Founders Fund for Creatives Application Guidance

The *Founders Fund for Creatives* represents a new and exciting funding opportunity to extend the reach and impact of Arts and Humanities research, with an entrepreneurial outlook.

The *Founders Fund for Creatives* is a joint partnership between the University of Glasgow (UofG), The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) and The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RSC), and we welcome proposals from projects that are at an early stage of development and embrace innovation and entrepreneurship in the Arts and Humanities.

# Key Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts

The key goals of the *Founders Fund for Creatives* are to:

* **Support development**: support the development of early-stage projects in the arts and humanities that are looking to deliver sustainable impact at scale through potential commercial opportunities. This can be through potential new ventures, licensing opportunities, or other commercial exploration of possibilities for creative, community, policy, economic, social or technological impact.
* **Promote collaboration:** extend collaborative activity between the UofG, the GSA, and the RSC, and develop innovative ways of working in partnership on projects with an entrepreneurial outlook.

\* Spin out here is defined as a company backed by the academic institution and underpinned by academic research or academic expertise

# Application Forms, Deadlines and Process

It’s strongly recommended to contact a member of the *Founders Fund* Team for advice and guidance well in advance of submission. Completed forms together with any letters of support should be emailed no later than **23rd January (midday)** to the following offices:

University of Glasgow - [innovation@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:innovation@glasgow.ac.uk)

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland - [d.keogh@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:d.keogh@rcs.ac.uk)

Glasgow School of Art - [n.duncan@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:n.duncan@gsa.ac.uk)

Do note the following points when writing up your proposals:

* This fund is competitive, so do seek advice from the Innovation team at the earliest moment to maximise your chances of success
* Projects are expected to begin promptly when funds are awarded and must be completed within six months
* Do be careful when considering your budget; refer to the eligible costs listed below and seek guidance from your institution’s innovation office
* We welcome applications from Research Assistants, Research Associates, Research Fellows, LTS and Research-only colleagues; individuals in these roles however should discuss this with PIs and ensure they have permission from their head of school
* Projects that engage in cross-institutional partnerships with the three listed HEIs are greatly encouraged.

# Dates and Durations

*Founders Fund* projects must specify a proposed start date and project duration, and extensions to this period are not available. If you have any concerns, please contact your respective institutional office:

University of Glasgow - [innovation@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:innovation@glasgow.ac.uk)

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland - [d.keogh@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:d.keogh@rcs.ac.uk)

Glasgow School of Art - [n.duncan@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:n.duncan@gsa.ac.uk)

All projects funded in this round must be completed within **6** months in all cases.

# Eligible Costs

The Founders Fund for Creatives is expected to award projects with funds up to £10,000, depending on the stage of the project as well as activities that are being funded.

The funding may be used to pay for the direct costs of further developing the scope of an idea; concept or opportunity; costs of undertaking proof-of-concept study; additional research aimed at developing the business proposition including validation of interest from stakeholders; or external research associated with developing the project.

Please note however that PI salary costs are not eligible. The Founders Fund for Creatives will not fund academic research or the development of tools exclusively for use in further research. PhDs and costs associated with studentships are also not eligible for FFC funding.

Please contact your institutional office for advice on design of activities as well as costing if desired:

University of Glasgow - [innovation@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:innovation@glasgow.ac.uk)

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland - [d.keogh@rcs.ac.uk](mailto:d.keogh@rcs.ac.uk)

Glasgow School of Art - [n.duncan@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:n.duncan@gsa.ac.uk)

# Assessment of Application

Project applications will be assessed by the *Founders Fund for Creatives* review panel. Applicants should write their proposal for a non-specialist audience and avoid using discipline-specific terminology and acronyms.

Factors that will be considered by reviewers in your application:

* Appropriateness of the project’s scope
* Innovative or experimental approaches to either collaboration between the institutions, and/or arts and humanities projects in an entrepreneurial context
* Degree of clarity on how funding will be used
* The quality of the case made particularly in how the research context and opportunity are outlined in line with the entrepreneurial theme of the fund
* Evidencing of the relevance of the contextual research or any research base the project draws upon
* The appropriateness of the project’s activities and their relationship to any proposed outcomes
* The financial risk of the project and any potential de-risking already outlined
* Consideration of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion principles, as well as environmental sustainability

Founders Fund Priorities:

* Potential for impact in areas of commercialisation and/or entrepreneurship
* The potential for longer-term partnerships between partner institutions, with a prospective commercial outcome