

CMP - Learning Design SIG Research Mentorship Program for Third Space Professionals

Introduction

Following a highly successful first launch in 2025, the CMP-ASCILITE Learning Design SIG Research Mentorship Program returns to support Third Space professionals who want to build confidence, capability, and visibility in research.

This program provides structured mentoring, expert-led workshops, and peer learning opportunities. It is designed to help participants translate professional practice into scholarly and sector-relevant research outputs.

The program combines monthly group mentoring with a curated series of practical, interactive online workshops focused on research development dissemination.

Program objectives

Participants will:

- Receive mentorship and guidance – group mentoring from experienced Third Space leaders and ASCILITE LD SIG contributors, focused on translating practice into research.
- Develop research capability – explore research approaches aligned to Third Space roles and contexts, supporting meaningful and applied inquiry.
- Engage in peer learning and collaboration – build a trusted cohort to share practice, ideas, and feedback across institutions and roles.
- Learn from experts - participate in five practical, expert-led mini workshops focused on practical, hands-on activities to enhance participant engagement and learning.
- Build dissemination pathways – gain guidance on conferences, journals, and non-traditional channels, including digital identity and professional visibility.

Expert mini-workshop series

Topic 1: Introduction to Research for Third Space Professionals

Research questions, methodologies, and navigating Third Space research challenges.

Topic 2: Digital Presence and Professional Identity

Building and refining digital profiles (e.g. LinkedIn, blogs, ePortfolios) to support research visibility.

Topic 3: Conferences, forums, symposiums and events

From abstract submission to presentation, with practical guidance and examples.

Topic 4 – Publishing in Peer-reviewed journals

Writing for publication, journal selection, and responding to reviewer feedback.

Topic 5: Crafting a research proposal

Reflective practice, peer review, and strengthening proposals through feedback.

Benefits for participants

- Practical skills in research design, writing, and dissemination
- Increased confidence and research readiness
- Strong professional networks with peers and mentors
- Clear pathways to conferences, publications, and sector impact.

Benefits for the Third Space learning design community

- Stronger visibility of Third Space research and practice
- A growing pipeline of research-active professionals
- A sustainable mentoring cycle where mentees support future cohorts
- Enriched learning design scholarship grounded in practice
- Opportunity to write for LD SIG OER

Program structure

- • **Duration:** 9 months (March to November).
- • Mentoring: Monthly group sessions
- • Expert mini workshops: 5 x 1hr online sessions
- • Agreement: Mentor-mentee learning goals aligned with CMP principles.

Application process

Applicants submit an EOI via CMP, including a 200-word response addressing –

- Alignment with current and future career aspirations
- Intended engagement with the program
- Community to reciprocal support within the Third Space community

Successful applicants are notified in line with the CMP schedule.

Measures of success

- Consistent mentor-mentee engagement
- Active participation in workshops and activities
- Tangible outputs (e.g. proposals, abstracts, submissions)
- Ongoing peer connections and collaboration beyond the program

CMP-ASCILITE LD SIG encourages participation from highly dedicated Third Space professionals to ensure maximum benefit from the program. Consistent commitment is key to achieving meaningful outcomes. If you're unable to commit at this time fully, we recommend waiting until you're ready to engage fully.