

## Humanities Civic Engagement Strategy

This draft strategy builds on previous operational and strategic priorities in the Faculty's Strategic and Operational Plans and on the specific objectives and criteria in its SR plans and programmes. It also seeks to position Humanities at the heart of the University's Civic Engagement plans.

It also builds on our recent strong track record in engaging with Greater Manchester organisations, communities and individuals and influencing policymaking in the region. In recent years this has included:

- The Justice Hub
- Creative Manchester
- The BeeWell Programme
- The Oldham Economic Review
- The Productivity Institute's NW Regional Forum
- Supporting the Greater Manchester Inequalities Commission
- Supporting the Greater Manchester Independent Prosperity Review

As for the University as a whole, Civic Engagement forms a core part of our vision and strategic plan. It reflects how our work is enhanced and inspired by our location in Greater Manchester and the way we improve lives across our city and region. This connects with our history and the founding of the University's predecessor organisations such as the Mechanics Institute and to our present as we work in and with the Greater Manchester city region. As Britain's first civic university, we were founded by, and for, the people of Manchester. For us, contributing to the wellbeing and prosperity of Greater Manchester is a fundamental part of our purpose.

Further details on the University Civic Engagement plan can be found here: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/social-responsibility/civic/>

Humanities have helped lead the Civic Universities Agenda and the signing of a [Civic University Agreement](#) between the city region's five HEIs (and also incorporating the 10 main FE colleges too) to advance wellbeing and prosperity throughout Greater Manchester. We played a part in establishing the Civic Universities Commission, where the first evidence sessions were held here at the University and from which CUAs have been launched. See here for further details: <https://upp-foundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Civic-University-Commission-Final-Report.pdf>

Our commitment to civic engagement can be seen in our research that involves our population and informs local policies, our engagement through staff and student experience activities, the social impact of our cultural institutions, our role as an economic anchor and our alignment to the Greater Manchester strategy and ambitions.

Our core goals of research and discovery, teaching and learning and social responsibility are enhanced, and inspired, by our city region and its pioneering spirit. We actively engage under-represented communities and places, involve a wide range of people in our work and listen to public concerns and aspirations across our region.

This agenda has helped the University to produce REF Impact Case Studies as well as to support our submission to the [Knowledge Exchange Framework](#) (KEF) and to the [Times Higher Education](#), social impact rankings measured against the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

In recent years this ‘civic’ or GM focus has underpinned our strategic and operational objectives in Humanities SR as part of our wider faculty strategy and operational plan and also the broader university SR strategy and plan.

This ‘civic’ focus also connects and drives our recent work on ‘levelling up’ and our interest in the policy agendas of both national and local government. Addressing local and regional inequalities are major objectives of both the UK Government and the GMCA and can be seen in the Levelling Up white Paper and the Greater Manchester Strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>  
<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/greater-manchester-strategy/>

Much of the Faculty’s work can be seen in the University’s ‘Levelling Up’ webpages – collated through the Global Inequalities Institute: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/collaborate/levelling-up/>

There are opportunities for the faculty to further shape policy emanating from these documents eg through Innovation GM.

Within GM - our various strategies and operational plans over the past five years have focused on tackling inequality in GM (communities, people, places) and the city region’s poorest places with lower skills/education, wages, living standards, health etc (we’ve pushed a particular focus on GM Towns/Boroughs eg Rochdale, Tameside, Oldham, Wigan, Bury, Bolton, Salford but also towns within them such as Ashton, Middleton. NB Manchester itself obviously remains a relatively poor LA with lots of the above issues/indicators).

This has helped give a focus for students eg through WP and GM Higher but also for school, college interaction eg through school governors programme, public engagement and outreach. It has also helps research proposals or community focused programmes too such as through our funding programmes – ‘Engaging Our Communities’ and SR in the Curriculum’. Finally - but perhaps most significantly for Humanities Civic Engagement agenda it has provided a GM policy focus working with GMCA, Mayor and individual local authorities and communities:

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/equalities/independent-inequalities-commission/>

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/economy/greater-manchester-independent-prosperity-review/>

And also things like the following:

<https://gmbeewell.org/>

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/news/article/2135/looking\\_to\\_the\\_future\\_with\\_oldhams\\_economic\\_review\\_board](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/news/article/2135/looking_to_the_future_with_oldhams_economic_review_board)

Looking to the future we have taken the opportunity of a hiatus during Covid19, to rethink and refocus our Faculty SR funding competitions towards this ‘Civic Engagement’ agenda. NB this doesn’t rule out traditional or broader SR focused projects but it does ask for a GM or ‘Civic’ focus to them.

We have also taken the opportunity to ‘rescale’ the competitions and with match funding from University SR we are able to offer larger funding allocations (£10k per school) so that faculty funded projects can fill the gap between smaller school funded projects and larger schemes at University level. The intention is that this will allow the Faculty (and each individual school) to establish a

‘signature’ civic engagement project – either scaling up from smaller existing projects or supplementing larger programmes already operating at scale (eg the Justice Hub or BeeWell).

# Humanities Strategic Civic Engagement Fund (HSCEF):

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The Faculty of Humanities welcomes funding applications which support our Social Responsibility and Civic Engagement strategy. This reflects how our work is enhanced and inspired by our location in Greater Manchester and the way we improve lives and communities across our city region. Priority will be given to projects with a 'civic' and GM focus. Applications to this fund should be developed collaboratively with local partners and informed by the needs of local communities.

## **Focus of award:**

Projects should demonstrate a clear commitment to supporting the University's and Faculty's Civic Engagement strategy with clear impact on partners, communities and people within Greater Manchester. It is the expectation that applications to this fund will foster collaboration, with local communities, businesses or government organisations that may lead to future joint-submissions to research and/or other funding sources and/or other social responsibility partnerships that may contribute to the University's strategic goal of increasing its standing as a World-leading institution. The fund is open to bids that involve the application of research, teaching and learning or other expertise within the faculty.

Using the application form below, applications should demonstrate the strategic importance of their partnership and the expected outcomes as a result of the funding. Cross Department and School collaborations are encouraged and may lead to higher levels of award (if for example two schools are involved).

Awards of up to £10,000 will be made, including a contribution from the University's SR and CE team. An additional contribution from schools or external partners will be expected as part of the bidding process. Please note this fund is not designed to support attendance at conferences, speakers or individual costs for travel to or from the University.

## **Conditions of the awards:**

- Applications must have approval from your Head of School and the Head/Director of Social Responsibility.
- Funding is available to all academic, research and Professional Services staff within the Faculty of Humanities.
- Projects must demonstrate clear engagement with external partners (eg, community groups, local authority, businesses etc)
- A maximum of £10,000 will be awarded for individual projects, but successful bids will require additional contribution (up to £10k) from either schools or external partner organisations.
- Projects can apply for funding to be spent by 31 July 2023.
- Cross Department and School bids are encouraged.
- Funding may not be transferred between funding years, unless in exceptional circumstances and as agreed by the Vice-Dean for Social Responsibility.

- Expenses for non-University staff may be covered, but staff time will not be.
- The award holder must be employed as a member of staff for the duration of the project.
- An outcome and impact report will be requested upon completion of the project.

Discussion on the scope and remit of applications is welcomed, and can be discussed directly with Professor Andy Westwood, Vice-Dean for Social Responsibility, [andrew.westwood@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.westwood@manchester.ac.uk)

Please keep your academic School Director for Social Responsibility informed of your application.

**Application process:**

Complete the application form included below, ensuring all relevant information has been included and the required approvals are in place.

Following approval from you Head of School and Head/Director of Social Responsibility, applications should be sent to [alison.needham@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:alison.needham@manchester.ac.uk)

**Review and decision making:**

Applications will be reviewed by the Vice-Dean for Social Responsibility and the Director of Social Responsibility, together with other Faculty representatives as appropriate.

The deadline for applications is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April and should be sent to [alison.needham@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:alison.needham@manchester.ac.uk)

For any queries, please email External Engagement & Projects Officer, Alison Needham [alison.needham@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:alison.needham@manchester.ac.uk).

**Awards will be announced by 20<sup>th</sup> May.**

## HSCEF Application form

### Proposal Details

Proposal Title:

### Lead Academic Details

Institution: University of Manchester

School:

Department/Division:

### Details of collaborative partner organisation/department

Title and full name:

Institution:

School/Division:

### Details of collaborative partner organisation/department

Title and full name:

Institution:

School/Division:

### Details of collaborative partner organisation/department

Title and full name:

Institution:

School/Division:

### Proposal outline - see notes above

**Applications (of maximum 2-4 pages) should include the following information:**

#### Project summary

- Project aims and objectives
- Outline the context and impetus for the initiative

- List the team responsible for delivering the project
- Does the project engage with community, governmental, or non-academic partners? Where relevant, the project might briefly indicate any impact plans.
- What online networking activities are included alongside in-person research collaboration?

#### **Strategic relevance**

- How will this project support the strategic objectives as set out in Our Future?
- How will this project support the Faculty's Civic Engagement strategy?

#### **Purpose of investment**

- In what way will this fund develop, expand or enhance the work of the project and the collaboration therein?
- What are the particularly innovative features of this proposal?

#### **Work programme and outputs**

- Project start date and duration. The funding is for the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23
- In a summary table present the planned work programme: itemise the tasks/activities and outputs (interim and final) against a delivery timeline including anticipated results (i.e. large grant application, special journal issue) beyond the end of the project's funding.
- Outline specific information regarding further funding opportunities this project will lead to (e.g., Joint applications to international research networks; 4\* publication output etc)
- Academic staff costs eg buy out will not be funded.
- What are the potential for further Research Grant applications following this project?
- For knowledge exchange and impact projects – what are the expected outputs and impacts from the project.

#### **Proposal Finance**

**Costs and funding request should be for the financial year August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2023.**

##### **Note:**

A maximum of £10,000 is available per project.

Funding is available for a maximum of two financial year (2021/22 and 2022/23)		
<b>Directly Incurred heading</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>
<b>Financial spend until 31 July 2022</b>		
<b>Financial spend 1 August 2022 – 31 July 2023</b>		
<b>Project Costs:</b>		
<b>Total project costs including additional funding from school or external organisation:</b>		

\*Please note: funding requests outside of the financial years listed above will not be guaranteed.

<b>Head of School Declaration:</b>  I have reviewed the proposal information supplied and authorise the submission of this proposal for review by the relevant review panel.
Head of School (1) name, signature and date

<b>Financial Declaration:</b>  I have reviewed the financial content of this proposal and I confirm all financial information included is accurate and has been checked, ready for review by the review panel.
Head of School Finance name, signature and date



