

Humanities Strategic Civic Engagement Fund (HSCEF)

Call for 2026-2027 funding

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, and links to one of the M2035 leaps, [being a University to partner with](#). 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. Guidance on civic engagement can be found on the [University website](#) and on the [Civic University Network](#).

Focus of award:

Projects should demonstrate a clear commitment to supporting the [University'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, third sector organisations, businesses or government organisations. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate an ambition to:

- Co-create research funding applications with local stakeholders,
- Deploy our teaching expertise to the benefit of the local community,
- Articulate new ways of engaging people in Greater Manchester that contribute to the University's standing as a world-leading innovator.

In line with the University's vision for social responsibility, the Faculty of Humanities encourages applications in the following areas:

- Social inclusion
- Prosperous communities
- Environmental sustainability*
- Cultural and digital engagement
- Better health

**To support the Faculty's Environmental Sustainability strategy, we aim to fund at least one project focused on this area.*

The fund is particularly keen to encourage applications that involve cross-departmental or School collaboration within the Faculty. Collaborative projects with other Faculties and applications that have received or aspire to apply for additional funding to University or external sources are also welcomed.

Applications should demonstrate the strategic importance of their partnership, their expected outcomes and impact as well as their potential for creating sustainable benefits beyond the funding cycle.

You can find links to articles about past HSCEF projects online here:

<https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/humanities/social-responsibility/civic-engagement/civic-engagement-fund/>

Conditions of award:

- Applicants must have approval from their respective Head of School or Director of Social Responsibility.
- Funding is available to all academic, research and professional services staff within the Faculty of Humanities.
- A maximum of £10,000 will be awarded for individual projects.
- Funds must be spent between 1 August 2026 and 31 July 2027.
- The award holder must be employed as a member of staff for the duration of the project.
- Funding cannot be used to pay members of existing staff, but can be used to pay students or for research assistants on an hourly rate.
- Expenses for non-University staff can be covered.
- This fund is not designed to support attendance of conferences.
- An outcome and impact report will be requested upon completion of the project as well as quarterly updates to the Faculty SR team.
- Applicants will be responsible for managing the project themselves and administering payments and bookings. Award holders will be given a specific Faculty account code to spend against, but it is their responsibility to oversee and manage spending.

For informal advice on the scope and remit of the fund, please contact the Vice-Dean for Social Responsibility, Dimitris.Papadimitriou@manchester.ac.uk

Application process:

Complete the application form ensuring all relevant information has been included and the required approvals are in place. If you need to submit any additional information this can be emailed to Roz Webster, but we do need a record of your application via the online form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Nh6pnFDh5F>.

For any queries, please email Social Responsibility and Environmental Sustainability Manager, Roz Webster: roz.webster@manchester.ac.uk

Please speak to your respective Head of School or Director of Social Responsibility before submitting your application, as their approval is an integral part of the application.

Review and decision making:

Applications will be reviewed by a panel convened by the Vice Dean for Social Responsibility.

The deadline for applications is **5pm on Thursday 30 April 2026**

Awards will be announced by **early June**. Funds must be spent between 1 August 2026 and 31 July 2027.