



New Generation Thinkers Scheme Guidance: 2019

By reading this guidance, in conjunction with the scheme rules, you are agreeing to your personal data being shared with BBC Radio 3, the Arts & Humanities Research Council and other New Generation Thinkers for the purposes of this scheme.

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II. Introduction

The Arts and Humanities Research Council & BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinkers Scheme gives 60 applicants the chance to develop programme ideas alongside experienced BBC producers. Of these, up to 10 will become Arts and Humanities Research Council & BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinkers. They will benefit from a unique opportunity to make programmes for Radio 3 and other outlets, as well as contributing to wider media and public engagement through the AHRC. In addition, the scheme partners with BBC Four, where some of the selected academics will be given the opportunity to present a programme for TV.

Previous New Generation Thinkers have presented at the Free Thinking Festival and the Being Human Festival, and have been interviewed for flagship BBC programmes as well as other media and broadcasters. The scheme is fundamental in developing their talents and abilities to deliver knowledge to a wider audience.

For successful applicants it can be a career-changing experience: the training and mentoring opportunities, (which are provided free of charge and right from the start of the process) are envied in many circles.

Being an "NGT" (as you will frequently hear it referred to) is an experience. You can read interviews with previous participants on the [AHRC Website](#) and listen to their performances via the [BBC website](#).

III. Context

New Generation Thinkers was launched in November 2010 at Radio 3's Free Thinking Festival of Ideas. Since then, 480 academics have attended the workshops and developed their programme ideas. Each year 10 academics are selected to be New Generation Thinkers. They have the opportunity to attend media training with both the BBC and the AHRC before embarking on a host of media opportunities, not least with Radio 3.

Yes, it is competitive, but even unsuccessful candidates have said they've learnt from the whole experience.

[Watch the 2015 New Generation Thinkers Film](#)

IV. Aims of the Call

The aim of the scheme is to provide a development opportunity for early career researchers cultivating their skills to communicate their research findings to those outside the academic community.

While the principal aim of the AHRC is to fund research of the highest quality across a diverse range of disciplines, it also has a duty to enhance the public's understanding of the arts and humanities and communicate that research to people who can make use of it. One of the most effective ways of reaching a public audience, changing public opinion and influencing policy and practice is to work with the media.

The BBC also wants to find a new generation of academics who can bring the best of the latest university research and scholarly ideas to a broad audience. This is part of Radio 3's dedication to commissioning and developing emerging talent in music and the arts.

Applications need to be able to propose an engaging and stimulating programme idea as well as show an ability to talk and write about other areas within the arts and humanities in an accessible and refreshing manner, with an awareness of a wider listening audience.

Successful workshop applicants

The first stage of applying to be a New Generation Thinker is to submit a written application – please see 'Section VII Application process and Format' for full details.

From these written submissions, up to 60 applicants are chosen to attend one of three workshops in either Salford or London, where candidates will:

- Gain a perspective from BBC staff on how they commission, produce and present both radio and television programmes;
- Develop their programme ideas with the help of other candidates and producers;
- Take part in interactive practice sessions to showcase their programme ideas and demonstrate their ability to communicate with the listening audience;
- Have the chance to speak to AHRC staff about the scheme, AHRC's involvement and UK Research and Innovation more widely;
- Meet fellow researchers.

You should note that you are not competing with each other in the same way you do at other interviews. Each applicant is assessed on their whole performance, as well as on their submission.

Shortlisted applicants only need to attend **one** of these dates. If you cannot attend, then you will be offered an alternative from the ones listed. Failure to accept after being offered a different date will result in disqualification from the scheme for 2019 only. You are of course, free to re-apply in 2020.

For those attending the selection workshops, travelling expenses or compensation in lieu of time off work is not payable, but you should approach your faculty office to ask for suitable assistance.

Final applicants

10 successful applicants chosen from the workshops will become an Arts and Humanities Research Council, Radio 3 New Generation Thinker for 2019. They will:

- Work with BBC producers to develop their own programme ideas for Radio 3 and experience input from BBCArts;
- Be invited to showcase their research and trail their programme idea at the BBC Radio 3's Free Thinking Festival of ideas. During the day there is also the opportunity to meet New Generation Thinkers from previous years and meet interested members of the public – be prepared for questions!
- Appear regularly on air in Radio 3's New Generation Thinkers slots
- Write and present an edition of the Essay for Radio 3;
- Have the chance to appear at AHRC events, including the Being Human Festival.
- Work with the AHRC on appearances in the wider media.
- Write articles for the AHRC blog and the AHRC website.
- Attend a two-day session run by the AHRC in London on 19-20 February 2019. This will include a media training course, a photograph and filming session and an evening launch on day 1. Failure or inability to attend will mean you are ineligible for this year's scheme.

Additional conditions for winners

- You will be acting as ambassadors for New Generation Thinkers and will be expected to raise awareness of the scheme;
- You agree to keep the BBC and the AHRC regularly informed of your research, the events you are involved in and approaches from other journalists/media outlets;
- If required, you will make every effort to attend events on behalf of AHRC and BBC to promote the scheme;
- New Generation Thinkers are not paid for their participation in the scheme, but for contributions that are broadcast on the BBC you will be paid at standard BBC rates. All expenses for travel and subsistence are payable in line with standard BBC expenses policy for contributors.

Travel expenses are refundable for attendance by the final 10 New Generation Thinkers and this will be dealt with by the BBC/AHRC as appropriate. This includes travel and accommodation for the Free Thinking Festival in Gateshead.

V. Eligibility

Individual eligibility

To apply for the New Generation Thinkers scheme, you must be a UK resident, over 18 and currently working or studying at a UK research organisation that is eligible to receive funding from UK Research and Innovation. For guidance on eligibility of research organisations please see below.

Applicants do **not** have to hold a permanent contract of employment in order to be eligible to apply. You will be either:

- A. Currently a PhD student. If you are a doctoral candidate you should have made considerable progress on your research, for example, be within one year of submission.
OR
- B. Within eight years of the award of your PhD (excluding any period of career break; for example, parental leave, caring responsibilities or health reasons).
OR
- C. Within six years of your first academic appointment – this is a paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, which lists research and/or teaching as the primary function, including research assistantships. (These six years also exclude any period of career break; for example, parental leave, caring responsibilities or health reasons.)

Anyone who has applied in previous years is free to apply again, except those who have been previously selected as a New Generation Thinker.

The [Research Funding Guide](#) provides more information [in Section 2](#) (see also under the Eligibility Tab) on the [AHRC Website](#)

<https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/researchfundingguide/>

Organisation eligibility

All UK higher education institutions that receive grant funding from one of the UK higher education funding bodies are eligible to receive funds for research, postgraduate training and associated activities.

These bodies consist of Research England (formerly Higher Education Funding Council for England) Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland (DEL).

Research institutes for which UK Research and Innovation have established a long-term involvement as a major funder are also eligible to receive research funding, from any Council. Those working or studying at Independent Research Organisations (IROs) are also eligible to apply; these are organisations who have demonstrated a research capability and therefore been granted IRO status by UKRI. A list of these organisations is available on the [UKRI Website](#)

More information on research organisation eligibility may be found on the [UK Research and Innovation website](#).

Employees of the BBC, the AHRC or other members of UKRI are not eligible to apply.

Subject Eligibility

We welcome applications from researchers working in all areas of the arts and humanities. (For further information please see Annex One). In addition, we also welcome applications from inter-disciplinary researchers whose work fuses arts and humanities research with any disciplines outside the remit of the AHRC. Any discipline is eligible provided, within your application, you can demonstrate suitable links to the world of arts and humanities. For further information on the arts and humanities disciplines, please see Annex One.

VI Guidance on Project Timescales

The 2019 call will open in Je-S <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/> on Monday 2nd July 2018 and the deadline for submissions to AHRC is **Thursday, 4 October 2018, 4pm**. Please ensure you speak to your research office early to get the best advice and to allow them time to assist with your application submission.

Applicants must be available to attend one of these workshops:

- Salford: Wednesday, 9 January 2019
- London: Monday, 14 January 2019
- London: Wednesday, 16 January 2019.

If invited to attend the workshops you will be offered a date at **one** of the locations. We will offer you an alternative date if you are unable to attend the first one offered. If you cannot attend any of the dates then your place will be offered to another candidate. Candidates will be invited to the workshops during the week commencing the 10 December 2018.

Applicants who are selected as a New Generation Thinker must attend:

- 19-20 February 2019, for the two-day session run by the AHRC in London. (See 'Final applicants' for details.)
- The Gateshead Free Thinking Festival from Saturday 30 March to Sunday 31 March; the winners will be recording their first Radio 3 programmes at the Festival.

Please note that these attendances will probably involve an overnight stay. If you are not local, this will be arranged for you at no expense to yourself.

Scheme milestones

Activity	Date
Launch of call	18 July
Application form available in Je-S	18 July
Deadline for applications	4 October 2018, 4pm
AHRC and BBC assessment meeting	Late November
Applicants informed of decisions	Week commencing 10 December
Workshop 1	9 January 2019
Workshop 2	14 January
Workshop 3	16 January
Final ten advised	17-18 January
Media training, photography and evening event, London	19-20 February
Freethinking Festival, Gateshead	30-31 March

The BBC and AHRC reserve the right to change dates of events if necessary.

VII. Application Process and Format

You are strongly advised to listen to previous examples of New Generation Thinkers prior to applying via the [BBC Free Thinking website](#). There are also considerable NGT resources on the [AHRC website](#).

Applications should be submitted using the UKRI's [Joint electronic Submission \(Je-S\) System](#) <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/> at the latest by **Thursday, 4 October 2018, 4pm.**

Note that selecting 'Submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC.

Please remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the Call closing date.

The Je-S Helpdesk may be contacted via JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk Tel: 01793 444164 between 08.30-17.00 Monday to Thursday and 08.30-16.30 Friday. Outside of office hours leave a message and your call will be returned.

Applicants should ensure they have a Je-S account in good time before the closing date and should note that it may take a number of days to create an account if one does not already exist.

You are encouraged to use the link above in order to check if you already have an account and/or create a new one. If you already have an account you should check that your organisation has granted it the correct level of authority to submit applications. To do this select the Account Summary option and if you have a 'basic' account an Upgrade option will be presented, please select that and follow the instruction.

If you do not already have an account please select the 'Create an Account' option. Follow the instructions and ensure that when selecting 'Account type' that you select **An Applicant on a Standard or Outline Proposal**. Complete the subsequent screens and finally submit your request. The request will be sent to your host organisation for verification and approval.

To prepare an Application Form in Je-S:

- 1) Log-in to your account and choose 'Documents' from the menu;
- 2) Then select 'New Document';
- 3) 'AHRC' as the Council,
- 4) 'Outline Proposal' as the Document Type;
- 5) 'AHRC Outline' as the Scheme;
- 6) 'New Generation Thinkers 4 October 2018' as the call/Type/Mode and 'Create Document'.

Je-S will then create an Application Form, displaying the section headings below. Using the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form.

Project Details

Enter the details of your host organisation, a project title, a start date and duration. For the purposes of the form please enter 1 April 2019 and a Duration of 12 months.

Eligibility

Please select the most appropriate description that applies to you.

- A. Within eight years of the award of your PhD (excluding any period of career break, for example, parental leave, caring responsibilities or health reasons).
- B. Currently a PhD student (if you are a PhD student you should have made considerable progress on your research, for example be within one year of submission).
- C. Within six years of your first academic appointment (this is a paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, fixed-term or permanent which lists research and/or teaching as the primary function).

Principal Investigator

Enter your details by searching and selecting from the Je-S database.

Summary

Focusing on one aspect of your research, please provide a brief pitch on how this could make an engaging and stimulating programme for Radio 3 of up to 45 minutes, ensuring you make it clear what format this programme would take.

Bear in mind this would be for a non-academic audience. You can listen to examples of Radio 3 speech programmes and the work of previous New Generation Thinkers using [BBC Free Thinking website](#). Please note there is a limit of 2,000 characters.

Attachments

The only permitted attachment is a Case for Support which should be no more than two sides of A4 with font no smaller than Arial 10. It is extremely important that this includes the information described below and that it uses the following headings:

Current Research Activity

Briefly describe your research and its broader relevance to a non-academic audience (250 words).

Research History

Please give a brief research history, listing the academic institutions at which you have been based, the research you have undertaken, and the years in which these activities took place. (250 words)

Review

Review a new film, play, novel, book of poetry, exhibition or cultural event that you've recently attended. This should be of interest to and written for a non-academic audience. It must be on a topic and discipline separate from your research. Consider how you can use a review to look at ideas, what your choice of review can tell us about the way you think about things, and if your writing style is suitable for a less specialist audience.

Write the review as if you were going to read it on air as a short essay for BBC Radio 3 – you can listen to examples [online](#). (250 words).

Proposal Classifications

Please select at least one research area to describe the subject area of your programme proposal. If you select multiple areas, you are required to identify one of these as the primary area.

Once you have completed the application you will need to 'Submit' it. Note that Je-S initially submits the application to your host organisation's administration, **not** to AHRC. Your organisation **must** submit the proposal to us by **Thursday, 4 October 2018, 4pm**.

Please allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your application to them and the Call closing date.

VIII. Assessment Process and Criteria

Stage One

- Received applications are checked against eligibility criteria by the AHRC before being assessed.
- The AHRC and the BBC will assess all applications against the assessment criteria below and assign an initial grade (1 to 6), where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is exceptional. For full details of this grading scale, see Annex XII below.
- After considering all proposals, both the AHRC and the BBC will each shortlist up to 60 applications.

When deciding which candidates will be selected to go forward to attend the workshops, the judges will be looking for applications that fulfil the following criteria:

- Give a **simple, jargon free** explanation of the research in an engaging manner;
- Demonstrate high standards of scholarship with originality and quality;
- Provide a strong programme idea that explains the significance of the research and what the findings mean in day-to-day terms;
- Have a review and research description that shows a breadth of interest;
- Demonstrate the applicant is comfortable communicating ideas outside of their research area in an interesting, well-written and engaging manner;
- Demonstrate ideas that are innovative, and interesting to a public audience

Stage Two

- The shortlisted applications from both BBC and AHRC will be considered at a panel meeting where both organisations will agree on the final 60 candidates to attend the workshops.
- The chair will ensure that stated processes are adhered to and that all applications are treated in a consistent manner. The chair is also responsible for facilitating the panel discussions.
- The panel meets as a whole to discuss all the applications selected by the BBC and AHRC and agree final candidates to attend the workshops.

Stage Three

- The Radio 3 team will monitor progress of the workshop attendees and later form a panel to decide who will be selected to be the 10 New Generation Thinkers for 2019.
- The workshops and the selection process will be observed by a representative of the AHRC and the final decision will be made by the BBC in consultation with the AHRC.
- The Panel will use the same criteria as above to decide who is shortlisted, assessing their verbal communications skills as well as written.
- The BBC panel will base their decision on the following criteria:
 - A. originality,
 - B. creativity,
 - C. editorial and stylistic suitability for a Radio 3 audience
 - D. applicant's suitability for the scheme
- It is anticipated that this will happen within ten working days of the workshops.

The decision of the judges is final.

IX. Scheme Requirements and Post Award Reporting

Award holders will be required to submit outputs, outcomes and impacts that arise from the scheme to the AHRC's Communications team. This could include interviews, social media, items for website and mentoring New Generation Thinkers in future years. You agree to attend media training, the AHRC, BBC and other venues to help promote the scheme and participate in programmes.

X. Contact Information

For queries on creating [Je-S accounts](#) and submitting the application form please contact the Je-S Helpdesk via jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk or 01793 444164 between 08.30 and 16.30 Monday to Friday.

For general enquiries regarding this scheme, such as eligibility or project subject matter please contact the AHRC at enquiries@ahrc.ac.uk or Telephone: 01793 416060 between 08.30 and 16.00 Monday to Friday.

XI. Annex One - AHRC disciplines

The subject coverage for this scheme covers all disciplines in [AHRC's subject remit](#).

We welcome applications from researchers working in all areas of the arts and humanities. In addition we also welcome applications from inter-disciplinary researchers whose work fuses arts and humanities research with any disciplines outside the remit of the AHRC.

The primary arts and humanities classifications are:

- Archaeology
- Classics
- Cultural and Museum Studies
- Dance
- Design
- Development Studies
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- History
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Languages and Literature
- Law and Legal Studies
- Library and Information Studies
- Linguistics
- Media
- Music
- Philosophy
- Political Science & International Studies
- Theology, Divinity and Religion
- Visual Arts

XII. Annex Two

Score	Description	Definition
6	Exceptional Should be shortlisted as a matter of priority	An application at the leading edge in all of the assessment criteria: scholarship, originality, quality, accessibility, excellently written and exciting communication skills, meeting the majority of them to a very high level. An exceptional candidate likely to be challenging to be in the final 10.
5	Excellent Should be shortlisted but doesn't merit the very highest priority rating.	An application that is excellent in all of the assessment criteria – scholarship, originality, quality, accessibility, well written and engaging communication skills. The application's ideas are excellent while the explanation of them are clear and convincing.
4	Very Good Worthy of consideration for shortlisting	An application that meets all assessment criteria and will be considered for shortlisting. It demonstrates high standards of scholarship as well as originality, quality, well written and good communications. The application's ideas are good while the explanation of them are clear and sound.
3	Satisfactory Has worth but is not good enough to be shortlisted	An application that is of inconsistent quality with some strengths, innovative ideas and good components, but has significant weaknesses or flaws. It meets minimum requirements in terms of the assessment criteria and it may be satisfactory in terms of scholarship and quality, but lack communications or writing skills; or vice versa.
2	Not Competitive Not recommended for shortlisting	An application that has an unsatisfactory level of originality, quality and significance. Has limited potential and unconvincing in its ability to communicate with a wide audience. It does not meet all scheme assessment criteria.
1	Unsatisfactory Not suitable for shortlisting	A poor application that clearly has not understood the tasks, does not meet all scheme assessment criteria or whose communications skills are well below that required.