Faculty of Humanities Social Responsibility in the Curriculum Funding

The Vice-Dean for Social Responsibility and the Humanities Social Responsibility Committee invite proposals for initiatives under the theme of 'Social Responsibility in the Curriculum'. Initiatives will be delivered during the 2026–27 academic year.

Criteria

Any course unit leader or programme director of an undergraduate or postgraduate taught course can submit a proposal, including those who have received an award once previously. In all cases the proposal must be for the enhancement of an existing module or programme or the incorporation of explicit social responsibility focus in a new module.

For 2026-27 the emphasis of this call is on the five strategic themes for Social Responsibility: Social Inclusion; Prosperous Communities; Better Health; Environmental Sustainability; Cultural and Digital Engagement. Further to this, to support the Faculty's Environmental Sustainability strategy we aim to fund at least one project focused on this theme. We also encourage pilot initiatives that integrate partner enabled learning in the curriculum. We particularly welcome proposals developed through meaningful co-creation with community or external partners, where partners help to shape the activity and where the resulting learning, resources or outputs provide a clear and mutually beneficial outcome beyond the University.

Applications must have a specific focus on at least one of the five strategic themes. We particularly welcome proposals that challenge students to consider issues of public engagement and consent, including how teaching, learning and research can be developed and communicated in ways that build understanding, trust and meaningful engagement with Greater Manchester communities that have traditionally had fewer connections with the University.

Examples of proposals are not restricted to, but may include the following:

- incorporation of external visits or short placements in the curriculum (to cultural venues, small businesses, local charities, public sector bodies, schools, voluntary sector, campaigning organisations);
- visits of relevant individuals or representatives of outside agencies to the module;
- development of innovative assessment processes that orientate students to the outside world (e.g., challenging students to communicate research findings to more diverse audiences);
- creation of course materials that promote students' work to non-university audiences (e.g. posters that present module content to a community group or student written blogs for public dissemination);

- co-created projects in which students and community or external partners jointly identify a need or question and develop an activity, resource or output that provides value to the partner or wider community;
- incorporation of student projects or commissions, including those shaped or commissioned by external partners, that challenge students to explore the relevance of their subject or discipline to contemporary issues (e.g. how might the module topic be used as part of Black History month);
- innovative uses of technology where this enables new forms of communication, dissemination and engagement with external audiences (e.g. creating a web site, blog site or YouTube channel in response to module content).

The aim is to encourage students to consider how their knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject can communicate, connect and create value beyond the immediate demands of their course. This may include opportunities to work with external partners and communities to identify shared priorities, co-create activities or outputs, and generate benefits beyond the University. Proposals may develop this emphasis across a programme or focus on one aspect of a course.

Costs can include:

- Student travel;
- External visitor/speaker expenses up to a maximum of £250 per speaker
  In exceptional circumstances higher speaker fees may be considered if the speaker would be of interest to a wider audience and an open event is organised alongside any module specific input. For example the inclusion of a public lecture in the activity;
- Reasonable payments to community or external partners for specialist input, co-creation or delivery, where clearly justified within the proposal.
- Course materials;
- Assessment material (e.g. posters, video);
- Payment for additional support to help create new resources or course materials.

Costs out of scope:

- IT equipment or other items, which would normally be requested through your school equipment and resources budget;
- Food/refreshment costs;
- Payments to internal staff, outside of specific expenses;
- International travel expenses;
- External website costs.

The maximum award that can be applied for is **£1,000 per module**, although colleagues may ask for additional funds (**up to £3,000)** if the activity involves multiple modules from the same programme or engages students across multiple programmes. **Funding must be spent by 31 July 2027.**

Consideration should be given within the proposal as to whether this will be a one-off project or funding for resources that could be used again (e.g. films, website development, etc.) Applicants should explain how the intervention could be sustained or embedded in future iterations.

Note that priority for funding will be given to applications that meet one or more of the following:

- Demonstrate a clear need - e.g. responding to student feedback
- Have demonstrable outputs and outcomes that can be measured in some form
- Have a legacy and embed the outputs into teaching into future iterations of the module(s)
- Demonstrate clear links to what the students do with the learning intervention e.g. link to assessment, produce reflective pieces for discussion
- Demonstrate meaningful engagement or co-creation with community or external partners and identify the intended benefit for those partners or wider external audiences
- Are inclusive to all students

Further information

If you would like to discuss any ideas or have any queries, please contact your School SR Director. For queries relating to the application process, contact roz.webster@manchester.ac.uk, Social Responsibility and Environmental Sustainability Manager.

Application process

Please complete the online application form here by **Monday, 23 November at 5pm**
Social Responsibility in the Curriculum application form 2026-27 – Fill in form

We strongly encourage applicants to liaise with their School SR Director prior to completing an application.

- AMBS: Sofia Yasmin
- SALC: Holly Morse
- SEED: Emma Shuttleworth
- SOSS: Claire Fox