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| Higher Education and Skills Group**Participation Branch Memo****Department of Education and Early Childhood Development** |

***NUMBER:*** *2016 / July / 12*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations *– ALL* | ACFE Board | ACFE Regional Councils |

**FROM:** Ryan Collins, Director, Participation Branch

**DATE: 12 July 2016**

**SUBJECT:** *2016 Higher Education and Skills Group International Fellowship*

**ACTIONS / CRITICAL DATES:**

*Higher Education and Skills Group (HESG) and International Specialised Skills Institute (ISS Institute) are offering 10 overseas Fellowships in the amount of $13,000 each.* ***Applications close at 4:00pm on Monday 26 September, 2016.***

**Background**

1. Higher Education and Skills Group (HESG) and International Specialised Skills Institute (ISS Institute) are offering 10 overseas Fellowships in the amount of $13,000 each.
2. The Fellowships aim to develop opportunities within the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector to assist in building an Education State in Victoria that produce excellence and reduces the impact of disadvantage.
3. These Fellowships are intended to examine innovative approaches that demonstrate potential benefits for, and application in, Victoria. A key outcome of each Fellowship is developing effective approaches for student engagement and participation, quality teaching and learning, employment and industry productivity.
4. The fellowships are available for vocational educational practitioners employed within the Victorian Government contracted Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and may include TAFEs and private RTOs or Learn Local Organisations (LLOs) registered with the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board.
5. Applications are invited for fellowships that will support the continued development of VET delivery with priority given to Developing Quality Education and Training Systems and/or Supporting Disadvantaged Persons through Education and Training.
6. The priority for the 2016 Fellowship is on two of the subject matters described below.

**Priority 1: Developing Quality Education and Training Systems for VET**

This must include at least one of the following:

* Delivering innovative and quality training that meets current and future industry needs
* Placing quality and continuous improvement at the heart of VET
* Developing greater employment and further educational outcomes
* Developing effective transition between pre-accredited and accredited training.

**Priority 2: Supporting Disadvantaged Persons through Education and Training**

This may focus on one or more of the four key components of engaging and supporting disadvantaged persons through education and training:

* **Outreach / Engagement:** A key part of the successful educational program lies in the ability to identify and engage disadvantaged persons to participate in education and training
* **Learner Support & Wellbeing:** Identifying and acting upon the welfare needs of disadvantaged persons is paramount to any successful educational program. Recognising that the sector is dealing with persons who have a variety of structural or situational obstacles before them that affect their ability to learn is essential. An effective educational program must make available the necessary and appropriate learner support and wrap around services for the learners
* **Teaching & Learning:** Teaching is crucial to the learning gained through the educational program and the richer the learning, the more meaningful the program. Engaging teaching methodologies need to be designed with an understanding of disadvantaged persons requirements, acknowledging their learning interests and building upon their pre-existing knowledge and skills
* **Pathways:** The education program must have the intent of developing skills and capabilities necessary to participate in further education and/or employment.

**Next Steps**

1. **Applications close at** **4:00pm on Monday 26 September, 2016**. Please refer to the Application Form (**Attachment 1)** for further detail.
2. Whether you have had previous experience in preparing submissions, require more information, or have never applied for any grant or Fellowship before, ISS Institute will assist you in the preparation of your application and welcome your enquiry by phone or email to (03) 9347 4583 or fellowships@issinstitute.org.au. Good luck!