Terms of Reference: ISEAL Learning Community criteria

Background Note (March 2019)

The following terms of reference were agreed at the April 2018 Board meeting.

Please note that what are referred to below as “entry and progress requirements” are now referred to as “learning community criteria” in the current consultation document and survey.

In addition, following the first consultation, transparency was highlighted as a form of rigour effective for building trust, Board meeting, Nov 2018.

Purpose

The purpose of the ISEAL entry and progress requirements is to establish clear criteria by which to evaluate whether applicants are a good fit for the ISEAL learning community and to ensure participants’ continued progress over time towards alignment with the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice.

Objectives

With the ISEAL entry and progress requirements, we are seeking to fulfil the following objectives:

- Broaden the range of organisations that can participate in the ISEAL learning community so as to strengthen the effectiveness of all participants;
- Establish a baseline that ensures a minimum level of alignment and commitment by prospective community participants;
- Allow for a simplified evaluation process to qualify new community participants;
- Provide a reference point for participants to improve their practices and against which their progress can be monitored;
- Seek consistency with the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice to set applicants on a path to Code compliance; and
- Retain a level of rigour that engenders trust between learning community participants.

Procedure

Entry and progress requirements will be defined during a simplified consultation process that allows for a first consultation period of 60 days, with a second round of consultation only if necessary. This consultation will address members and targeted stakeholders, where those targeted include potential participants in the learning community, stakeholders who are closely engaged with ISEAL, and expert stakeholders such as the Technical Committee. Similar to Code development and revision processes, the final decision on approval will be taken by the ISEAL Board.