IPDA England Blog Guidelines for Authors

At IPDA England, our blogs are a space for thinking out loud, sharing ideas and sparking conversations about professional learning in its widest sense. Whether you are exploring early-stage ideas, responding to existing research, or reflecting on your own practice, our blogs offer an accessible and welcoming platform to contribute to the field. We see blogging not as a finished product, but as part of an ongoing dialogue: an opportunity to test ideas, challenge assumptions and invite others into the conversation.

We particularly encourage emerging career researchers (ECRs) and members at all stages of their careers to get involved. Blogs can act as a "gateway" into the IPDA community by helping you develop your voice, share your work and connect with others. They are also a great way to extend discussions beyond conferences, or even to adapt content from other formats, such as podcasts, into a written form. Above all, we aim to create a shared space where anyone interested in professional learning feels able to contribute.

In terms of themes, we welcome blogs that engage with professional learning in broad and creative ways (see below). This might include workplace learning, informal or formal education, learning communities, or critical perspectives that challenge the status quo. We are also interested in work that crosses boundaries: applying ideas across sectors, contexts or even national and global settings. Blogs might respond to published research, offer a reflective or conversational critique, or explore the evolving identities of you as researchers yourselves, including more personal or biographical pieces.

Ultimately, IPDA England blogs are about opening up space: for new thinking, for emerging voices and for meaningful discussion. If your blog helps move a conversation forward—even by asking a good question—then it is doing exactly what we hope for.

We look forward to receiving your blog very soon!

IPDA England welcomes blog themes specifically related to:

Your blog must relate to one or more of these themes:

- Professional learning within the workplace
- Formal learning
- Informal learning
- Doctoral research
- Challenges/Dilemmas within professional learning
- New approaches to professional learning
- Learning communities/Communities of practice
- Boundary crossing

- Professional identity
- Reflective practice
- Positionality
- Challenging current professional learning

Specific blog guidelines:

Please follow our blog guidelines when writing:

The submission must be 750 to 1,000 words, including references.

The blog has an appropriately catchy or thought-provoking title.

The blog conveys a clear purpose (e.g. supporting, expanding on, or challenging a topic).

The blog is a substantial piece that maintains focus on its chosen theme(s).

The blog maintains an engaging, conversational tone throughout.

The blog includes sufficient provocation to stimulate thought and discussion.

The introduction captures the reader's attention early and sustains interest throughout.

The blog is logically and cohesively structured.

The blog includes relevant details, citations, and/or images where appropriate.

The writing avoids unnecessary jargon and overly dense language.

Complex ideas are explained clearly and effectively.

The work reflects the author's original views and voice.

Ethical considerations are discussed where relevant.

The blog includes a clear call to action or highlights the need for further work or discussion, linking back to its overall purpose.

A reference list is included, with all sources properly cited.