

Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art History

Grant Making Policy: Grants & Fellowships

Grant Making Charitable Purposes

This grant-making policy sets out our aims and principles in awarding grants and also a range of specific checks, which of these will be applied to any given grant will depend on the nature of the grant application and will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

We can only fund projects and activities that fall within the objectives of the charity.

Grant Making Criteria and Priorities / Priorities of the Paul Mellon Centre

The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art (PMC) is an educational charity that champions new ways of understanding British art history and culture. The Centre offers a variety of grants (for institutions and individuals) and fellowships (for individuals) twice a year in a strictly timetabled schedule.

Our funding programme supports research, educational activities and the dissemination of knowledge in the fields of British art and architectural history, from the medieval period to the present day and across the spectrum of relevant geographical and cultural contexts. Our remit is broadly defined and adapts as the interests of those working in our field change. It encompasses art made in Britain or by British artists, but is not solely limited to art made, or artists from, within the geographical boundaries of the British isles. Rather we understand the field of British art studies to encompass a broad range of subjects and topics related to the artistic and cultural histories of Britain, past and present.

As set out in our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#), we promote activities that enhance and expand knowledge of British art and architecture through all areas of our work, including our Grants & Fellowships programme. As an institution, we pledge ourselves to ensuring that the histories of British art are enriched and made more relevant to a broader range of people in the future. The inclusion of voices, narratives and experiences that have been marginalised or excluded in the past will have a transformational impact on the future of the Centre and upon British art studies. Accordingly, the PMC particularly welcomes applications from those who are under-represented within the academic field of the humanities in the UK.

Funding Criteria

The charity will consider all applications that fall within our charitable purposes and meet our funding criteria and, for which, the due diligence process has not identified any unacceptable issues. We can consider applications for funding from:

- individual researchers, students, academics, curators and other arts professionals
- museums, galleries, organisations, publishers and other institutions undertaking scholarly research

Grants will be made based on the funding available and solely on merit, in alignment with the PMC's mission, values and current priorities. As set out below, grants are awarded entirely at the discretion of the PMC's Advisory Council and their decision is final.

All applications may be subject to due diligence checks, as set out in our [Due Diligence Policy](#).

Priorities

The number of good applications is likely to exceed the funding available, so in making decisions on how best to allocate funding the [Advisory Council](#) and PMC team use some or all of the following criteria:

- academic rigour
- originality and distinctness in the context of current scholarship
- contribution to scholarship in the longer term
- timeliness, where a project is connected with a particular moment or opportunity
- where a grant would support work in a geographical or cultural context which has not hitherto been supported by PMC
- need, where the research would be unlikely to go ahead without this support
- impact and inclusion, where the research would include voices or reach a broader range of people than have hitherto been represented in the field of British art studies

Submission of Grant Applications

Applications are **only** accepted through our online system – grants.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk

If you have access needs with regard to completing the online form, please contact the Grants & Fellowships Manager and they will try to accommodate your needs.

All applicants are encouraged to ensure that they have included the following information in their submission:

- How you meet our funding criteria, including scholarly rigour and excellence, and our funding priorities.
- Correct and up-to-date information on your organisation, or on you as an individual.
- Project/bid details, such as amounts, numbers, timetable.
- Evidence of the need and impact the funding would have.
- Evidence that the project relates to PMC's remit and goals in the field of British art studies.

Reporting On Grant Awards

All grantees will be required to provide a report on how their grant was used and the impact it has had. The content and nature of information to be reported will be appropriate for the size and type of grant awarded. The charity will monitor such reports not only to ensure that grants are being used for the purposes intended, but also to assess the impact grants have made. This information will be used to inform future decision making and policy to maximise the charity's impact.

Decision-making Process

Applications will be considered by our [Advisory Council](#) which is normally made up of sixteen academics and professionals with relevant expertise.

The Advisory Council meets twice a year to consider applications for financial support offered by the PMC's Grants & Fellowships programme. The Council comprises twelve external members and up to four senior staff at the Centre including the Director, together with a representative from the Yale Center for British Art.

The external members of the Advisory Council are appointed by the Director of the PMC, and appointments are ratified by the [Board of Governors](#) at Yale University.

External members of the Advisory Council will sit for three years. New members are entitled to join the Advisory Council only if they have not personally received PMC funding within a year of their term starting. During the time they serve on the Council, members are not entitled to apply personally for PMC funding. Any colleagues or relatives of an Advisory Council member, and any institution with which Advisory Council members are affiliated, may apply for funding during the member's time on the Council. In such cases, however, the member must declare a conflict of interest and may be asked to withdraw from the assessment of the funding category in question.

All grant applications are reviewed and scored by members of the Advisory Council, independently and as required in subcommittees. All grades are reviewed and final decisions are made at a quorate meeting of the Council (with at least four external members of the Council present). Grants are awarded entirely at the discretion of the Advisory Council and their decision is final.

Notification

We aim to notify all applicants of the outcome of their bid within five weeks of the date of the relevant Advisory Council meeting. Successful applicants will have funding made available, once they have confirmed a formal grant agreement.

Data Protection

The PMC is aware of its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the UK Data Protection Act 2018. It is committed to processing data securely and transparently and will only use it legally and responsibly.

For more information please refer to our [Privacy Notice](#) and [Data Protection](#) policies.

Checks and Due Diligence

The charity will carry out sufficient due diligence on grant applicants to confirm the identity of the applicant and ensure:

- Any funding will be applied in accordance with the charity's charitable purposes.
- Funds will not be knowingly used for illegal purposes, such as money laundering, bribery or financing terrorism.
- The applicant does not hold views or have any involvement in activities contrary to the charity's values and charitable purposes.

We have a robust, risk-based [Due Diligence](#) procedure.