



Encounters 2022: Mapping the Future of the Creative Arts and Humanities

The IAS/SCII Creative Fellowship programme

Overview

The Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) at UCL's Bloomsbury campus, together with the recently created School for the Creative and Cultural Industries (SCCI) at UCL East, is seeking to appoint four Creative Fellows to work with us from May to July 2022. The *Encounters with the Creative Arts and Humanities* programme of Fellowships, which has been running since 2019, offers creative practitioners the opportunity to explore new directions in their own practice in partnership with UCL academics. This year - besides an open-ended exploration of the relationship between creative practice and research - these grants also invite practitioners to work with UCL academics in setting the agenda for a new research centre in this field, based jointly at IAS and SCII, and launching in Autumn 2022. ARIEL: The UCL Research Centre for Artistic Practice and the Creative and Cultural Industries aims to open up a space for dynamic new interactions at the intersections of creative practice and academic research.

The *Encounters* programme

The *Encounters* programme aims to unpack creativity and the creative method, and to explore how creative practice operates as a form of knowing, exploring or discovering as well as doing, seeking to recognise the value of creative practice as knowledge creation and knowledge disruption. For our Fellowships, we are looking for creative practitioners who are excited about exploring, through their own creative practice, one or more of the following questions:

- What is the value of creative practices as forms of knowing, exploring or discovering, and how do these forms relate to more conventional modes of research?
- How might creative or artistic practices be used to transform or amplify more conventional modes of research in the humanities?
- How can academic research learn to speak more clearly to the needs of creative practitioners and to the Creative and Cultural Industries?
- How can creative practice map the future? How can it help map the future of research both at UCL and more widely?

The programme is broadly focused on the fields of performance, creative writing, visual arts or media. The appointed Fellows will be asked to respond creatively to the questions posed above and then to plan and deliver at least two events aimed at staff or students at UCL, and, as appropriate, a wider public. These could be seminars, creative workshops, performance events or any other medium that allows people to collaborate in exploring creativity. How you respond to the ideas you encounter at UCL is up to you; we will not expect you to follow any prescribed format; we are keen for you to experiment, as long as some of our community of researchers and students can be involved in the process. Fellows will also be expected to help imagine future directions for ARIEL.

We are particularly interested in working with practitioners who may not have any prior experience of working with a university, and we are committed to providing support to help the Fellows to navigate our university 'walls' and engage meaningfully with our communities.

Creative Fellowships 2022

Four Fellowships are available from May to July 2022.

There will be two Fellowships of £10,000 each, which require Fellows:

- To engage actively with UCL academic life, linking up with academic staff or students to explore, through their own creative approaches and practice, the relationship of creative practice to the Humanities
- To respond creatively to their experiences of meeting and sharing ideas with academics and students at UCL
- To plan and deliver at least two events that engage different groups at UCL in an exploration of creative method(s) and the questions posed by the Fellowship
- To serve on one of the Working Groups developing ARIEL (estimated time: 3 x 2-hour meetings, plus preparation)

- To assist in planning a third event aimed at a broader public, whose aim will be to illustrate and demonstrate the value of the Creative Humanities and provide a 'map' or manifesto - in any creative format - of what the future of Creative Arts and Humanities research might look like. This event is to be designed as part of the launch of UCL ARIEL. (The launch will be in Autumn 2022, but it is envisaged that the planning will be done during the period of the Fellowship, i.e. by 31 July 2022)

There will be a further two Fellowships of £5,000 each, which require Fellows:

- To engage actively with UCL academic life, linking up with academic staff or students to explore, through their own creative approaches and practice, the relationship of creative practice to the Humanities
- To respond creatively to their experiences of meeting and sharing ideas with academics and students at UCL
- To plan and deliver at least two events that engage different groups at UCL in an exploration of creative method(s) and the questions posed by the Fellowship
- To take part in discussions at UCL around the value and future of the Creative Humanities and to provide a draft 'manifesto', in any creative format, that lays some of the groundwork for the new research centre, ARIEL.

All four grants will be paid in two instalments – the first soon after the beginning of the Fellowship on agreement of an outline plan for the Fellowship; the second halfway through the Fellowship. There may also be small amounts of money available to support any production costs and other expenses you might incur.

What you will bring to the Fellowship

- Creative curiosity about research and creative practice: how these two processes operate and influence one another within a university context, and what value the creative arts and humanities bring to wider society
- Openness to working with academic researchers, educators or students to explore the relationships between research, learning and creative practice
- Willingness to plan and then lead some events that explore themes of creative practice and creative methodologies
- Willingness to share insights into your creative practice and insights into how UCL can better integrate creative practice and research through our vision for ARIEL and how its research can contribute meaningfully to the work of creative practitioners and the Creative and Cultural Industries.

What UCL will bring

- Support for you to meet and develop creative collaborations with academics who are interested in creative practice from across the Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Membership of the Institute of Advanced Studies community, including access to all IAS events
- Access to UCL library and archival collections and museums for the duration of the Fellowship

Making an Application

If you are interested in this opportunity, please apply as follows:

1. Complete the application form with basic information about you and the nature/mode of your creative practice (e.g. poetry, visual art, performance, etc.), indicating whether you wish to be considered for a Fellowship of £5,000; a Fellowship of £10,000; or both.
2. Write a short statement (max. 1,000 words) or send us a video/audio recording (max. 7 mins) which includes:
 - a. What the term 'Creative Humanities' means to you, and why the inclusion of creative practice in research is important
 - b. Why you are interested in working collaboratively with researchers and students at UCL. Please specify if you have identified particular researchers relevant to your practice (see further information below about IAS).
 - c. Any experience you have of making connections with non-practitioners and talking with them about the creative process
 - d. What you hope to get out of the Fellowship
 - e. A couple of ideas for creative and engaging 'encounters' with members of the UCL community
 - f. What you imagine ARIEL might look like and what it might do

Deadline: 06/03/2022

Contact for enquiries/applications: Catherine Stokes, IAS Administrator and Executive Assistant to the Director: c.stokes@ucl.ac.uk

Creative Arts and Humanities at UCL

UCL has a long history of practice-led research within the Humanities, from artistic practice as a form of research in the Slade School of Fine Art, to practice-led PhD programmes across a number of disciplines.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities is committed to strengthening the role of creative practice within research and teaching, fostering greater dialogue between humanities researchers and creative practitioners; and foregrounding the value of creative practice as research.

The Faculty has also developed a new undergraduate degree programme in the Creative Arts and Humanities that will launch in Autumn 2023 as part of the School for the Creative and Cultural Industries at UCL East. This degree will allow students to draw upon the richness of the Humanities disciplines at UCL to engage with both critical and creative practices as well as active engagement with the creative industries.

UCL ARIEL: The Research Centre for Artistic Practice and the Creative and Cultural Industries is a joint IAS/SCII initiative that will develop a range of activities to coordinate, stimulate and critically explore intellectual interactions between researchers in the creative sectors, the cultural industries and universities.

The School for the Creative and Cultural Industries at UCL East

The School for the Creative and Cultural Industries at UCL's new campus in East London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park draws together research, learning, public engagement and enterprise focused on art and technology, media, history, heritage and cultural production.

The School for Creative and Cultural Industries will support and develop the next generation of practitioners to work across the cultural and creative sectors, and more widely for careers where creativity and critical thinking are valued. The brand-new spaces of the school will be creative and collaborative gathering places for students, academics, professionals and activists with a common passion for shared exploration, a belief in the power of creative practice and the importance of role of heritage and public history in creating new futures. We will work with community partners, creative practitioners and organisations across the creative and cultural sector in East London and beyond.

The Institute of Advanced Studies

UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (IAS) was founded in 2015 as a research-based community of scholars from diverse fields committed to working across conventional disciplinary and organisational boundaries. As one of our Creative Fellows you would join this community and be encouraged to engage with researchers and research students to explore shared areas of interest, for example at our weekly Residential Seminar, at which our staff and visiting scholars present their work in an informal cross-disciplinary discussion. We also run an extensive and varied programme of events, in which you would be encouraged to participate.

The IAS is also home to several specialist [research centres](#) and research themes, which change annually. This year's theme is 'Growth', which is one potential focus for the work of the Fellowship; other areas of expertise include Knowledge Equities; the [Anthropocene](#); and Race and Racialisation (the [Sarah Parker Remond Centre](#)). We also work closely with the [Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery](#) and with departments across the Faculties of Social and Historical Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies. The Institute will act as the base for the Creative Fellowships, providing access to a community of interdisciplinary researchers to expand the opportunities for creative dialogue that the fellowships provide.