



AHRC Infrastructure Policy & Engagement Fellowships in Heritage Science and Conservation – call specification

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 Heritage Science and Conservation Research.

Introduction

Heritage is a major economic driver within the UK, with heritage tourism contributing an estimated £31bn GVA in 2018, supporting over 400,000 jobs. Key to the heritage economy are the UK's world-leading museums, galleries and other heritage destinations, which are critical to UK prestige overseas, and to the social and cultural life of the nation at home.

Heritage Science and Conservation Research (HSCR) is the development and application of science and technology to cultural heritage to improve understanding, management and engagement. Situated at the intersection of arts, humanities, engineering, physical and biomedical science, and social sciences, it is uniquely multifaceted and collaborative. It is undertaken in universities, museums and galleries, UK heritage management organizations, and industry, and it delivers ethically and scientifically sound methods and materials for the long-term understanding, preservation and enjoyment of heritage.

AHRC is aiming to create a distributed but integrated national HSCR infrastructure by enhancing existing provision and expertise in institutions across the UK and investing strategically in equipment acquisition, instrument optimization / development, and skills. Such an infrastructure will transform the capacity and impact of UK heritage science and conservation research to ensure that the UK remains world-leading in this field.

To ensure that this capability is co-designed with, and informed by, the HSCR community, we are funding three fixed-term Fellowships, to support emerging leaders in their field who will conduct collaborative research and scoping activities on our behalf, and make recommendations to AHRC. Each Fellowship will focus on one of the following areas:

- FIXLAB and MOLAB – provision, demand, thematic / strategic drivers
- ARCHLAB and DIGILAB – provision, demand, thematic / strategic drivers
- Governance, access and delivery

Working as a team, the successful Fellows will be required to:

- Produce a comprehensive analysis of the current landscape, identifying gaps in provision and barriers to participation
- Identify challenges and opportunities for synergy and collaboration with the wider research community, e.g. in instrumentation development, development of new protocols, advancing technologies in areas such as bio-imaging, advanced visualization, computational modelling and net zero.
- Develop a clear pathway to implementation and delivery of the proposed UK research infrastructure in HSCR.



Scope of the Proposed Activity

The aim of the AHRC Infrastructure Policy and Engagement Fellowships is to undertake research and engagement around three thematic areas, to inform and facilitate the design of a national research infrastructure in heritage science and conservation research (HSCR), creating an evidence base to inform strategic vision and investment. We are looking for heritage science and conservation researchers in [UK IROs](#) and universities who are keen to develop their skills in policy and cultivate an in-depth understanding of the HSCR landscape through data analysis and community engagement.

Two of the themes identified centre around the delivery of world-class physical facilities and digital platforms, alongside cross-disciplinary expertise. Facilities and instruments have been categorized, and will be explored by Fellows through the following four headings:

- FIXLAB: large to medium-size immovable lab facilities, e.g. SEMs, mass spectrometry facilities, MRIs, and STFCs multidisciplinary facilities including Diamond, ISIS, CLF;
- MOLAB: mobile instruments and associated vehicles (land, water, airborne) for in-situ, non-invasive analyses;
- ARCHLAB: physical and digital archives of technical documentation and data, samples and reference collections accessed at a facility (data flowing to DIGILAB after investment);
- DIGILAB: digital archives as research resources and advanced digital tools (remote access).

The third theme (governance, access, and delivery) takes a sector-wide view of the governance of, and access to, research facilities and expertise, and how these factors contribute to the successful delivery of HSCR.

Successful Fellows will compile a literature, capacity and capability review of their thematic area, assessing the current UK heritage sector and university-based HSCR facilities, the relevant skills pipelines (or lack thereof) and potential points of synergy and collaboration with the wider scientific research community. Working closely with one another, with experts drawn from the heritage science community, and with colleagues within AHRC and across UKRI, successful Fellows will make recommendations for future action and investment, and produce a strategic delivery plan for the research infrastructure and its associated programme. We will expect the Fellows to use the resources made available by their host organization to review and collate existing relevant research and evidence, but also to survey across the UK to ensure regional reach and a nationally comprehensive assessment of capacity, capability and opportunity for growth.

AHRC expects that each Fellow will report to a panel of senior scientists and other experts drawn from the heritage science community to discuss progress and direction. Further information about the panel is provided at Annex A. Successful candidates will be supported throughout their Fellowship by an AHRC Investment Manager (within the Infrastructure Team) and will be mentored by a member of the expert panel, who will provide advice, guidance and feedback on project progress.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, you must:

- hold a PhD (or equivalent professional experience) in heritage (including archaeological) science, conservation or a related field; you must demonstrate in your application the relevance of a qualification in a related field;
- have a **minimum of seven years'** professional experience, including line-management and collaborative working, within a research-intensive environment;
- demonstrate an interest in policy through engagement with an/your organisation's governance and/or other committees (local, regional, national or international level) of any type;
- demonstrate experience of planning, managing and delivering complex projects involving multiple stakeholders;
- submit a letter of support from an eligible research organisation 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 a 'future leader' within their organization and an ideal candidate to act as a liaison point with the heritage science community;
- 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 per award will be available to support each Research Fellow for a period of no longer than 5 months. We will aim to fund 3 Research Fellows, with one focusing on each thematic area. For these Fellowships, AHRC will meet 100% of the full Economic Cost (FEC). Awards must start between 1st March and 31st March 2021 and must produce a finished report no later than **31st 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 B);
- 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 2 pages in length;
- a letter of support from your current employing organization.

Applications should be emailed to infrastructure@ahrc.ukri.org, with subject line 'Infrastructure HSCR Policy and Engagement Fellowships 2021'. Please indicate clearly in your cover letter or statement which thematic area you seek to address. *Please note that AHRC is currently advertising two Infrastructure Policy and Engagement Fellowship opportunities; one in the Creative Industries, and one in Heritage Science and Conservation Research. This specification relates to the Fellowships in Heritage Science and Conservation Research.*

Applications will be assessed by a panel of experts and members of AHRC's Executive against the eligibility criteria above. Due to the very 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 th January 2021
Call closing date	19 th February 2021

Assessment of applications	w/c 22 nd February 2021
Outcomes issued to applicants	w/c 22 nd February 2021
Earliest award start date	1 st March 2021
Introductory meeting with AHRC	w/c 8 th March
Latest award start date	31 st March 2021
Fellows to present report to panel and AHRC Executive	tbc.
Award end date and report submission deadline	31 st July 2021

Annex A – AHRC expert panel for heritage science

AHRC has convened a group of sector experts to inform, advise on, and apply strategic direction to, its heritage science scoping activities. Its members are independent of AHRC, though many of the organisations have received AHRC funding in the past, and include senior leaders from universities, museums, galleries, libraries, and heritage management organisations. Membership is by invitation, and members are selected by AHRC. The group meets as required, and AHRC also consults with members individually between meetings.

Annex B – application form

AHRC Infrastructure Policy & Engagement Fellowships 2021 – application form

Applicant and contact details

Title and full name	
Institutional affiliation	
Preferred contact email address	
Area(s) of expertise <i>Please tick all applicable.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Science (including archaeological science) <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s) If other, please specify:
Expertise keywords <i>Please list up to fifteen keywords.</i>	

Project details

Preferred thematic area <i>Please select one thematic area that best fits your expertise. If you wish to be considered for more than one thematic area, you may specify this in your statement / cover letter.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FIXLAB and MOLAB – provision, demand, thematic/strategic drivers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FIXLAB: large to medium-size immovable lab facilities, e.g. SEMs, mass spectrometry facilities, MRIs, and STFCs multidisciplinary facilities including Diamond, ISIS, CLF</i> • <i>MOLAB: mobile instruments and associated vehicles (land, water, airborne) for in-situ, non-invasive analyses</i> <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHLAB and DIGILAB – provision, demand, thematic/strategic drivers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ARCHLAB: physical and digital archives of technical documentation and data, samples and reference collections accessed at a facility (data flowing to DIGILAB after investment);</i> • <i>DIGILAB: digital archives as research resources and advanced digital tools (remote access)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Governance, access and delivery
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Fellowship costs	<i>Please refer to AHRC's Research Funding Guide 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	£ .

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- 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 2 pages in length;
- a letter of support from your current employing organization.

Applications should be emailed to infrastructure@ahrc.ukri.org, with subject line 'Infrastructure Policy and Engagement Fellowships 2021', by the end of **Friday 19th February**.