Getting Started with iEARN Online Projects

Guide to iEARN Collaboration Centre
What is iEARN:

iEARN (International Education and Resource Network) is a non-profit network that supports over 50,000 teachers and 2 million youth in more than 140 countries to collaborate through a global online network in projects designed to make a difference in the world. Since 1988, iEARN has used interactive technologies to enable students to engage in meaningful educational projects—with peers around the corner and throughout the world. iEARN is:

- a safe and structured environment in which youth can communicate
- a community of teachers and learners
- a known audience for writing and reading with a purpose
- an opportunity to apply knowledge in service-learning projects
- an inclusive and culturally diverse community

After joining, teachers and students enter an interactive online Collaboration Centre to meet other participants and get involved in ongoing projects initiated by their peers throughout the world.

iEARN Project Model:

An iEARN project is a collaborative academic endeavor between two or more groups of students and educators in different parts of the world. iEARN projects take on many different forms, but most are rooted in the pedagogy of project-based learning. Most projects are process-oriented, but also result in some kind of end "product" that is shared between the participants.

There are more than 100 projects in iEARN that connect K-12 students across diverse subject areas including math, social studies, language arts, sciences, technology, music and more. All projects are designed and facilitated by teachers and students to fit their curriculum and classroom needs and schedules.

iEARN Projects and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

![iEARN Projects and SDGs](image)

In 2015, iEARN launched a major effort to mobilize its global network and other global education partners to realize the world's new 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of targets relating to future international development.

As a result of this effort, all iEARN projects are now aligned with one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals. Visit the SDG Alignment feature on the iEARN website for more information: [http://iearn.org/pages/un-sustainable-development-goals](http://iearn.org/pages/un-sustainable-development-goals).
About iEARN Pakistan

iEARN Pakistan Centre is working under Society for International Education (Rgd). iEARN Pakistan is an approved iEARN Centre and a member of the iEARN International. iEARN in Pakistan is committed to providing K-12 educators, students and schools with an invaluable structure to engage in online curriculum based telecommunications projects. iEARN Pakistan supports and provides resources and professional development to its members for effective implementation of K-12, school based ICT initiatives and a wide range of educational programs and learning opportunities.

If you have not visited yet, go to https://iearnpk.org/

To become iEARN member, click on "Join iEARN" link.
Getting Started with iEARN Collaboration Centre and Resources

How can I participate?
To join, participants select an online project and look at how they can integrate it into their classroom. With the project selected, teachers and students enter online forum spaces to meet one another and get involved in ongoing projects with classrooms around the world who are working on the same project.

VISIT THE COLLABORATION CENTRE AND BECOME A MEMBER

We invite new members to introduce themselves and greet new members on our forums for connecting people. iEARN is a membership organization and teachers and students must be registered to enter the iEARN forums.

To register, or request more information, complete our online registration form at https://iearn.org/cc/connect and information will be sent to the iEARN Coordinator in your country.

Teachers can register students via the Member Dashboard on iEARN's Collaboration Centre.
GETTING STARTED WITH iEARN ONLINE PROJECTS:

At the core of this platform, are students and teacher designed and facilitated projects. These can be found in the “Collaboration” section of the site in their own “Space” called “iEARN Projects.” In this Space, as in others across the site, projects are searchable by a variety of categories, including Title, Keywords, Age Level, Language and Subject Area.

Go to: https://iearn.org/collaboration
For the most accurate and up-to-date listing of iEARN projects throughout the year, see https://iearn.org/cc/space-2.

CONNECT WITH THE iEARN COMMUNITY

A great way to get started is to introduce yourself to and get to know others in the community. You can get familiar with the platform by visiting the teacher’s forum at https://iearn.org/cc/space-10/group-171 and practice posting by responding to other members.

To enter the iEARN Collaboration Centre, go to iearn.org and click “Login” or “Join” at the upper right corner of the page. Please note that an underscore (_) is required in your User Name. For example, Jose_Garcia. To retrieve your login information, see https://iearn.org/cc/recover. There are 3 primary areas of the Collaboration Centre (https://iearn.org/collaboration)

1. COLLABORATION SECTION

The three primary spaces in the Collaboration section are the iEARN Project Space, the Learning Circles Space, and the iEARN General Discussion Space. In all the groups within the spaces you will need to join a group by clicking on the “Join Group” button before you can post in the forums.
a. **iEARN Project Space** - This space has a group for each iEARN project. In each group, you will find the project description, forum, and media that is associated with the project. (https://iearn.org/ccspace-2)

b. **Learning Circle Space** - This space is dedicated to the iEARN Learning Circle, a type of collaborative project structure in iEARN. To register for Learning Circles, click on the "Join This Space" button and fill out the form. (https://iearn.org/ccspace-34)

c. **iEARN General Discussion Space** - This space contains the Teachers Forum, Youth Forum, Practice Group, and special groups for different languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, etc. (https://iearn.org/ccspace-10)

To post a message in either of these forums, or any of the iEARN forums, you will need to first click: “Join Group”
Once you have joined, visit the project’s forum and post a message, including:
- An introduction to yourself and your students
- Your objectives for joining the project

You can also read and respond to messages from others in the project forum. You can ask your students to join you in the project forum, and follow the same steps as you (clicking “Join Group”) and then reading and responding to other messages in the forum. Again, please ask them to post two responses for each new message they post in any iEARN forum.

You can add a new message by clicking to “New Discussion.”
SELECT A PROJECT

We encourage all iEARN teachers and students to participate in existing projects before initiating a project of their own. iEARN projects are designed by teachers and students and take on many different forms. Most iEARN projects fall into three categories:

a. Ongoing projects which run year after year continuously. Participants can join at various times throughout the year.

b. Short-term projects with a stated start and end date.

c. Learning Circles: A Learning Circle is made up of a team of 6-8 teachers and their classes for 3-4 month period.

Finding a project can be challenging. Try to choose a project that is:

• in your language or in a language you are open to learning
• relevant to your students and their needs
• able to fit into your school's curriculum
• age-appropriate for your students
• happening at an appropriate time for you in your academic schedule.

Please also read and respond to messages from others in the forum. We encourage all iEARN participants to post two responses for every new message they post.
Ready? You can browse and search iEARN projects in the iEARN Projects Space of the iEARN Collaboration Centre.

Once you enter the iEARN Projects Space of the Collaboration Centre, you will be able to search the various groups to find a project of interest, or can click "View All" to see a full listing of all projects.

CONNECT WITH FACILITATORS AND PARTNERS

Once you find a project of interest, make contact! You can find the project facilitator's email contact information on the specific group of the project you are interested in joining. If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with the facilitator(s).

The project facilitators for each iEARN Project are there to help you connect with other iEARN teachers participating in the project, as well as guide you in potential activities and project work your classroom can complete.
We recommend posting a discussion in the forum of the iEARN Project you are participating in, to introduce yourself to the Project Facilitator and other project participants. In your post, it is best to include:

- An introduction to yourself and your students
- Your objectives for joining the project

A key to success in iEARN is developing effective relationships with educators around the network. We recommend you to build connections with these educators and think what you can learn from others who are already working in the network.

**HOW DO I ADD A STUDENT MANUALLY?**

**Step 1:** Log into the Collaboration Centre  
**Step 2:** Go to "Management"  
**Step 3:** Click on "Manage Student"
Step 4: Click on "Manually Register Students."

Step 5: Fill in the form. Make sure you check the box next to "This account is active," then click "Register."
HOW DO I ADD A STUDENT USING KEYCODE?

Step 1: Log into the Collaboration Centre
Step 2: Go to “Management”
Step 3: Click on “Manage Student”

Step 4: On the left sidebar, Go to the “Student Registration Code” and copy the code. Give it to your student. (Note: You may register more than one student using one code)
Step 5: Direct your students to collaborate.iearn.org/login. Have them click on “Students Connect Here”
Step 6: Have them enter their registration code.
Step 7: Have them fill out the form and click “Register”
(Note: They may set their own passwords.)

HOW DO I ADD TEACHERS?

Step 1: Log into the Collaboration Centre
Step 2: Go to “Management”
Step 3: Click on “Register a Teacher”
Step 4: Fill out the information and click “Save Teacher”

HOW DO I REPLY TO A FORUM POST?

It’s great that you want to reply to someone and want to have a conversation! There are two ways to reply to a forum posts:
1- Reply on the website.
2- Reply by email.
HOW DO I REPLY TO A FORUM POST VIA THE WEB?

Go to the forum you want to reply to, add your comment and click on "Post Comment."

HOW DO I REPLY TO A FORUM POST VIA EMAIL?

You will receive an email with the new forum post every time someone writes something new.

To reply to that forum post via email.

1) Open the email. It will look similar to the email below.
2) In the email, there will be a line. Reply above that line in order to respond to forum post.

The forum post that you are responding to will appear below the line in the email.

**PREPARE YOUR STUDENTS**

Introduce the project and iEARN to your students. Several resources exist to help with this. Some suggestions:

- Use Maps and clocks in different time zones in your classroom to help students understand the physical dynamic of global collaboration.
- Review netiquette. Review some basic guidelines worthy of sharing with students -guide.iearn.org/using-technology/ m5-engaging-in-digital-dialogue/
- You might wish to use a Buddy Contract with your students to ensure they understand the importance of respectful communication.
- Bring your students online and have them read other students’ forum postings and introduce themselves in the project from and also youth form
ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS

Communication is key in any project! As a teacher, you'll need to ensure your students are actively participating online. All students want and need responses to the messages they post; this is part of an authentic audience. Suggestions:

• Use an agreed-upon writing process. We recommend that your students post 2 responses for every new message they post.
• Remind students to reference the points made in the message to which they are responding. Asking questions is another great way to further dialogue.
• Remind students that English is usually the second or third language of their global peers. Encourage students to learn words in the languages of their global peers as a way to make connections.
• Be sure to publish student work! Include photos, stories, and videos in your communications!

SHARE YOUR WORK

Keep the momentum going! Be sure to communicate with your students and the project facilitator. Consider ways to further publish and present your global project work to the local community and the world beyond. The "Presenting Student Outcomes" Module in the iEARN Teacher's Guide includes many ideas for sharing work - guide.ien.org/engaging-thecomunity/m8-presenting-student-outcomes/

• Use school bulletin boards, publications, websites, wikis, blogs, and more if you have them.
• Update iEARN on your progress and we will include these updates in our regular iEARN in Action: Newsflash.
• After collaborating online throughout the academic year, teachers and students are invited to meet face-to-face at iEARN's Annual Conference and Youth Summit to share classroom experiences, give workshops, and learn from one another.
LINKS TO SOME iEARN RESOURCES:

1- iEARN Project Description Booklet: https://iearn.org/pages/iearn-project-book
2- Click at https://iearn.org/news for recent news and events.
3- Some sample lesson plans can be found at https://iearn.org/professional-development/workshops
4- For professional development support and iEARN online courses visit https://iearn.org/professional-development/online-courses
5- To get iEARN in Action E-newsletter, go to https://iearn.org/news/january-iearn-project-news-and-update
6- To contact country coordinators, go to https://iearn.org/country-coordinators
7- To set up your profile page, managing student accounts, and using the discussion forums visit tutorials.iearn.org.
9- All iEARN forums can be multilingual. The language forums are located in iEARN General Discussion Space at https://iearn.org/cc/space-10.
10- For forum basics, http://tutorials.iearn.org/tutorial/learning-forum-basics/
iEARN
Learn with the world, not just about it.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

Social Science & Humanities
iEARN PAKISTAN
A Project of Society for Int’l Education

International Education and Resource Network Pakistan