

Arts & Humanities in Quarantine Public Engagement Urgency Call

Introduction

The UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), in collaboration with BBC Arts, welcomes applications to *Arts & Humanities in Quarantine*.

This funding call invites proposals from AHRC-funded researchers to take part in a project that will partner them, if successful, with professional film-producers and film-makers to bring their research to a wide public audience. BBC Arts plans to publish completed films on the [BBC Culture in Quarantine](#) site and other BBC platforms.

What we're looking for

We are looking for proposals from current AHRC-funded researchers which make clear why their research is suitable for translation into a 3-5-minute film of interest to a wide non-specialist audience. The films themselves must be animations, illustrated pieces or graphically led, and in any case made in compliance with government lockdown and social distancing rules in force at the time. There are no restrictions on theme but films which have 'life beyond lockdown' are encouraged.

Applicants do not need to have any prior film-making experience. They just need to be willing, if selected, to engage creatively and collaboratively with professional film-producers and film-makers to translate their research proposal into a short film.

Main requirements for all proposals:

- Proposals must be based on ongoing AHRC-funded research
- Proposals must be appropriate to a film of 3-5 minutes in length
- Proposals must make the research interesting and accessible to a broad general public; proposals of interest only to a specialist audience will be rejected
- Applicants are encouraged to think about links between their proposal and calendar 'hooks', e.g. upcoming significant anniversaries, global or national events of substantial importance or annual events or festivals
- While we accept that ongoing research will necessarily be incomplete, proposals should be based as far as possible on what the researcher has established rather than on what they hope to establish, so preference may be given to proposals based on ongoing research projects that are further advanced
- Applicants must have capacity to work on the film within the period July-September 2020 (specific dates will be agreed with successful applicants). Films will go live online not later than the end of September 2020. It is anticipated that 10 working days across this period will be required from each successful applicant in order to deliver the project

Applicants are not expected to cost their proposals. The AHRC, BBC and a production company will work with successful applicants to agree the required budget and resources. All agreed costs, which will be paid by AHRC, will be added to the successful applicant's active main grant through an additional funding stream and the duration of the grant extended by 10 days to cover the applicant's involvement. Successful applicants will be required to work with a nominated production company as a condition of the award.

Eligibility

Applicants must be either a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on an active grant directly funded by the AHRC. **'Active' is defined for these purposes as a grant being in progress on 30th September 2020.** This excludes our awards for doctoral study. Where a Co-I is the applicant they will be required, should they be successful, to submit a letter confirming the PI has given permission for them to lead the project.

The application form should be submitted by one eligible individual acting as the primary contact for correspondence regarding the award.

While applicants may wish to draw on work from multiple current projects they are working on when submitting to this call, a primary AHRC-funded active grant **must** be identified on the application form. You will be required to include the relevant grant reference and failure to do so will result in your application being rejected. Please also note that only one application may be submitted per active AHRC grant.

We welcome applications from across the whole spectrum of AHRC's remit.

How to Apply

Applications are to be submitted via SmartSurvey. To access SmartSurvey please follow the link on the call webpage.

By submitting an application, you consent to AHRC sharing your information with the BBC for the purposes of this scheme.

Editorial Decisions

As highlighted above, BBC Arts plans to publish completed films on the [BBC Culture in Quarantine](#) site and other BBC platforms. Please note that the final decision on publishing completed films will be subject to BBC editorial approval.

How we will assess your application

Your application will be assessed by a panel including representatives from both AHRC and BBC. We will primarily assess the excellence of the proposal as the basis for making a short film of interest to a wide public audience, but in making awards we may also consider balance and diversity (e.g. across region, institution and subject area). You may be asked for more information or to clarify aspects of your proposal during the assessment process.

Unfortunately, thanks to the anticipated volume of applications, we are not able to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting proposals is **Wednesday 3rd June at 4.00pm**, though early submission is encouraged. Outcomes will be notified within approximately a month of the deadline.

Further Information

This call appears in extraordinary times, and AHRC acknowledges with regret that not everyone in our academic community - for example those with caring responsibilities - will be equally placed to take part in it.

Contacts

For general enquiries regarding this scheme, please contact the AHRC at enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org.