



# AHRC Infrastructure Engagement Fellowship in the Creative Industries 2021

**Please note:** there are two Policy and Engagement Fellowship opportunities currently available from AHRC, one in the Creative Industries, and one in Heritage Science and Conservation Research. This document pertains to the Fellowship in the Creative Industries.

## Background

The Creative Industries are a UK economic success story, contributing £111.7bn to the economy in 2018, 5.8% GVA and 12% of all UK services sold overseas. They are also enablers of the wider economy: creative skills and services allow businesses in sectors from aerospace to health to improve their products, boosting long-term productivity.

In the past four years, UKRI has invested significantly into this sector, including AHRC's Creative Industries Clusters (CICP) and Innovate UK/AHRC's Audience of the Future (AOTF) Programme. These investments demonstrate the power and potential of multidisciplinary R&I, uniting academic and industry expertise around challenges to drive growth in the creative industries through the development, application and adoption of new technologies, processes and products.

Following the development of the UKRI Infrastructure Roadmap and a subsequent bidding process, AHRC is now aiming to establish a national infrastructure for creative research and innovation which builds on these previous programmes. **CoSTAR** (Convergent Screen Technologies And performance in Realtime) aims to establish a world-leading national infrastructure for multidisciplinary applied creative R&I, harnessing and driving the convergence of advanced digital technologies transforming the creative industries' Screen and Performance sectors and beyond. Its resources will catalyse collaboration between HEIs and creative businesses to drive innovation in new products, platforms and experiences. The infrastructure will include:

- world-leading Convergent Technology and Experimental Labs with state-of-the-art tools, technology and expertise focused on the needs of the screen and performance sectors
- a central hub which will act as the front door for partners across the UK to access the Labs and commercial studio partnership, including a facilitation service, support for collaboration and skills development
- three smaller labs, funded through open competition, co-located with ROs, industry or cultural organisations across the UK to maximise access to audiences and assets and provide additional, geographically distributed resources
- a data resource for the creative economy, collecting new data from diverse sources, improving and combining existing data and developing innovative data collection techniques and methodologies

A programme of work is now underway to develop the business case for this major new investment and a Fellow is being recruited to support this work through additional evidence gathering and engagement activities, and to bring in additional research and sector expertise. The appointed Fellow will be fully briefed on the programme and work to date.

## Scope of the Proposed Activity

This is an exciting opportunity for a senior academic or manager from a UK [IRO](#) or university to help shape a transformative new research and innovation infrastructure for the sector. The successful AHRC Infrastructure Engagement Fellow in the Creative Industries will support the development of the CoSTAR Business Case, helping to transform the initial proposal into a clear programme for delivery and implementation.

The core areas of activity for the Fellow will include (but are not restricted to):

- Identification of and engagement with key users / stakeholders in the infrastructure, including undertaking formal market testing;
- Research and engagement to inform the design of the main facilities, including associated technical specifications for equipment and computing provision;
- Scoping out the design of an access programme and associated governance and funding model which will maximise collaboration between universities and industry and ensure diverse use and impact of the infrastructure;
- Directly informing the wider strategic case and associated evidence base for the infrastructure.

Outputs will include the delivery of workshops and other engagement activities, direct input to the business case, as well as the production of specific reports related to the above areas of activity. The Fellow will work closely with AHRC's Infrastructure Team and other senior colleagues across UKRI and report to the CoSTAR Steering Group, chaired by AHRC's Chief Operating Officer.

## Eligibility

Applicants must have a track record of success in the planning and delivery of major infrastructural projects and programmes within or for the cultural and creative sectors. To be eligible to apply, you must:

- hold a PhD or demonstrate equivalent professional experience in an area relevant to the creative and cultural industries (ideally with a focus on the screen and/ or performance sectors);
- have a minimum of seven years' professional experience within a research-intensive environment;
- demonstrate experience of planning, managing and delivering complex projects involving multiple stakeholders across multiple sectors;
- demonstrate extensive knowledge and experience of working with academia and the creative industries sector;
- submit a letter of support from an eligible RO or IRO by whom you are employed, or with whom you have a formal affiliation. The letter must: a) recognise that for the duration of the Fellowship you will be contracted at least 0.6 FTE to the above-described project and b) endorse the applicant as holding the skills and experience necessary to undertake this Fellowship;
- be available to work a minimum of 0.6 FTE for up to 5 months between March and July 2021.

## Funding

A maximum of £60,000 will be available to support the Fellowship for a period of no longer than 5 months at 100% FEC. The Fellowship must start between 1st and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Outputs and report deadlines will be agreed with the AHRC at the start of the Fellowship and will include delivery of outputs throughout the period of the Fellowship. However, all outputs will need to be completed no later than 30th July 2021.

### To apply, please send:

- A completed application form (which can be found on the call page at the UKRI Funding Finder website, and at **Annex A**);
- An up to date CV, no more than 2 pages long
- A covering letter, no more than 3 pages long. The letter should set out your relevant knowledge, skills, experience and interest in undertaking this Fellowship as well as your broad proposed approach to undertaking the core activities required.
- A letter of support, no more than 2 pages long, from your current employing organization as described above.

Applications should be emailed to [infrastructure@ahrc.ukri.org](mailto:infrastructure@ahrc.ukri.org), with subject line 'Infrastructure Engagement Fellowships 2021', by **19<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. *Please note that AHRC is currently advertising two different Infrastructure Policy and Engagement Fellowship opportunities; one in the Creative Industries, and one in Heritage Science and Conservation Research. This specification relates to the Creatives Industries Fellow.*

Applications will be assessed by a panel of experts/ members of AHRC's Executive based on experience, expertise and fit to role. Due to the short timescale required by this call, we regret that it may not be possible to issue comprehensive feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Activity	Date
Call for applications launched	w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Call closing date	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Assessment of applications	w/c 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021
Award start date	w/c 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
Latest award end date	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2021



**Annex A – application form**

## AHRC Infrastructure Engagement Fellowships 2021 – application form

**Applicant and contact details**

Title and full name	
Institutional affiliation	
Preferred contact email address	
Expertise keywords  <i>Please list up to fifteen keywords.</i>	

**Project details**

Fellowship costs	<i>Please refer to <a href="#">AHRC's Research Funding Guide</a> for guidance on allowable costs. Please note that, for this call, all costs will be payable at 100% of the Full Economic Cost of the proposal (fEC), and will be indexed at the standard UKRI rate.</i>
Directly Incurred  <i>(e.g. the salary of the Fellow, travel and subsistence, survey fees)</i>	£ .
Directly Allocated  <i>(e.g. Estates costs, technical and support staff costs)</i>	£ .
Indirect costs	£ .

To apply, please send this form, along with:

- an up to date CV outlining your relevant experience, no more than 2 pages in length;
- a cover letter or statement of support, no more than 3 pages in length;
- a letter of support from your current employing organization.

Applications should be emailed to [infrastructure@ahrc.ukri.org](mailto:infrastructure@ahrc.ukri.org), with subject line 'Infrastructure Policy and Engagement Fellowships 2021', by the end of **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**.