

Irish Architecture Foundation

November 2018

Open call for tender for a consultant(s) for the review of the National Architects in Schools Initiative (NASI)

1. NASI REVIEW - SCOPE OF WORK

The National Architects in Schools Initiative has been devised and delivered by the Irish Architecture Foundation since 2013. In order to establish the impact of the programme and identify areas for improvement, revision, expansion etc. the IAF wishes to conduct a comprehensive independent review of the programme in 2019. The IAF would like to welcome tenders from experienced consultant(s) to review the programme through research, surveys, focus groups, observation and/or other methods, engaging with those who participate in the programme (students, teachers and architects), those who devise and deliver the programme and those who fund the programme, in order to achieve a 360° view on the programme's strengths, deficits and opportunities for improvement. A briefing meeting between the successful consultant and the IAF Director and Education Curator will take place ahead of research activity and a report with recommendations on how the programme should change/improve/expand will complete the project.

2. CONTEXT

NASI has been delivered annually since 2013 and is joint funded by the Arts Council, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Education and Skills. NASI is a programme of activity that places architects and architectural graduates in Transition Year classrooms in 30 schools around Ireland annually. Working in close collaboration with teachers of art, technical graphics, construction studies and other related subjects, architects bring students through a hands-on design project over a sustained period, giving them insight into how design and architecture can positively affect the places and spaces where they live, work, study and play.

For NASI 2018/19, funding totalling €45,000 has been secured for the programme and it begins now, with 14 new and 16 returning schools paired with architects (most having participated in the programme in previous years) in Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Cork, Tipperary, Kerry, Galway, Clare, Mayo, Leitrim and Donegal. These teachers and architects attended a skills sharing day in Dublin on 26 September and some have already begun working in schools, with others due to begin in the new year. Resulting projects will be exhibited at a national exhibition in spring 2019 (exact date and location tbc).

3. THE OPPORTUNITY AND NEED FOR A REVIEW OF NASI

NASI is at a crucial stage in its development: with limited funding it can only be delivered in 30 schools annually, yet demand for the programme greatly exceeds this, both from schools and architects wishing to participate. At the same time, having delivered the programme for five years, with year six now underway, we have a significant number of participants whose insight could be shared and resources and materials, which could be reviewed. This is the optimum time to look at how the programme has been running to date in order to consider how it should change or expand and improve in the future.

It is also important to note that in the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's 2016 Enabling Review of the IAF, it was recommended that the programme be subject to an independent review. To quote the recommendations of the Enabling Review:

Strong consideration should be given to expanding the “Architects in Schools” programme, through a combination of the strategic expansion of the existing schools programme, regular events and self-taught systems for teachers, where the web would have significant potential. Funding Agencies in consultation with the IAF should consider carrying out an independent evaluation of the scheme to date within the context of furthering the Arts in Education Charter through the expansion of the scheme.

4. REVIEW TASKS AND TIMELINE

January 2019: The IAF recruits a consultant (or team) who will evaluate the project from an educational/pedagogical and architectural perspective, as well as from a feasibility perspective.

January—March 2019: While most projects are underway in schools around the country, the review begins. The consultant(s) meet with or garner feedback through research, surveys, focus groups, observation and/or other methods from:

- IAF team
- funders
- teachers, students
- architects
- contacts in the country's Education Centres
- independent arts and education specialists.

The consultant(s) will review materials directly related to NASI (recruitment of schools, recruitment of architects, effective communication and marketing, effective training of teachers and architects, project outcomes and processes and procedures) and the uptake and effectiveness of the online and print resources used in the project, notably *My Architecture Design Journal* and mydesignjournal.ie.

The consultant(s) will be asked also consider other models and resources which could inform future iterations of NASI, such as Arts Council programmes like Artists in Schools and Writers in Schools, Creative Ireland and the Arts Council's Creative Schools, DCCol's Craft in the Classroom programme, Engineer's Ireland's schools programme and creative strands from Junior Achievement Ireland.

The consultant or team will be asked to propose and advise on a feasible incremental growth strategy for NASI and potential increase in funding from current funders and other sources of funding to support that growth.

March/April 2019: report is finalised and recommendations made to the IAF and the programme's funders

5. SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Please submit a proposal by outlining how you would consult for this work.

The selection criteria is marked out of 100, so please submit the proposal under the following headings:

Criteria	Mark
1) Understanding of the scope of the assignment. (Based on the context, background and IAF need)	35
2) Methodology and approach to the brief	40
3) Personnel and team experience Indicate experience with not for profit arts sector.	20 5

6. FEES & PAYMENTS

The fee for the NASI review is €9,500 incl VAT, calculated as approximately 1 day preparation and planning, 5 days consultation, 2 days review of materials, 3 days analysis and reporting @ €700 per day. We can also offer up to €500 for expenses such as travel to schools around the country etc.

The fee will be given to the winning consultant(s) in three instalments all in 2019:

- 1) first instalment 40% in January
- 2) second instalment 40% in March
- 3) final instalment 20% upon completion.

7. DECISION STRUCTURE

Submissions to be made to the Irish Architecture Foundation by email with 'NASI Review Tender' in the subject line by **Monday 14 January at 10am** FAO

education@architecturefoundation.ie. We wish to appoint by end of January.

The jury is made up IAF staff and board who will select the successful proposal. It is anticipated that this will be a one-stage tender, but reserve the right to shortlist and interview consultant(s) should the board feel it is needed. The jury reserve the right not to appoint. The decision of the jury is final.