

Researcher-Led Initiative Fund Application Form

Applications are invited from University of Sussex doctoral researchers and early career research staff for funding to support a short-term, well-defined project on one of four themes: equality, diversity and inclusion; mental health and wellbeing; public engagement; or training and development.

The deadline for applications has been extended to **Friday 23 April 2021**.

Please ensure that you have read the [guidance notes in full](#) before completing your application.

About the lead applicant

Name

[REDACTED]

Sussex email address

[REDACTED]

School of lead applicant
Global Studies

Are you a doctoral or early career researcher?
Doctoral researcher

About your application

Which of the four RLI strands does your initiative fit into? Check the guidelines on our website if you're not sure.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

About your equality, diversity and inclusion initiative

Title of initiative

Between: Neither Inside nor Out.

A screenback reading.

Brief description of initiative

Following in the footsteps of Jean Rouch and shared anthropology, I am requesting money to do a stage reading of the feature live action script that is written by [REDACTED] a refugee, and myself. This script follows the journey of Petros, an asylum seeker through what I am calling Limbo. The idea of this staged reading is to share the script and get feedback from an invited audience of asylum seekers, migrant organisations, industry people and academics to test the script before going into production for my PhD. Although my methodology ethnoproductio is somewhat new, staged readings are not. There was a very successful series of staged readings at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York run by Roland Legiardi-Laura of which I was a part. This is something I wish to recreate at Sussex. The script would be read by a mixture of actors and students from MAH or Global and there will a Q&A afterwards.

When is the proposed initiative running?

On a single date

Date

13/07/2021

How will your initiative promote awareness of EDI issues, encourage greater diversity and

inclusion in doctoral/early career research, or offer support to under-represented groups in the research community at Sussex?

The script follows the story of asylum seekers who are already a marginalised group. One of the writers is Eritrean. The actors will be drawn from diverse backgrounds. It is a story of exclusion and how to overcome and is presented in a way that is informative and entertaining.

Who is your target audience and how will you engage with them effectively? If your focus is on a specific group of researchers, how could your initiative be rolled out to others?

The audience will also be diverse, those who are going through the process or asylum or supporting them in their claim. I have been working closely with migrant groups such as the Links Project in Hastings and Voices in Exile in Brighton as well as academic forums such as the Centre for Migration and Belonging and Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies. The stage reading would also be of interest to MAH's screenwriting, filmmaking and drama department as well as researchers in migration and Global Studies. Film industry professionals will also be invited.

What are the objectives of your activity? List the steps you will take to achieve these objectives.

To test and get feedback on the script

To raise awareness of the asylum process

To include people that would not normally be in a university environment to attend.

To start a conversation

To network with charities and organisations working in the migrant sector, academics and film industry professionals

To promote the film.

To test out a new event that could be continued for the students in MAH Screenwriting and Filmmaking strands.

To achieve these I will organise and publicise the event. The script is written and ready to go. The actors need to be cast and the venue decided on. That will depend on the COVID restrictions at the time. Potential venues could be ACCA, the lecture halls at Silverstone or my personal teaching favourite, the Jubilee Car Park for which we are already liaising with Estates about for the Filmmaking Student Screening.

How will your activity be organised? Include details of who will be involved, how the initiative will be managed, and how it will be promoted.

The event will be organised by myself. I have extensive film production experience. I also have some student from filmmaking who would like to be involved. I am also a lecturer in Filmmaking at MAH. Actors and students will read the parts in the script. There will be half a day's rehearsal before the reading and the reading will be about one hour and twenty minutes. It will be promoted through the University internal mailing lists, by social media and through the organisations and networks I am linked with as well as those of the actors. The tickets will be through Eventbrite so we will know how many people will be attending.

There will be a Q&A with [REDACTED] and myself after the reading.

What is the timeline of the project? Include start and end dates, and key milestones.

The timeline will work back from the 13th July.

Casting will take place by the end of June. Once funding is in place invitations and publicity will go out.

Given the current pandemic, how will you adapt your plans if COVID-19 restrictions mean an in-person activity is not possible?

Depending on the COVID restrictions the event could be moved outside or online. If online it would be an invitation to online live staged readings. If in person, it will be in a well-ventilated venue or outside. All current social distancing and hygiene regulations would be followed.

How will you measure success and impact, and whether you have achieved your objectives? Consider how you will evaluate as the initiative progresses, as well as at the end of the project.

The measures of success:

1. attendance - who comes
2. the feedback obtained
3. interest in the script as a film and the potential funding opportunities for that.
4. if there is a desire to start a regular staged reading series for the student films - for example for third year BA and MA's. .

The RLI Fund is designed to provide short-term support to researcher initiatives. Describe how your initiative will be sustained in the future (if that is the intention). What is the potential legacy of the project?

The legacy of this project is hopefully a feature length live action drama that opens the conversation on asylum seekers to a wider audience.

Becomes a template for students to share their writing.

Informs my PhD in regards to shared anthropology.

Budget

Please provide a detailed budget indicating what you would spend the funding on if you are successful in your application.

Your budget should include a breakdown of costs and justification for each item (e.g. cost of printing 50 booklets at £10 per booklet from the Print Unit; lunch for 30 people at £6 per head from Sussex Food; accommodation for external speaker at £80 per night at a University approved hotel). See the guidance notes for further advice on your proposed budget.

Budget details

Item details	£
8 x Actors - 5 hours at minimum wage	£356.00
Transport (Trains) for Actors and [REDACTED]	£217.00
Food for Actors and [REDACTED], at £5 each from Sussex food	£45.00
Printing costs.for the script 8 scripts at £15	£120.00
	Total: £738.00

Total requested
£738.00

Budget code

[REDACTED]

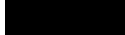
Supporting statement

You must submit a supporting statement (in PDF format) from your PI or supervisor (for doctoral researchers) or Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange (for research staff).

Their name, title and electronic signature should be included in the statement.

If you have any difficulty with this, please contact researcher-development@sussex.ac.uk.

Upload your supporting statement here

.pdf

Declaration

I understand that if I am successful I will be required to submit a short report and final budget statement at the end of my initiative.

Yes

I understand that I must inform the Doctoral School of any budget amendments and await approval before my initiative takes place.

Yes

I understand that any funding must be spent by the end of this financial year (31 July 2021) - if this will cause problems please email researcher-development@sussex.ac.uk to discuss once you've submitted your application.

Yes