

UCML Report, Vice-Chair (Research)

01/11/22

PG bursary

The first round of the PG bursary competition closed on October 3rd. In the initial round of this scheme, eight applications were received across different languages and two awards have been made to kick-start the scheme. The applications were assessed by a panel consisting of LWO as Vice-Chair Research, Mary Newman as a current PG scholar, Fransiska Louwagie from the Executive Committee. It is anticipated that a single award will be made in future rounds as the scheme develops and grows.

The successful entries in this round are Emily Marzin's project 'Experience of a Foreign Language Assistantship in Mexico' and Elena Sottilotta's project 'Hopeful Folktales: Nurturing Diversity, Gender Equity and Social Justice through Tales of Old Times'. These two exciting projects show outstanding engagement potential that will support the different facets of UCML's mission in different and complementary ways, promoting the study of languages, cultures and societies.

Small grants round

In the final round of the Small Grants competition this year, 2 awards were made, for the projects 'Teaching Russian Culture after the Invasion: Discussion and Workshop' and 'Translating Crises for Language Teaching and Learning'. As ever, the quality of applications is excellent.

IMLR/ILCS

In October the Institute for Modern Languages Research changed its name to the Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies, to better reflect the work of the Institute. The launch of the ICLS also saw a discussion of the new subject benchmarks.

AHRC report

The AHRC released its strategic delivery plan 2022-25 in September 2022:

<https://www.ukri.org/publications/ahrc-strategic-delivery-plan/>

It is underpinned by the principles of change and the desire to embed principles of diversity, resilience, connectivity and engagement across all work, to drive change and create the conditions for an outstanding research and innovation system. There are 6 strategic objectives aim to create world-class (1) people and careers; (2) places; (3) ideas; (4) innovation; (5) impacts; (6) organisation.

Some highlights for Modern Languages include:

- The new **Creative Communities Programme** (£1.3 million) will recognise and communicate the role of arts and humanities research in understanding communities, the place of arts and culture in creating a more cohesive society, with positive impacts on education, wellbeing, and inclusivity, and the importance of arts and humanities research in designing public policy
- £1.1 million will be invested in **improving access to cultural assets** by supporting smaller galleries, libraries, museums and archives to work with UKRI Research Organisations to demonstrate their role in building communities.

- The **National Infrastructure for Digital innovation and curation for Arts and Humanities** (£8 million) will ensure that arts and humanities research remains accessible and findable.
 - The **Indigenous Engagement Programme** (£1.75 million) expands the portfolio of equitable partnerships with communities around the world, supporting exploration of how research is framed, how it is conducted and how it benefits the people we work with. Language is a named topic area in this project.
 - The **Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe** (ARCHE) and German Research Council (DFG) are named partnerships in the list of collaborations to be strengthened.
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- There will be a £1.1 million investment for fellowships in public policy and the Galleries, Museums and Archives (GLAM) sector.
 - There will be closer working between the UK and the US with UK scholars eligible for fellowships at the Library of Congress and the Getty Conservation Institute
 - There will be a £16.2 million investment in a national Research Infrastructure for Conservation and Heritage Science fund to address fragmentation and research capability gaps.
 - Creative Research Capability awards (£15 million) will fund capital investments upgrading research facilities in smaller specialist institutions
 - Towards a National Collection (TaNC) (£13.3) seeks to build a coalition across the UK of future, shared collections
 - There will be £100 million in responsive mode calls
 - There is a focus on ED&I, especially through Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Engagement Fellows, the disability-focussed inclusive sustainable development project, and a more diverse Peer Review College.
 - Public engagement is highlighted as vital in extending the reach of research and ensuring it is shaped by and benefits new and different groups of people.