

**Faculty of Media, Arts, and Humanities**  
**Research Culture Fund 2025 Guidance notes**

Context:

MAH has been awarded £20,000 from the University to enable us to enhance our research culture. Some of this funding will be dedicated to supporting away days and core research events, but we are making more than half available in an open call for projects that foster research culture in the Faculty.

What are we looking for?

We welcome applications from faculty, PGRs, and PS colleagues that will enhance research culture in your subject area or the wider faculty. If you are interested in applying, please first read these explainers on research culture: <https://www.ukri.org/publications/explainer-research-culture/> and University of Sussex research culture resources and enabling plan: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/research-culture>

If you would like to discuss a potential activity, contact Medeni Fordham (Senior Research Manager) to talk through ([M.Fordham@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:M.Fordham@sussex.ac.uk))

Application process:

Your application will be reviewed by the MAH Research Portfolio Team. Activities supported by the fund must be completed by 31 July 2025 and we ask that all expenditure is processed by 1 July 2025. It is not possible to carry any funds over to the next academic year.

There is an upper limit of £2000 per application and please note that value for money is an important consideration and all costs must be fully accounted for.

*Events/projects will generally need to be 'self-sufficient' - light-touch PS support will be available but capacity is limited.*

**Deadline for applications: Monday 24 February 2025 (midnight)**

Indicative list of example projects:

- Pilot projects, particularly cross-faculty collaborations to explore research connections
- Research mobilisation groups
- Reading groups
- Academic career development events and programmes
- Cross-disciplinary seminars and workshops
- Networking events
- Summer of Research events – details below – if applying we would anticipate a limit of £1k per event

This is not an exhaustive list. Applications are welcome for initiatives that do not fit any of these categories. This call is deliberately broad in scope, to encourage as wide a range of applications as possible.

*NB. Applications for UoA Research Away Days do not need to apply as funds have already been committed to these activities.*

### **For those submitting applications to be considered for Summer of Research (9-20 June 2025)**

The [Summer of Research](#) is a University-wide festival celebrating research, knowledge exchange and impact at Sussex. 2024 saw us work together to attract in excess of 2300 participants across a range of events which promoted excellent research, great practice and offered new networking opportunities. In 2025 the festival will be two weeks long, 9-20 June, with a single strand programme of events. Each Faculty has been asked to put 2-3 events forwards.

**This is great opportunity to share the excellent research taking place in each Faculty with the whole University and build new connections, as well as to grow conversation about research topics, methodologies and practices. With fewer events in the programme this year, each will have a higher profile across the institution, offering the opportunity to colleagues to showcase their work and organise a supported event that is really useful to them.**

#### **We recommend that faculty events should:**

- Be open and accessible to everyone at the University, wherever possible
- Include stakeholders where this is of benefit, or open to the public where this serves the organiser's aims (though this is not essential – see target audiences below)
- Encourage interdisciplinarity wherever possible, if it also serves the organiser's aims
- Incorporate elements of interactivity wherever possible, which feedback has shown to be highly-valued by our audiences
- Use resources wisely - we are happy if an event is part of an existing series that the festival offers the chance to amplify/open to a broader audience
- Be in-person as a first choice, online where this format works particularly well or is right for the audience. Hybrid events should only take place when this facility adds clear value to an otherwise in-person event (e.g. bringing in stakeholders from other locations etc.)
- Be 1.5 hours long as a default, but can be 1 hour, or 2 hours, or longer with discussion with the Research Culture team regarding scheduling

For reference, the **aims of the Summer of Research (SoR)** are:

- To demonstrate research is highly valued as a core part of the University's mission
- To demonstrate how good our research is
- To celebrate research as broadly as possible and stimulate the connectivity between disciplines and researchers
- To share knowledge and experience around our great research and our great research practices

- To contribute to a positive and thriving [Research Culture](#)

Our **target audiences** are:

- The University of Sussex research community (academic and PS staff at all levels and postgraduate students and researchers)
- All other staff
- Undergraduate and postgraduate taught students interested to find out more about research at Sussex
- Some events may be opened to external audiences, if that serves their goals