnaire and drafting encyclopedia entry | March 2023 – February 2024 |
| Reporting | Preparing report of national findings and dissemination activities | February 2024 – February 2025 |

*Outline procurement timetable*

* Expressions of interest must be submitted by **5pm** on **Thursday 29th October 2020.**
* We expect that invitations to tender will be issued to short-listed organisations during the week beginning **9th November 2020.**
* The deadline for return of tenders is likely to be in the week commencing **7th December 2020**.
* Tender invitation interviews are likely to be in the week commencing **11th January 2021**.

## Assessment criteria

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Evidence of effective project management skills and experience of administering international assessments or research programmes in the education sector similar in size to TIMSS;
2. A record of success in securing high response rates from a selected sample of schools using innovative approaches to reduce burden on schools and teachers;
3. 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;
4. Excellent knowledge of the school system and maths and science curriculum in England,

including political awareness in order to identify relevant evidence gaps and tailor products to these where required.

Each one of these criteria has equal weighting.

An evaluation panel will score expressions received 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 exceeds the criteria

**Please provide evidence against each criteria. Only organisations and/or consortia that score a 2 or higher on each of criteria A, B, C and D will be invited to tender.**

## 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. Expressions of interests submitted must be **no more than 1000 words overall** (including external links); anything longer will be disregarded.

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 & Conditions**, a copy is available attached to the Contracts Finder listing. You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

| **Closing date for EOIs:** Thursday 29th October 2020 5pm  **Send your EOI form to:** [international.surveys@education.gov.uk](mailto:international.surveys@education.gov.uk) |
| --- |

© Crown copyright 2020