

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO HOST mLearn2018: THE 17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE IAmLearn, TO BE HELD IN 2018



The International Association for Mobile Learning (IAmLearn) is seeking Expressions of Interest to host the mLearn conference in 2018. mLearn is the leading annual international conference for researchers, policy makers, educators, developers and solutions providers in the fields of mobile, ubiquitous and contextual learning and learning with emerging ambient technologies. It attracts participants from more than 60 countries.

The benefits of hosting an mLearn conference

- The hosting institution, or consortium, and the lead academic/s will benefit from the prestige attached to organising the premier international conference in an exciting and rapidly growing field.
- mLearn 2002 was the first international mobile learning conference and the series continues to provide the leading annual event with worldwide reach, attracting key players in the field and delivering high academic quality, whilst also being attractive to education and training practitioners and industry.
- mLearn is the only conference endorsed by the International Association for Mobile Learning (IAmLearn), a membership association which promotes excellence in research, development and application of mobile and contextual learning.
- The mLearn conference series has an established relationship with the official journal of IAmLearn, the International Journal of Mobile and Blended Learning (IJMBL). This is the leading journal in mobile learning, indexed in Scopus and PsycINFO and included in the ACM digital library. In line with established practice, organisers can anticipate a peer-reviewed Special Issue coming out of the conference, thus incentivising academic contributions.
- Income from the conference, after all costs including a contribution to IAmLearn have been covered, is retained by the hosting institution or consortium.
- mLearn offers unique opportunities for networking with key academic and commercial contacts.

The responsibilities

Working in cooperation with IAmLearn, the host organisation will take responsibility for the local administration and the academic quality of content. The host organisation will gain financial benefits from a successful conference and must be prepared to underwrite any financial losses.

Guidelines for Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest should be submitted to IAmLearn Vice President Professor Herman van der Merwe by email at Herman.vanderMerwe@nwu.ac.za by the 30th of June 2017. The Expressions of Interest will be assessed by the IAmLearn Executive Committee and the successful consortium will be notified by 15 July 2017.

The Expression of Interest should briefly describe each of the following (3 pages max please):

- The envisaged scope and theme(s) of the conference
- The rationale for hosting the conference in your country
- The organisation/s which will be responsible for the conference and their previous experience of organising international academic conferences (consortia should include at least one university)
- The conference chair and the leading academics to be involved and how academic quality will be ensured
- The venue and facilities available and the arrangements for publication of papers
- The envisaged budget, **including a break-even analysis**
- The envisaged sponsorships and companies that will be targeted for sponsorships
- Ideas for extending the reach of the conference, for example any fee-paying on-line access to the conference giving remote presenters presentation and publication opportunities
- The expected arrangements for conference management and organisation
- How delegates from around the world will be attracted, including delegates from the developer, practitioner, commercial and policy communities, and details of any identified or potential sponsors or endorsements.
- The approximate dates on which you wish to host the conference (mLearn usually takes place in a date range between mid-October to mid-November each year)
- Any additional information of importance

The mLearn 2018 conference will add to the findings, knowledge sharing and community building of all the preceding conferences held in: Birmingham, London, Rome, Cape Town, Banff, Melbourne, Telford, Florida, Malta, Beijing, Helsinki, Doha, Istanbul, the Mediterranean and Sydney and the forthcoming conference in the Cyprus (30 October – 1 November 2017) - see <http://iamlearn.org/mlearn/index.php> or http://iamlearn.org/?page_id=18 for archived websites for some of these conferences (towards the bottom of the page).

Interested parties are welcome to contact me by email for informal discussion in advance of their submission.

Herman van der Merwe

Vice President, International Association for Mobile Learning