Motivating Students: Motivational Climates that Engage Students
International Research Network

Annual Report

June 30, 2026

Prepared by the IRN Leadership Team

Brett Jones, Tehmina Gladman, Sümeyra Sahbaz, Ming Li, and Ásta Bryndís Schram

Introduction

This annual report summarizes the work of the IRN during its first year, from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Highlights include the following:

- Built the IRN membership to 95 participants from 35 countries.
- Conducted four international webinars.
- Established three active interest groups.
- Published four newsletters.
- Completed a comprehensive literature review that identified 126 refereed studies.

Leadership Team

Our leadership team comprises five members from four continents.

Leadership Team Members

Researcher	University	Country	Email
Brett Jones	Virginia Tech	US	brettjones@vt.edu
Tehmina Gladman	University of Otago, Wellington	New Zealand	tehmina.gladman@otago.ac.nz
Sümeyra Sahbaz	Bern University of Teacher Education	Switzerland	suemeyra.sahbaz@phbern.ch
Ming Li	Shanghai University of Engineering Science	China	bahalucy@163.com
Ásta Bryndís Schram	University of Iceland	Iceland	astabryndis@hi.is

Participants

The IRN currently includes 95 participants from 35 countries.

List of Participant Countries

1. Algeria	8. France	15. Indonesia	22. Mexico	29. Switzerland
2. Belgium	9. Germany	16. Iran	23. Netherlands	30. Thailand
3. Brazil	10. Ghana	17. Iraq	24. New Zealand	31. Türkiye
4. China	11. Greece	18. Japan	25. Pakistan	32. United Kingdom
5. Ecuador	12. Hungary	19. Jordan	26. Philippines	33. United States
6. Egypt	13. Iceland	20. Lebanon	27. Romania	34. Uruguay
7. Finland	14. India	21. Malaysia	28. Slovakia	35. Vietnam

Website

We created an IRN website that provides information about the network:

- https://www.themusicmodel.com/irn/

Webinars

We conducted four free international webinars that provided professional learning opportunities for researchers and educators across the IRN.

- Webinar 1: Overview of MUSIC Model Research: What do we know?
  - by Dr. Brett Jones
  - October 20, 2025
- Webinar 2: How can teachers and researchers implement MUSIC model interventions to motivate students?
  - by Dr. Ming Li and Dr. Brett Jones
  - November 20, 2025
- Webinar 3: Using students' MUSIC perceptions to design a course in higher education
  - by Dr. Ásta Schram and Dr. Brynja Ingadottir
  - January 26, 2026.
- Webinar 4: Two presenters, April 21, 2026
  - Transforming Learning Geometry Through the MUSIC Model Based on Multimedia
    - by Dr. Georgina Alrawwad, Expert in Mathematics Education, Jordan, and Professor Khaled Abuloum, Professor, University of Jordan.
  - The Role of Perceived Difficulty Within Motivational Processes
    - by Dr. Zeynep Ambarkutuk, Virginia Tech

Interest Groups

We formed three interest groups focused on using the MUSIC Model of Motivation:

- K-12 Teaching (Brett Jones, leader)
- University Teaching (Ásta Bryndís Schram, leader)
- Medical Education and Health Sciences (Tehmina Gladman, leader)

The groups serve as communities of practice where participants can meet in smaller groups to discuss research and teaching related to the MUSIC model. The groups met between two and three times during the past year.

Newsletter

We distributed a newsletter to all participants four times throughout the year to highlight some of the recent activities of the IRN.

- Newsletter 1: October 9, 2025
- Newsletter 2: November 7, 2025
- Newsletter 3: January 15, 2026
- Newsletter 4: April 9, 2026

Literature Review

We completed a search of the literature by identifying research on motivational climates that engage students. Our completed search identified 126 peer-reviewed studies and dissertations published in multiple languages. Our analysis of the studies is ongoing.

Goals for Year 2 (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027)

The following are our primary goals for Year 2 of the IRN.

Goal 1

- Offer four webinars led by IRN participants to foster the sharing of information and facilitate cross-national collaborations.

Goal 2

- Meet with the interest groups two to six times to foster cross-national research collaborations.

Goal 3

- Create and distribute four newsletters to participants to share information and promote upcoming IRN events.

Goal 4

- Complete our analysis of the 126 studies we identified and prepare manuscripts reporting the findings of the literature review.

During its first year, the IRN established an active international community of researchers and educators dedicated to advancing research and practice related to motivational climates that engage students. Building on this strong foundation, the network will focus on expanding collaborative scholarship, professional learning opportunities, and international partnerships during its second year.