

CALL FOR RESEARCH NETWORK GUIDANCE, COHORT 3, 2019

The Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS) is dedicated to creating a collaborative and inspiring research environment, bringing together researchers from across disciplines to deliver ambitious and transformative research. Through our funded networks, we aim to break down the silos that have traditionally been a feature of higher education research, enabling academics to explore new, highly innovative ideas, and to stimulate increased ambition.

The LIAS Research Networks scheme provides support for interdisciplinary groups of researchers working on a specified thematic area, issue or research challenge. This funding is available for bringing together new teams of researchers, or for enabling expansion and enhanced ambition for existing research clusters/groups.

The scheme aims to:

- Support collaboration and exchange of ideas across disciplinary boundaries to explore a theme, issue, or research challenge
- Liberate groups from structural and disciplinary restrictions in order to explore innovative research ideas and/or methodologies leading to tangible projects and research outputs
- Encourage those within the research community to involve new researchers and people from outside the immediate academy in the discussion and development of ideas, including the Innovation Hub and Doctoral College.

A Network can apply for up to £15,000 per year for up to two years, beginning 1st September 2019.

The Application

Proposals must:

- Have representation from at least two Departments (and ideally at least two Colleges)
- Explain how the network will bring together different epistemologies, methods, subjects and fields into conversation and research practice
- Explain how the network could lead to novel research outcomes and innovations
- Justify the approach taken to network formulation and development, and clearly explain the novelty
- Justify the added value which will be realised by resourcing the network – particularly where funding is being sought to support existing research groups, the proposal should outline how the funding will be used to expand on previous work and enable the group to enhance their interdisciplinary activities and outputs
- Discuss potential applications with the College Research Directors and/or LIAS staff
- Explain how the Network will be administered and event managed, whether through a funded administrative post or existing internal resource.
- Describe plans for sustainability beyond the lifetime of the funding
- Consider how the proposed Network could enhance student experience, for example through providing student placements.

Proposals are strongly advised to consider the role of external academics or other stakeholders in the network formulation and activities, across the lifetime of the proposed funding

The scheme is not intended to fund standalone events that are not part of the research development process. Ineligible activities include:

- Funding for PhD studentships
- External conference attendance and travel
- Salary costs of academic staff (although RA/Administrative support for the Network can be included in the budget)

Application and Review process

Applications are invited via the application form and budget template in Annex A of this call.

If you would like to discuss the application, please email lias@le.ac.uk to book a meeting.

The lead applicant must seek approval from their College Research Director and Head of Department before the application is submitted and all co-applicants should also agree their participation.

Completed application forms and budget templates (Annex A) should be sent by the lead applicant to LIAS@le.ac.uk **no later than 15th July 2019**

All applications will be considered by a panel which will review bids for both the networks and tiger team applications. The panel will be chaired by the PVC, Research and Enterprise, and will comprise the LIAS Director, College Directors of Research and a representative from the Research and Enterprise Division.

Charters will be drawn up for each successful network, which agree a programme of activities and monitoring/support framework, in line with practice for current Research Institutes. Progress will be reviewed quarterly and annual reports made.

Information about existing Networks can be found here –

<https://le.ac.uk/research/areas/institutes/institute-advanced-studies/funded-projects>