



Encounters with the Creative Humanities

Creative Fellowship programme 2020-21

Overview

The Institute of Advanced Studies at UCL is looking to work with a creative practitioner during the first half of 2021 as part of its new Creative Fellowships programme. We are offering a grant to work on a project titled '*Encounters with the Creative Humanities*'.

Encounters 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. The Fellowship aims to allow a creative practitioner to explore, through their own practice, one or more of the following questions:

- How can creative practice connect with academic research to develop new ways of knowing?
- How can a creative, practice-based approach to the humanities help societies or communities create or disrupt the future?

The programme is broadly focused on the fields of performance, creative writing, visual arts or media; and the Fellow will be asked to respond creatively to the questions posed above and then plan and deliver at least two digital events aimed at staff or students at UCL. These could be seminars, creative workshops, performance events or any other medium that allows people to explore creativity collaboratively.

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

The *Encounters* programme

A grant of £5,000 will be awarded to the Fellow, who will be asked to:

- Get 'stuck-in' to UCL academic life, linking up with academic staff or students to explore, through your own creative approaches and practice, the role of creative practice to the Humanities
- Respond creatively to your experiences of meeting and sharing ideas with academics and students at UCL
- Plan and deliver at least two digital events that engage different groups at UCL in an exploration of your creative method(s) and the questions posed by the Fellowship
- Join some of our discussions at UCL around the value and future of the Creative Humanities

How you respond to the ideas and issues you encounter is up to you; we will not expect you to manage your creative response in a prescribed format, and are keen for you to feel able to try out new ideas, as long as some of our community of researchers and students can be involved in the process.

The grant will be paid in two instalments – the first at the beginning of the Fellowship on agreement of an outline plan for the Fellowship; the second halfway through the Fellowship. There may also be a small amount of money available to support any production costs you might incur as a result of running an event online.

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.

The IAS is home to several specialist [research centres](#) and research themes. This year's themes are '[Growth](#)' and '[Traffic](#)', offering a potential lens through which to explore the questions raised by the Fellowship. The Institute will act as the base for the Creative Fellowships, providing access to a community of interdisciplinary researchers to expand the opportunities for exchange of ideas that the fellowships provide.

In 2021 the IAS will also be celebrating its fifth anniversary. As part of this anniversary year the IAS will host a festival during 4-6 May which would provide a potential platform for showcasing any work produced/in progress as a result of the grant.

Creative 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 is also developing a new undergraduate degree programme in Creative Humanities which 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.

What you will bring

- Curiosity about research and creative practice: how these operate and influence one another within a university context, and what value the 'creative 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 digital sessions 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 into research, learning and teaching as we explore our vision for 'Creative Humanities for the twenty-first century'

What UCL will bring

- Support for you to meet and develop creative collaborations with academics who are interested in creative practice from across the Faculties 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

Application process

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

1. Complete the short Expression of Interest form which asks for basic information about you and the nature/mode of your creative practice (e.g. poetry, visual art, performance, etc.), as well as short written responses to the following questions*:
 - a) Why you are interested in working collaboratively with researchers and students at UCL
 - b) Any experience you have of making connections with non-practitioners and talking with them about the creative process
 - c) What you'd hope to get out of the Fellowship
 - d) A couple of ideas for creative and engaging online 'encounters' with members of the UCL community

* You are welcome to submit a short video/audio recording to capture your responses to these questions if you prefer – **maximum 5 minutes.**

Timeline

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| • Deadline for submission of applications | Friday 22 January |
| • Shortlisting | Monday 25 January – Friday 5 February |
| • Interviews | Week commencing 8 February |
| • Set up period with selected Fellows | 15 February onwards |
| • Fellowship starts | 1 March (or later by agreement) |
| • Fellowship period ends | 31 July |
| • Deadline for post-Fellowship evaluation (short report) | 15 September |

Deadline for applications: 22/01/2020

Contact for enquiries/applications:

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