

# North East Centre for Transformative Education and Research (NECTER) Constitution

## 1. Name

The name of the group shall be NECTER or North East Centre for Transformative Education and Research.

## 2. Objects

NECTER is a network of individuals and institutions recognised by the United Nations University as a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) in Education for Sustainable Development. It is part of a United Nations initiative to promote Education for Sustainable Development in a growing global network.

The objects of NECTER are to

- a. present the best transformative education practices evident in the North East in the context of a global learning network, with a specific focus on creating new learning opportunities for young people.
- b. maintain a regional collaborative network of educators and practitioners for knowledge sharing related to and Education for Sustainable Development (EfSD)
- c. facilitate collaboration between existing projects, institutions and individuals and encourage new learning activities for the benefit of people of all ages across the region.
- d. identify quality transformative education across the North East of England so as to define what EfSD means in practice.
- e. engender a spirit of quality learning through EfSD.
- f. develop the terms of reference for quality research on transformative education and issues of sustainability.

NECTER is an inclusive regional network bringing people together to meet the challenges of the Twenty First Century. It will create opportunities for people to experience a learning environment beyond the classroom as a means of building their capacity to make a contribution to society, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.

## 3. Area of benefit

NECTER will work throughout the North East of England and Cumbria

## 4. Powers

To further the objects, NECTER has the power to

- employ and pay staff .
- recruit volunteers.
- work in partnership with other organisations.
- invest funds in any lawful way. Professional advice should be taken when necessary.
- raise funds by any lawful means.

- accept gifts either for the general purposes of NECTER or for a specific purpose within or connected to the objects.
- do anything else within the law which promotes or helps to promote the objects

## **5. Objectives and Project Membership**

NECTER will work with all interested parties who are prepared to contribute to projects and activities as outlined below.

Membership is open to any individual aged 18 or over or organisation involved in a project or activity which conforms with the objects of NECTER. Upon submission of a statement demonstrating the core elements above, membership of NECTER may be ascribed by agreement reached by a quorum of five members at general or project review meetings.

To be recognised by NECTER for membership purposes, projects and activities must demonstrate at least three of the four core elements outlined by United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies. That is, they must

1. be actively involved in transformative education - contributing to the transformation of the current education and training systems.
2. engage in collaboration across educational sectors (involving formal, semi-formal and informal mechanisms)
3. demonstrate openness of governance across all members.
4. contribute to research and development in the field of EfSD

All members may present themselves, individually or as representatives of projects or activities, to serve as ex officio representatives on the committee.

Each member has one vote at an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Separate groups may be established under the aegis of NECTER: for example a youth group, and arts group or other types of group as appropriate to the objects.

The committee must keep an up to date list of the members of NECTER.

A member may resign by written notice to the group.

If the committee considers that a member's conduct is harmful to NECTER

- The committee should ask the member concerned, or someone on behalf of the member concerned, to put his or her case to a committee meeting
- If after hearing the member's case the committee decides that the member should leave the group, they may terminate the membership by written notice. That notice is final

## **6. The Committee**

The group shall be managed by a committee of not less than five and not more than twelve members designated as officers.

All members may be accorded officer status as agreed at a plenary meeting held annually. Ex officio representatives may be appointed/co-opted to the steering committee upon quadrate agreement at any NECTER meeting.

Committee members shall stand from the end of the AGM that they were elected at to the end of the next AGM.

The committee's officers shall include

- A chair – elected at the AGM
- A secretary – elected or co-opted by the committee at a committee meeting
- A treasurer - elected or co-opted by the committee at a committee meeting
- Any other officers that the committee decides

A committee member can only fill one position.

The committee shall meet a minimum of four times a year, and must keep a formal record of all meetings.

The quorum for a management committee meeting is five members.

Each member has one vote, and if the vote is tied, the chair has a second casting vote.

The committee has the power to co-opt up to three members on to the committee to fill vacant places until the annual general meeting. Each co-opted member has one vote.

## **7. Responsibilities of members and officers**

As appropriate all members shall agree to share responsibilities with respect to the general management of NECTER.

All ex officio representatives should demonstrate a willingness to participate in the management of NECTER and should be prepared to undertake duties with respect to reporting to United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNUIAS) and attending international meetings and conferences on behalf of NECTER at the request of the committee, and in turn report back to the committee accordingly.

All members shall agree to acknowledge NECTER in all publicity, reporting and presentations related to projects and activities designated as NECTER activities.

All members shall agree to report activities to UNUIAS and other host organisations upon request of the committee.

If a member fails to present such works in this context, NECTER upholds the right to withdraw support and listing (NECTER badge) from the member, project, or activity.

The committee shall agree to review applications for NECTER membership within three months of receiving them. Review and designation of projects shall normally take place at a quarterly committee meeting or AGM.

When a project obtains NECTER recognition the committee undertake to submit it to UNUIAS for ratification as an RCE project within four weeks of the committee meeting at which it was recognised by NECTER.

## **8. General Meetings**

The secretary must give 21 days notice of a general meeting to all members.

All members are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

The quorum for a meeting is five members, or a tenth of the membership, whichever is the greater.

A formal record of a general meeting shall be kept.

The annual general meeting (AGM) shall be held in October each year, or as soon as possible afterwards.

The AGM will

- Receive nominations for the chair and other committee members
- Elect the chair and other committee members
- Receive a report of the year's activities
- Receive the year's accounts

The Chair and other committee members will be elected on a show of hands and serve from the end of the AGM to the end of the next AGM.

The committee can call a special general (SGM) at any time. If five members request a SGM in writing, the secretary must call one.

## **9. Finance**

All funds belonging to or raised for NECTER must be used in furthering the objects.

The treasurer shall keep an account of all income and expenditure and shall present examined accounts at the AGM.

An independent examiner, who is not a member of the group, shall be appointed to examine the accounts

There shall be one or more bank or building society accounts in the name of the group.

Cheques must be signed by two committee members, who must not be related.

Committee members may claim reasonable out-of-pocket expenses on terms approved by the committee.

## **10. Changes to the constitution**

This constitution can only be changed at a general meeting. The secretary must give 21 days notice of the meeting to all the members, along with details of the proposed changes to the constitution. For the constitution to be changed over half the members present at the meeting must agree.

## **11. Dissolution**

NECTER can only be dissolved at a general meeting. The secretary must give 21 days notice of the meeting to all the members, along with details of the proposed dissolution. For the group to be dissolved over half the members present at the meeting must agree.

If the members agree that the group should be dissolved, any assets remaining after the clearing of all debts and liabilities shall be given to any group with similar objects, or, if this cannot be done, to any charitable purpose.

**7. Arrangements until the first annual general meeting**

Until the first annual general meeting takes place, this constitution shall take effect as if references in it to the management committee were references to the people whose signatures appear at the bottom of the document.

**8. A copy of this constitution shall be available to all members.**

This constitution was approved at a general meeting of NECTER :

At Devonshire Building, Newcastle University on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011