**Universities Partnership and LIAS Interdisciplinary Civic Scheme**

In alignment with the civic [Universities Partnership](https://universitiespartnership.org/), The Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS) has launched an interdisciplinary research call bringing colleagues together from the University of Leicester, De Montfort University, and Loughborough University.

This initiative encourages colleagues to work equitably across the three Universities, and their shared communities, to co-create projects responding to, and/or cutting across, the objectives and five established thematic areas of the civic university agreement; (i) Education, (ii) The Economy, (iii) Health, Wellbeing and Sport, (iv), Environmental Sustainability, and (v) Arts, Culture and Heritage.

Awarded projects would utilise interdisciplinary expertise to explore early-stage and novel research which can bring together colleagues from the three Universities and community partners. **Applicants can apply for up to £800.** Additional funding *may* be offered at a later stage, subject to funding.

Team members must span **all three Universities,** and may be comprised of colleagues from professional services, community outreach and research. Teams **must include at least one** academic lead and one civic partner.

LIAS and the Universities Partnership team are able to respond to queries about potential community partners, however applications must be **agreed by both University and non-University members** **prior to submission** and should illustrate co-creation.

Successful projects will run for an initial five-month period (February 15th - July 15th 2025), and may act as a springboard for ongoing research. Awarded projects will be invited to present their work at the LIAS Summer Showcase at College Court in July 2025.

**Eligible costs may include (but not restricted to):**

* Workshops / Away Days for partnership building, idea generation and knowledge exchange
* Public engagement, outreach activity, citizen science, participatory research, lifelong learning, community engagement, creative or performance activities
* Bus, taxi and train fare travel between universities and/or community sites.

**Ineligible costs include (but are not restricted to):**

* Tuition fees at any level, including studentships
* Salary costs of substantive staff members from universities or any partner
* Salary or UNITEMPS costs for research members
* Equipment
* Conference attendance and travel.

**Previously funded interdisciplinary research projects:**

* Diaspora Leicester: Living heritage and memory in sayings, poems and songs (lead: Dr Yan Yin)
* Mapping the city with electric paint (lead: Dr Colin Hyde)
* Working with the “Dance & Health” community programme to co-create research into chronic lung disease in Leicester women of South Asian ethnicity (lead: Dr Leah Cuthbertson)
* [The Centenary Community Engagement Fund](https://journals.le.ac.uk/index.php/lias/article/view/4037/3467) awarded six projects to co-create research projects addressing some of the most pressing issues in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. [Read the impact report.](https://player.flipsnack.com/?hash=OTc1OUFBRkY4RDYrMWhmcmlmOXh1Mw%3D%3D&p=18)

**Completed applications should be submitted to** **lias@le.ac.uk** **by Friday January 31st, 17:00.**

# Review and award process

**Assessment process**Applications will be reviewed by members of the awarding panel, comprised of representation from all three universities. The team will aim to inform applicants of the outcome of their application within 10 working days following the application deadline.

**Assessment Criteria**Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

* Collaborations spanning the three Universities
* Collaborations spanning two or more disciplines, colleges and career stages
* Collaboration with community partners
* Alignment with the Universities Partnership mission
* Interdisciplinary team, method and approach
* Feasibility of work plan within the proposed timeline
* Potential trajectory pathways
* Potential for transformative, ambitious research
* Value for money.

# Terms and conditions of the Award

**Conditions of Funding**The funding will be available until July 15th 2025 and all activities and related spend must be completed within this timeframe. Any changes to the agreed budget must be approved prior to activities taking place and/or expenditure being committed. The Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies is administering the award.

**Reporting and Monitoring**All awarded teams will be invited to present key project milestones and any anticipated next steps at a year-end showcase. In order to best support award holders beyond the initial project lifespan, project leads will be required to complete a report to include details of the activities undertaken, outcomes to date, a statement of expenditure, and any lessons learnt. We will contact project leads annually to request details of any further outcomes, e.g. publications, grant applications, knowledge exchange.

# Standard policies andprocedures

All applicants must adhere to the policies and procedures of all three universities including; Ethics, GDPR, Due Diligence, Trusted Research, and collaboration agreements where required.

**Useful links**

[Civic Universities Agreement – Universities Partnership](https://universitiespartnership.org/agreement/)

[University of Leicester Strategic Plan](https://uniofleicester.sharepoint.com/sites/staff/strategy/the-strategic-plan/SitePages/World-changing-research.aspx)

[Previously awarded LIAS projects](https://le.ac.uk/research/institutes/lias/projects)

**Universities Partnership and LIAS Interdisciplinary Civic Scheme**

*Please complete this form and submit it to* *lias@le.ac.uk**.*

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| Group information |
| **Project title: Lead applicant(s):Core members: (please list names, Universities and organisations, Departments/Schools and Colleges, titles/career stages, of all applicants and members):**  |

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| Case for Support |
| 1. **Vision**

*Please outline your project/ group vision, including; (i) ambition and focus, and (ii) aims and objectives. Maximum 300 words.* **2. Alignment to the Civic Universities Partnership agreement** *Please state which thematic theme(s) and/or objectives the project aligns to, and in what ways it will strengthen objectives of the Universities Partnership agreement. Applications should also detail how civic partners will contribute to and benefit from this research. Maximum 300 words.* **3. Interdisciplinary approach** *Please reflect on the interdisciplinary approach and collaboration, rather than solely technical methods. Maximum 300 words.* **4. Pathway to outputs and outcomes** *Please provide a brief outline of expected outputs and outcomes, including milestones. Maximum 100 words.***5. Budget***Please complete the budget table below (add lines as required).*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** | **Justification** |
|   |  |  |
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**6. Match funding** *We welcome applications with match funding; however, it is not a criteria. Please confirm if you are planning to obtain match-funding, providing details*. [ ] **Confirmations**Please confirm that you have discussed this application with at least one Department/ School/ College Director of Research. [ ] Please confirm you are aware of the end date of the award; funds will not be carried over into the new financial yea, and any overspend or spend beyond the financial year will be carried by the lead applicant’s School/Department. [ ] **Signature of Head of Department/ School***Name:* *Department and Institution:**Signature and date:**Electronic signatures or signed/scanned signatures are acceptable.*  |

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