

Limmud Request for Proposals for Research Study

Part 1. Overview Information

Title: Limmud Impact Study

Type of Research Project: Program Evaluation

Opportunity Synopsis: Through a commissioned research project, we wish to determine the impact of Limmud on the lives of the volunteers interfacing with the organisation. Limmud's mission says, 'Wherever you find yourself, Limmud will take you one step further on your Jewish journey.' How successful are we in doing that? Does Limmud take people one step further on their Jewish journeys, and if so, what impact does that have on volunteers' lives and their Jewish communities?

The successful application will assess and measure changes in the level of Jewish community involvement and activities for people who have volunteered with Limmud, and analyse those volunteer's perceptions of the impact Limmud has had on their lives. It is anticipated that the research will be primarily in the form of a questionnaire, followed by a set of 1:1 interviews.

The results of the study will be used to formulate recommendations to Limmud on an organisational level, in terms of what could be changed and/ or improved to support and service the global Limmud network of independent Limmud groups, and to document our level of success.

Application Due Date: proposals should be submitted by **November 6, 2017** by email to: eli@limmud.org

Expected Start Date: November 20, 2017

Further dates:

- Proposals shortlisted and chosen by mid-November 2017
- Data collection
 - December 2017 (Questionnaires followed by possibility of interviews at Limmud Festival)
 - January-February 2018 (interviews by phone)
 - Early May 2018 (possibility of interviews at Limmud Global Volunteer Forum)
- Analysis and Presentation of Findings (a Report and webinar): Interim March 2018; final mid-May 2018

Background on Limmud: Limmud is a pioneer in cross-communal and inter-generational Jewish learning, organised and run almost entirely by volunteers. The first Limmud Conference was in the UK in 1980; our UK Conference (now referred to as Festival) attracts some 2,700 people.

The model has inspired dozens of Jewish communities worldwide to create their own Limmud events unified by a common set of values. Since 2006, Limmud has formally supported, developed and connected these grass-roots volunteer-led cross-communal communities. It does this by providing them with training, mentoring and support for the sharing of ideas and best practices.

Each Limmud community shares common values, yet runs an independent programme and budget.

The central organisation based in the UK provides training, support and special programmes to groups around the world. It is governed by a board of trustees and has a dedicated connections team that works with individual groups on a regional basis.

Limmud carried out a study “Jewish Learning Communities on a Global Scale” in 2012 – report found here: <http://www.limmudinternational.org/images/stories/Articles/limmud%20international%20study%20-%20print%20version%20with%20introduction%20by%20helena%20miller.pdf>

Limmud’s treasurer, chief executive and international coordinator will work with the researcher on the impact study.

Part 2. Full Text of Announcement

2.1 Research Goals and Objectives. Limmud is looking to evaluate the impact of the Volunteer Journey: Our hypotheses are:

1. *Volunteers do take at least one step further on their Jewish journeys.*
2. *People who have volunteered with Limmud increase their involvement in the Jewish community and take in leadership roles both within Limmud and elsewhere.*
3. *Volunteers experience Limmud as a major driver of their increased involvement.*
4. *Volunteers believe that Limmud has positively impacted their lives.*

Limmud envisions a retrospective study, asking participants to evaluate where they were at the beginning of their Limmud journey, where they are, and how Limmud helped them, measuring their responses both quantitatively and qualitatively. See appendix one for first draft of suggested research questions.

2.2 Target groups for data collection:

Limmud volunteers to include:

- i) Chairs/ Board level leadership of individual Limmud groups
- ii) Limmud volunteers globally who have been part of a steering group/ core event team at any time in the past ten years
- iii) Organisational volunteers such as on the technology or marketing team
- iv) Limmud volunteers who have taken part in our regional and international training programmes

2.3 Study Requirements:

- Limmud would wish to review all draft questions by end of November 2017
- The study should include:
 - a. Samples should include varying levels and years of involvement in their Limmud, and a broad range of ages and geographical focus
 - c. Detailed description of research methods that will be used and justification for their use.

• **How & When data will be gathered:** Limmud together with the researcher will formulate a representative sample of volunteers – covering different geographical areas, ages and levels/lengths of organisational involvement.

The applicant will host the online survey and collate all data for appropriate analysis and reports. Raw data will be delivered to Limmud at the conclusion of the project.

2.4. Eligibility requirements:

- Familiar with Limmud and/or other grassroots/volunteer-led organisations
- Good conversational and written English

2.5 Funding available:

Range of £2,850-6,690 GBP for a researcher to coordinate the project, analyse Limmud surveys data, conduct an agreed number of interviews and produce a report. This amount includes any expenses incurred. Limmud will provide experienced volunteers and professional support to help with study as needed.

If deemed necessary for the Study, Limmud will cover a day place at Festival and the Global Volunteer Forum in order to conduct interviews. Limmud will also cover pre-agreed questionnaire and transcript translation costs if needed.

Limmud will also provide one complimentary place to Festival 2018 to incentivise volunteers to participate in the study. A prize draw will take place at the conclusion of the data gathering stage.

Part 3. Proposal Format

Applicants should send in a proposal that covers the following:

3.1 Letter of Intent (one page)

- a. Brief description of applicant and experience in work related to RFP

3.2 Research Aims, Goals and Hypotheses (one page)

- a. Should be stated succinctly, each in one or two sentences
- b. Should be testable by methods described in Research Plan section
- c. Should be aligned with Funding Opportunity goals

3.3 Applicant Background

- a. Description of applicant organisation and structure
- b. Key personnel who will work on the proposed study – names, roles

3.5. Study Methods

- a. Sample selection and justification of sample size selection: Detailed description of how subjects for the study will be selected and approached. Will there be adequate plans for including sub-groups including consideration of age, sex, ethnicity, sub-group membership, etc. Justify inclusion and exclusion requirements for study subject participation.
- c. Data collection methods: Include information on all instruments to be used, methods for questionnaires and interviewing subjects, and methods for recording and storing data.
- d. Analytical methodology: Describe methods for data reduction and analysis. How will qualitative data be reviewed, key themes selected and recorded, and subsequent data analyzed?
- e. Justification of research design: What other designs and methods were considered? What are the possible limitations or pitfalls of the chosen design and how might these be dealt with during the study?

3.6 Study Deliverables: A brief presentation outlining the findings and recommendations will also be shared – on a call/webinar with stakeholders, followed by a written report to be shared with Limmud’s board in mid-May 2018 along with all survey instruments, a complete data file and any interview transcripts.

3.7 Detailed Budget

3.8 Outputs

Provide Limmud with:

- a) Questions for survey by beginning of December 2017
- b) Initial survey questionnaire responses and preliminary findings by March 2018 (and possibility of additional qualitative responses after the global volunteer forum in May 2018)
- c) Final paper and recommendations by mid-May 2018
- d) Periodic meetings/ calls approximately every two weeks with the Limmud team to discuss progress

Part 4: Criteria for Selection

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated expertise, capacity, and experience in related areas
- The consultant’s understanding of the project requirements
- Commitment to project deadlines
- Detailed work plan, reflecting well-reasoned and appropriate overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to accomplish the aim of the project
- Overall cost
- References

Part 5: For further information:

- Eli Ovits, Chief Executive
- +44(0)203 115 1620; eli@limmud.org
- Mailing Address: 1a Hall Street, London, N12 8DB, United Kingdom

Appendix One: Draft Suggested Questions

The applicant is invited to comment and improve upon this initial outline, working with Limmud officers:

Think about your very first Limmud experience.

- How old were you?
- How would you describe your level of Jewish knowledge at the time? (scale)
- How involved were you in the Jewish community at the time? (scale)
- Which of these statements applied to you at the time?
 - I was a member of a synagogue.
 - I held, or had already held, a leadership position in my synagogue or another Jewish organisation.
 - I was a rabbi.
 - I was a Jewish educator.
 - I had many Jewish friends.
 - I felt connected to the Jewish community.
 - ??more
- What was your profession at the time of your first Limmud experience?
 - Student
 - Jewish professional
 - Professional (doctor, lawyer, accountant, etc.)
 - Academic (secular)
 - Business
 - ??more
- What was your personal status at that time?
 - Married or in a long-term committed relationship, with children
 - Married or in a long-term committed relationship, no children
 - Divorced or widowed
 - Single, never married

Now think about yourself today.

(same list of questions, present tense)

add:

- I have been a volunteer for Limmud.
- I have been on a UK Regional Limmud event team.
- I have been on a non-UK Limmud event team.
- I have chaired a UK Regional or non-UK event.
- I have been on a Conference team.
- I have been on a Conference core team.
- I have chaired Conference.
- I have been on a Limmud Organisational team (such as Tech or Marketing)
- I have chaired a Limmud Organisational Team
- I have served on the Limmud Board
- I have served on a local Limmud board

- To what extent do you agree with the following statements?
 - I made friends at Limmud
 - I developed leadership skills through my involvement with Limmud
 - I developed other useful skills through my involvement with Limmud
 - I met my life partner through Limmud
 - I moved further on my Jewish journey because of Limmud
 - I made professional contacts through Limmud
 - I changed my profession in part because of my involvement with Limmud
 - I am more involved in the Jewish community than I would have been without Limmud
 - I feel more connected to other Jewish people because of Limmud

In what ways has Limmud helped you develop personally?

In what ways has Limmud helped you develop in your working life?

In what ways has Limmud helped you develop your social life?

(If more knowledgeable) In what ways was Limmud helpful in increasing your Jewish knowledge?

(If more involved) In what ways did your Limmud experiences help you get more involved with the Jewish community?