

## New Generation Thinkers 2020

### Application guidance, terms and conditions

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## 2. Introduction

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

Previous New Generation Thinkers have presented at the Hay Festival and the Being Human Festival, and have been interviewed for flagship BBC programmes as well as by other media and broadcasters. The scheme is vital in developing their talents and abilities to deliver knowledge to a wider audience. Previous New Generation Thinkers have written and read episodes of *The Essay* for BBC Radio 3.

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 on the BBC website](#).

## 3. Context

New Generation Thinkers was launched in November 2010 at Radio 3's Free Thinking Festival of Ideas. Since then, over 500 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.

The application process is competitive, but even unsuccessful candidates have said they've learnt from the whole experience and many have nevertheless appeared in discussions on the BBC.

[Watch the New Generation Thinkers Film and interviews with NGTs](#)

## 4. Aims of the scheme

The New Generation Thinkers scheme is 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 interesting manner, with an awareness of a wider listening audience.

## 5. Eligibility

### Your eligibility

To apply for the New Generation Thinkers scheme, you must be:

- a UK resident, and
- Over the age of 18, and
- Currently working or studying at a UK research organisation that is eligible to receive funding from UK Research and Innovation (see 'Your organisation's eligibility', below), and
- Studying a relevant area of research (see 'Your research', below).

You must also be either:

- a) A current PhD student who has made considerable progress on your research, for example within one year of submission, or
- b) Within eight years of the award of your PhD, excluding any period of career break such as parental leave, caring responsibilities or health reasons, or
- c) Within six years of your first academic appointment, excluding any period of career break such as parental leave, caring responsibilities or health reasons. This must be a paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, which lists research and/or teaching as the primary function, including research assistantships.

You **do not** need to have a permanent contract of employment to be eligible, as long as you meet the conditions above.

You **can** apply if you have applied to the scheme before, as long as you weren't selected as a final New Generation Thinker.

You **can't** apply if you work for the BBC, the AHRC or UK Research and Innovation.

### Your organisation's eligibility

You must be working or studying at an eligible organisation to apply. Your organisation is eligible if it is either:

- A UK higher education institution that receives grant funding from a UK funding body, such as Research England, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, the Scottish Funding Council or the Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland, or
- A [research institute](#) which UKRI has established a long-term involvement with as a major funder, or
- An independent research organisation (IRO) which has been [awarded IRO status by UKRI](#).

You can find out more about your organisation's eligibility in the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#).

### Your research

Your research **must** have a primary focus in the arts and humanities. Your research could be bringing together arts and humanities research with other non-AHRC funded disciplines, provided you can demonstrate suitable links to the world of arts and humanities and that arts and humanities remains a primary focus.

Your application will be disqualified if the arts and humanities is not a primary focus of your research.

Our main topic areas are:

- Archaeology
- Classics
- Cultural and museum studies
- Development studies
- History
- Information and communication technologies
- Law and legal studies
- Library and information studies
- Philosophy
- Political science and international studies
- Theology, divinity and religion
- Dance
- Design
- Drama and theatre studies
- Media
- Music
- Languages and literature
- Linguistics
- Visual arts.

You can find a more detailed list on the [AHRC disciplines](#) page of our website.

**We don't prefer applications from any particular research area. We assess all applications on their own merits against the application criteria.**

## 6. Timeline

The scheme will open for applications on Monday 29 July 2019, and the deadline for applications is 4pm on Tuesday 8 October 2019. See section 7, 'Application process and format' for how to apply.

If you apply, you must be able to attend **one** of these workshops:

- Salford: Wednesday 15 January 2020
- London: Monday 20 January 2020
- London: Wednesday 22 January 2020.

If your application is successful at the first stage, we'll contact you during the week of 9 December 2019 to offer you a place at one of the workshops. If you're not able to attend any of these dates, then we'll offer your place to another candidate.

If you are selected as a final New Generation Thinker, you will need to attend both of these events:

- Tuesday 18 – Wednesday 19 February 2020, for a two-day training session run by the AHRC in London. (See 'Final applicants' under 'Application process' for details.)
- An event in late March, where the winners will record their first Radio 3 programme.

These finalist events will probably require you to make an overnight stay. If you're a finalist and not local to the area, we'll cover the costs of your accommodation and travel expenses as described in [our expenses policy](#).

After these events, both the BBC and AHRC will host additional training and publicity events throughout 2020/21. Finalists will also have the opportunity to engage with other AHRC activities, including the Being Human Festival, the Research in Film Awards, and more.

### Scheme milestones

Activity	Date
Launch of call	Tuesday 16 July 2019
Application form available in Je-S	Monday 29 July 2019
Deadline for applications	4pm, Tuesday 8 October 2019
AHRC and BBC assessment meeting	Late November 2019
Applicants informed of decisions	Week of Monday 9 December 2019
Workshop 1 (Salford)	Wednesday 15 January 2020
Workshop 2 (London)	Monday 20 January 2020
Workshop 3 (London)	Wednesday 22 January 2020
Final ten advised	Before Friday 31 January 2020
Media training, photography and evening event, London	Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 February 2020
Finalists record first Radio 3 programme	Late March 2020

## 7. Application process and format

The first stage of applying to be a New Generation Thinker is to submit a written application.

We strongly suggest you listen to work by previous New Generation Thinkers before you apply. You can find examples of these on the [BBC website](#). You can also find more examples and other information about the scheme on the [AHRC website](#).

## Registering for and using Je-S

You must apply using UKRI's [Joint electronic Submission \(Je-S\)](#) system before the deadline of 4pm on Tuesday 8 October 2019.

Je-S is linked to your organisation, who will need to approve both your Je-S account and your final application before it is sent to the AHRC. Each of these approvals can take several days, so **make sure you leave time for this to happen when making your application** so you don't miss the deadline.

If you don't already have a Je-S account, you can register one using the link above. When selecting 'Account type', choose 'An Applicant on a Standard or Outline Proposal'.

You can check whether you already have a Je-S account using the link above. To check whether your account can submit applications, click on 'Account Summary'. If you have a 'basic' account which can't make applications, click the 'Upgrade' option on your account page.

## How to fill out your Je-S application form

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 8 October 2019' as the call/Type/Mode and 'Create Document'.

Je-S will then create an application form, displaying the section headings below.

### 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 2020 and a duration of 12 months.

### Eligibility

Please select the most appropriate description that applies to you:

- a) Currently a PhD student
- b) Within eight years of the award of your PhD
- c) Within six years of your first academic appointment.

See section 5, 'Eligibility' for more details.

### Principal investigator

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

### 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.

### 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 that you make it clear what format this programme would take.

Please 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 iPlayer](#). Please note there is a limit of 2,000 characters.

### Attachments

The only permitted attachment is a 'Case for Support'. It is extremely important that this includes the information described below, using the following headings. **Your application will be immediately disqualified if you exceed the word limits below by any amount.**

#### What to include in your 'Case for Support' document

**Important: Your application will be disqualified if you exceed these word limits by any amount.**

#### Eligibility (100 words limit)

Briefly describe how you meet the eligibility criteria described in section 5 of this guidance.

#### Current research activity (250 words limit)

Briefly describe your research and its broader relevance to a non-academic audience.

#### Research history (250 words limit)

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.

#### Review (250 words limit)

Review a new film, play, novel, book of poetry, exhibition or any other cultural event of which you have personal and recent experience. This should be of interest to and written for a non-academic audience, and must be on a topic and discipline separate from your research. 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](#). Remember that *Free Thinking* makes a link between arts and ideas, so your review will need to explore ideas within or prompted by the work and not simply discuss its apparent quality.

### Submitting your application

Once you have completed your application you then need to submit it. Je-S first submits the application to your host organisation's administration, **not** to AHRC. Your organisation **must** submit the proposal to us by 4pm on Tuesday 8 October 2019.

**Make sure you leave enough time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your application to them and the call closing date.**

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

## Successful workshop applicants

From these written submissions, up to 60 applicants will be chosen to attend one of three workshops in either Salford or London. At the workshop, you will:

- Learn from BBC staff how they commission, produce and present radio and television programmes
- Workshop programme ideas with the help of other candidates and producers
- Take part in interactive practice sessions to showcase 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 won't be competing with other candidates like you would at other interviews. We assess each applicant on their performance as a whole, as well their application.

We're not able to pay travel expenses or compensation for time off in lieu of work for attending a workshop. You should approach your organisation, however, to see if they can provide any assistance.

## Final applicants

10 successful applicants chosen from the workshops will become an Arts and Humanities Research Council, Radio 3 New Generation Thinker for 2020. They will:

- Work with BBC producers to develop their own programme ideas for Radio 3 and receive input from BBC Arts
- Be invited to showcase their research and trail their programme idea at the BBC and AHRC events
- Appear regularly on air in Radio 3's *Free Thinking* programme, available as a BBC Arts & Ideas podcast
- 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 18-19 February 2020. This will include a media training course, a photograph and filming session and an evening dinner on the first day. **You must attend to be part of the scheme.**

We will refund travel expenses for the final 10 New Generation Thinkers.

## Additional conditions for winners

You will be acting as ambassadors for both the AHRC and the BBC, and are expected to raise awareness

for both organisations in blog posts, tweets and other media and social media communications. This includes maintaining a Twitter account and posting items as appropriate

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. There is no payment or salary for being successful on the scheme. All expenses for travel and subsistence are payable in line with [BBC/BBC Arts Policy](#).

If you become a New Generation Thinker 2020, you 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.

## 8. Assessment process and criteria

### Stage one – written applications

Before we assess an application, the AHRC will check it for:

- Eligibility (see section 5)
- Research subject (see section 5)
- Word limits (see section 7).

Applications which don't adhere to these rules will be disqualified and will not progress any further. Ineligible, incomplete, obscene or fraudulent entries will also be disqualified at this stage.

The AHRC and the BBC will then assess all remaining applications against the assessment criteria below and assign an initial grade (1 to 6), where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is exceptional.

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:

- Give a **simple, jargon free** explanation of the research in an engaging manner
- Demonstrate high standards of scholarship with originality and quality
- Are creative and original
- Provide a strong programme idea that explains the significance of the research and what the findings mean in day-to-day terms
- Have an editorial and stylistic suitability for a Radio 3 audience
- Have a review and research description that shows a breadth of interest
- Demonstrate that you are comfortable communicating ideas outside of your research area in

an interesting, well-written and engaging manner

- Demonstrate ideas that are innovative, and interesting to a public audience.

Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications, we are not able to provide individual feedback if you are unsuccessful at the application stage.

### Stage two – workshops

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.

We will provide individual feedback on your performance if you are unsuccessful at the workshop stage. We will provide guidance on how to obtain feedback at the workshops.

If you don't attend the workshops or our later media training, you'll be disqualified from the scheme and we won't pay any expenses.

### Stage three – final panel

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 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.

We expect that this will happen within ten working days of the workshops.

### The judging process

The judges' decision is final. We won't enter into any correspondence regarding the judges' decision.

The BBC and the AHRC reserve the right to change one or more of the judges if necessary. The BBC and AHRC also reserve the right to disqualify any applicant at any time, for any reason.

## 9. Terms and conditions

This document, and these terms, make up the rules of the scheme.

The BBC and the AHRC reserve the right to alter or amend any of these rules or cancel the scheme at any time in its absolute discretion.

### Your participation and your data

Your offer to become a New Generation Thinker is subject to continued acceptance of these conditions.

By applying to the scheme, you accept these rules and guidance.

You must supply full details as required and comply with all rules of the scheme.

You agree to your personal data being shared with the AHRC and the BBC for the purposes of this scheme.

### Editorial decisions

Winning a place in the scheme, or production of any programme, does not guarantee broadcast or publication on any BBC platform.

The BBC is unable to guarantee that any programme will be developed from the ideas put forward or that any or all of the successful applicants will be involved in any programme.

BBC Radio 3 will have complete editorial control over the decision whether an idea is fit for broadcast. Programme ideas commissioned for broadcast will be paid for at the standard BBC rate.

### BBC terms of use and licensing

All content, programme ideas and contributions submitted as part of your application (“Contributions”) will be subject to the [BBC’s terms of use](#), with specific reference to Clause 6 of those terms regarding the BBC’s right to use such Contributions in its services, **save that**:

- in the event that you are invited to take part in a workshop you agree to grant the BBC an exclusive licence in your Contributions to enable the BBC to conduct such a workshop;
- in the event that the BBC shall decide in its complete discretion not to use such Contributions as part of a radio programme, then such exclusive licence shall terminate and you shall be free to exploit your Contributions as you see fit, save for the rights granted to the BBC under its terms of use;
- In the event that you are selected to be part of the final 10 applicants and such Contributions is embodied in a BBC programme you agree to sign such additional documentation as the BBC may require to enable it to use your contributions and Contributions as part of the Programme. By way of example, you may be asked to sign a standard BBC contributor consent form which may include provisions which will assign copyright in your Contributions made by way of the application, or in collaboration with the BBC in the production of any radio programme and related content.

## 10. Contact information

For queries on creating Je-S accounts and submitting the application form please contact the Je-S Helpdesk at [JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org](mailto:JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org) or 01793 444164 between 8:30am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday. If you call outside office hours, leave a message we will call you back.

For general enquiries regarding this scheme, such as eligibility or project subject matter please contact the AHRC at [enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org](mailto:enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org) or telephone 01793 416060 between 8:30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.