

UCML

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
OF MODERN LANGUAGES

Dear Professor Thomson, Professor Fox,

Re: Proposed Closure of the Institutes of Latin American Studies and Commonwealth Studies

As the Chair of the University Council of Modern Languages, I am writing on behalf of our member organisations across the UK sector to urge you to reconsider the proposed closure of the Institutes of Latin American Studies and Commonwealth Studies within the School of Advanced Study.

Renowned internationally as centres of excellence in Humanities research, these two Institutes are important hubs for the UK's interdisciplinary research culture. As an integral part of the School of Advanced Studies, they foster scholarly initiatives through prestigious postgraduate programmes, visiting Fellowships, conferences and a rich series of events. Founded in 1965, the Institute of Latin American Studies supports research around a wide range of fields in the Humanities and actively builds important ties with cultural, diplomatic and business organisations with interests in Latin America and the Caribbean. Hosting the longest running human rights MA programme in the UK, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies offers exceptional expertise in the field of Human Rights, Refugee Law, the history of decolonisation and the contemporary Commonwealth.

At a time when de-colonising the curriculum is at the forefront of UK higher education discussion the UK is reconfiguring its global position post-Brexit, we urge you to reconsider this proposal to close ILAS and ICWS. Closing the ILAS and ICWS would not only be detrimental to Higher Education, but highly damaging for the UK's endeavour to form strong and enduring international links and partnerships.

We write to express our deep concerns about the proposed closure of these two key centres for Humanities research in the UK. We would be very happy to meet to discuss how UCML can support the SAS to continue support for these vital centres.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Claire Gorrara (Chair), on behalf of the Executive Committee of the University Council of Modern Languages.