



Funding opportunity

LUCIA-Local Government Association (LGA) ECR fellowship programme

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Funding type:	Fellowship
Total fund:	£135,000
Maximum award:	£135,000
Publication date:	22 January 2025
Opening date:	21 January 2025 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	10 April 2025 4:00pm UK time

Apply for funding to connect researchers and local, regional and national government representatives, and conduct research into equitable, cross-sector partnership building, as a LUCIA-LGA early career fellow.

You must:

- be based at a UK research organisation eligible for AHRC funding
- be an early career researcher
- have either a doctorate in relevant research or equivalent professional experience and skills

The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £135,000. AHRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

The fellowship is expected to start on 1 April 2026 and last 12 months.

Who can apply

Before applying for funding, check the following:

- [your proposal is suitable for AHRC funding](#)
- [the eligibility of your organisation](#)

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new UKRI Funding Service.

For full details, visit [Eligibility as an individual](#).

Note for Catalyst Award scheme eligibility: applying for this fellowship will not impact submissions to the AHRC Catalyst Award scheme.

Who is eligible to apply

Fellow

To apply for this fellowship, you must:

- have demonstrable experience in research within the cities and urban environments area
- have a demonstrable commitment to working with the cultural and cultural policy sector
- self-identify as an early career researcher (ECR) working in the arts and humanities research space in accordance with the [AHRC guidance on training and developing early career researchers in the arts and humanities](#). Please note that ECR eligibility is determined on the basis of funding history, and AHRC do not consider years post-PhD or job title to be a marker of career progression
- be based, and be eligible to work, in the UK for the full period of the fellowship or eligible to apply for a visa to work in the UK
- be based at a UK research organisation eligible for AHRC funding
- fulfil the criteria for contractual eligibility as part of the [AHRC research funding guide](#)

Interdisciplinary fellowship proposals will be welcomed, but all applications must have arts and humanities research at the core of research approaches and must fall within the remit of the AHRC. Applications must additionally evidence research which is focused on communities, including those living in cities and urban environments.

ECRs not currently contracted for the fellowship funding period are welcome to apply providing the research organisation or independent research organisation (RO/IRO) where they are based, commits to employ them for the duration of the

fellowship if the application is successful. This fellowship opportunity **will therefore** be a secondment role to the [Local Government Association \(LGA\)](#) and will not constitute employment directly by the LGA, as the fellow will still be contractually based within their RO/IRO.

Host organisation: the Local Government Association

As host organisation, the LGA will provide a supportive research environment for the fellow including:

- access to its contacts and networks across local government, including opportunities to present at relevant conferences and associated events
- facilitated engagement with sister bodies in the devolved nations including the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)
- additional engagement with the Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA), Community Leisure UK and with the National Alliance for Cultural Services
- provision of promotional opportunities to engage and communicate with local government representatives from across the UK
- access to the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport team, LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, and wider LGA policy colleagues and facilities including supervisory support
- working facilities, including IT equipment and support, to enable flexible in-person collaboration where necessary with LGA colleagues based within LGA's Westminster office at 18 Smith Square, London
- support for the fellow's career development based on the principles of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#)

Who is not eligible to apply

You are not eligible to apply if:

- you are already contracted by a RO/IRO to undertake research as a significant part of your current role and would like to undertake this fellowship at your current place of employment
- your research does not focus on arts and humanities disciplines, methodologies and approaches. Please consult the [AHRC research funding guide](#) for a comprehensive list of subject areas within AHRC's remit
- you are on a career stage from mid to senior
- you don't have a PhD or equivalent experience

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are [committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants](#). We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

UKRI can offer [disability and accessibility support for UKRI applicants and grant holders](#) during the application and assessment process.

Resubmissions

You cannot resubmit a previous UKRI application to this competition.

What we're looking for

Aim

This fellowship funding opportunity, in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA), will enable an early career researcher (ECR) to build strong collaborative partnerships across the cultural policy ecosystem and to enhance research and career experience in the equitable partnerships space, through the wider Locally Unlocking Culture through Inclusive Access (LUCIA) programme.

The wider LUCIA programme aims to empower communities across the UK, to have the agency and opportunity to enable growth and address equitable access through a culture of policy design. The programme will actively engage in civic discourse within urban communities, enhancing urban culture and thereby enabling urban renewal and economic growth. This fellowship presents an opportunity to forge closer links between LUCIA networks and local government policy across the UK.

The LUCIA programme will fund people-centred partnerships which amplify seldom heard voices, respect diverse cultural identities, and facilitate creative expression in order that innovative solutions can be found to widen community participation in culture across the UK. The programme will create networks that bring together researchers, policy leaders, local and regional authorities, and community members. These networks will empower those communities to understand and address key urban cultural challenges which are obstacles to community cohesion and civic discourse. The LUCIA programme is a mission-led programme, aligning with governmental plans, to kickstart economic growth, make streets safer, and break down barriers to opportunity. By listening to people-centred, community-led research agendas, building the evidence base collectively and co-creating design of cultural policy, it will seek to reorient

academic practice and policy design towards co-created, mission-led outcomes and recommendations.

Within this broader programme context, the aims of the LUCIA-LGA ECR fellowship are to:

- enrich the development of equitable cross-sector partnerships between LUCIA programme networks, and local, regional and national government, in partnership with the LGA
- strengthen efforts to build research capabilities and enable broader co-creation between stakeholders across the diverse cultural and cultural policy sector
- deliver high quality, impactful and accessible research into the ways equitable cross-sector partnerships can connect effectively to cultural policy design
- develop the fellow's collaboration skills and future research career
- promote the broader equality, diversity and inclusion principles of the LUCIA programme

The fellow is expected to meet all the above objectives, in alignment with the wider aims of the LUCIA programme.

Scope

This fellowship will be hosted by the LGA (as a secondment opportunity) and is expected to support partnership building between LUCIA programme networks and policymakers, ensuring networks can effectively address key urban cultural challenges which are obstacles to community cohesion and civic discourse. This might include, but is not limited to, challenges around:

- cultural access
- violence against women and girls
- religious and cultural intolerance
- social media disinformation
- educational under-attainment
- intergenerational communication
- policing
- community interconnectivity

The fellow will also have the opportunity to build collective understanding and the evidence base on the adoption of equitable research practice and collaborative cultural policy across the UK. It is envisaged that the fellow will develop their research in relation to the following broader research themes related to the LUCIA programme, with recognition that this list is not exhaustive and wider themes may be prioritised:

- definitions of culture

- breaking down cultural barriers
- ownership of cultural spaces
- amplifying hidden and hyper-marginalised voices
- transport and culture
- multiuse cultural spaces
- intergenerational access to culture
- tourism and community green spaces

These themes have been scrutinised and expanded upon in the [LUCIA workshop report \(PDF, 4.4MB\)](#).

Applications should demonstrate an understanding of the importance of equitable principles in this research space and clearly identify any challenges to equitable partnership building in relation to cross-sector co-creation and co-production.

The successful fellow will also be expected to provide a convening role in the development of best practice approaches on how to engage with communities, by building on UKRI work in this space and connecting with other organisations and funders.

Duration

The duration of this fellowship is 12 months.

The fellowship must start on 1 April 2026.

Funding available

The FEC of this fellowship can be up to £100,000. Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) will fund 80% of the FEC. The applicant's research organisation or independent research organisation (RO/IRO) is expected to support the remaining 20% FEC.

'Exceptions' costs noted below in the application Resources and costs justification section will be paid by AHRC at 100% FEC.

The RO/IRO is encouraged to provide additional mentoring support alongside other forms of leadership, career development or public engagement support for ECR applicants, as a part of additional support during the fellowship.

An additional fund of (up to) £35,000 FEC has been ring-fenced for travel and subsistence. This will be exclusively open to applicants who are not London-based (defined as an applicant whose home address and RO/IRO are not based within one of the 32 administrative boroughs of Greater London). This ensures accessibility for applicants from across the UK, and enables flexible in-person collaboration where necessary with LGA colleagues based within LGA's Westminster office at 18 Smith Square, London. This is expected to be justified

within the Resources and cost justification section in the application questions. This is also permitted to be costed in as an 'Exceptions' cost which AHRC will pay at 100% FEC.

Supporting skills and talent

We encourage you to follow the principles of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#) and the [Technician Commitment](#).

Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)

UKRI is committed in ensuring that effective international collaboration in research and innovation takes place with integrity and within strong ethical frameworks. Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I) is a UKRI work programme designed to help protect all those working in our thriving and collaborative international sector by enabling partnerships to be as open as possible, and as secure as necessary. Our [TR&I Principles](#) set out UKRI's expectations of organisations funded by UKRI in relation to due diligence for international collaboration.

As such, applicants for UKRI funding may be asked to demonstrate how their proposed projects will comply with our approach and expectation towards TR&I, identifying potential risks and the relevant controls you will put in place to help proportionately reduce these risks.

See [further guidance and information about TR&I](#), including where applicants can find additional support.

How to apply

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service so please ensure that your organisation is registered. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

The fellow is responsible for completing the application process on the Funding Service, but we expect all team members and project partners to contribute to the application.

Only the lead research organisation can submit an application to UKRI.

To apply

Select 'Start application' near the beginning of this Funding finder page.

1. Confirm you are the fellow.

2. Sign in or create a Funding Service account. To create an account, select your organisation, verify your email address, and set a password. If your organisation is not listed, email support@funding-service.ukri.org Please allow at least 10 working days for your organisation to be added to the Funding Service. We strongly suggest that if you are asking UKRI to add your organisation to the Funding Service to enable you to apply to this opportunity, you also create an organisation Administration Account. This will be needed to allow the acceptance and management of any grant that might be offered to you.
3. Answer questions directly in the text boxes. You can save your answers and come back to complete them or work offline and return to copy and paste your answers. If we need you to upload a document, follow the upload instructions in the Funding Service. All questions and assessment criteria are listed in the How to apply section on this Funding finder page.
4. Allow enough time to check your application in 'read-only' view before sending to your research office.
5. Send the completed application to your research office for checking. They will return it to you if it needs editing.
6. Your research office will submit the completed and checked application to UKRI.

Where indicated, you can also demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. You should:

- use images sparingly and only to convey important information that cannot easily be put into words
- insert each new image onto a new line
- provide a descriptive legend for each image immediately underneath it (this counts towards your word limit)
- ensure files are smaller than 5MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format

Watch our [research office webinars about the Funding Service](#).

For more guidance on the Funding Service, see:

- [how applicants use the Funding Service](#)
- [how research offices use the Funding Service](#)
- [how reviewers use the Funding Service](#)

References

Applications should be self-contained, and hyperlinks should only be used to provide links directly to reference information. To ensure the information's integrity is maintained, where possible, persistent identifiers such as digital object identifiers should be used. Assessors are not required to access links to carry out assessment or recommend a funding decision. Applicants should use

their discretion when including references and prioritise those most pertinent to the application.

References should be included in the appropriate question section of the application and be easily identifiable by the assessors, for example (Smith, Research Paper, 2019).

You must not include links to web resources to extend your application.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Use of generative AI tools to prepare funding applications is permitted, however, caution should be applied.

For more information see our [policy on the use of generative AI in application and assessment](#).

Deadline

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) must receive your application by 10 April 2025 at 4:00pm UK time.

You will not be able to apply after this time.

Make sure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines.

Following the submission of your application to the funding opportunity, your application cannot be changed, and applications will not be returned for amendment. If your application does not follow the guidance, it may be rejected.

Personal data

Processing personal data

AHRC, as part of UKRI, will need to collect some personal information to manage your Funding Service account and the registration of your funding applications.

We will handle personal data in line with UK data protection legislation and manage it securely. For more information, including how to exercise your rights, read [our privacy notice](#).

Sensitive information

If you or a core team member need to tell us something you wish to remain confidential, email heuh@ahrc.ukri.org

Include in the subject line: [the funding opportunity title; sensitive information; your Funding Service application number].

Typical examples of confidential information include:

- individual is unavailable until a certain date (for example due to parental leave)
- declaration of interest
- additional information about eligibility to apply that would not be appropriately shared in the 'Applicant and team capability' section
- conflict of interest for UKRI to consider in reviewer or panel participant selection
- the application is an invited resubmission

For information about how UKRI handles personal data, read [UKRI's privacy notice](#).

Publication of outcomes

AHRC, as part of UKRI, will publish the outcomes of this funding opportunity at [AHRC Board and panel outcomes](#).

If your application is successful, we will publish some personal information on the [UKRI Gateway to Research](#).

Summary

Word limit: 550

In plain English, provide a summary we can use to identify the most suitable experts to assess your application.

We usually make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, therefore do not include any confidential or sensitive information. Make it suitable for a variety of readers, for example:

- opinion-formers
- policymakers
- the public
- the wider research community

Guidance for writing a summary

Clearly describe your proposed work in terms of:

- context
- the challenge the project addresses
- aims and objectives
- potential applications and benefits

Core team

List the key members of your team and assign them roles from the following:

- fellow
- mentor (research organisation or independent research organisation (RO/IRO)), where applicable
- professional enabling staff or networks, for example public engagement professional at RO/IRO, where applicable

Only list one individual as the fellow.

Find out more about [UKRI's core team roles in funding applications](#).

Application questions

Vision

Word limit: 1,100

What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how your proposed work:

- will enrich the development of equitable cross-sector partnerships between Locally Unlocking Culture through Inclusive Access (LUCIA) programme networks, and local, regional and national government, in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA)
- strengthens efforts to build research capabilities and enable broader co-creation between stakeholders across the diverse cultural and cultural policy sector
- has the potential to deliver high quality, impactful and accessible research into the ways equitable cross-sector partnerships can connect effectively to cultural policy design
- promotes the broader equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) principles of the LUCIA programme

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

Approach

Word limit: 1,650

How are you going to deliver your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how you have designed your work so that it:

- is effective and appropriate to achieve the objectives of the LUCIA-LGA ECR fellowship programme
- is feasible, and comprehensively identifies any risks to delivery and how you will manage them
- uses a clearly written and transparent methodology (if applicable)
- will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts to benefit the wider LUCIA programme

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

Applicant capability to deliver

Word limit: 1,650

Why are you the right individual to successfully deliver the proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Evidence of how you have:

- the relevant experience (appropriate to your career stage) to make best use of the benefits presented by this funding opportunity to develop your career
- the right balance of skills and aptitude to deliver the proposed work
- contributed to developing a positive research environment and wider community, in the cities and urban environments research space
- the appropriate team working or leadership skills (appropriate to your career stage)

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

The word limit for this section is 1,650 words, 1,150 words to be used for R4RI modules (including references) and, if necessary, a further 500 words for Additions.

Use the Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) format to showcase the range of relevant skills you have and how this will help to deliver the proposed work. You can include specific achievements and choose past contributions that best evidence your ability to deliver this work.

Complete this section using the following R4RI module headings. You should use each heading once, see the [UKRI guidance on R4RI](#). You should consider

how to balance your answer, and emphasise where appropriate the key skills you bring:

- contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge
- the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
- contributions to the wider research and innovation community
- contributions to broader research or innovation, users and audiences, and towards wider societal benefit

Additions

Provide any further details relevant to your application. This section is optional and can be up to 500 words. You should not use it to describe additional skills, experiences, or outputs, but you can use it to describe any factors that provide context for the rest of your R4RI (for example, details of career breaks if you wish to disclose them).

You should complete this section as a narrative. Do not format it like a CV.

Career development

Word limit: 1,000

Why is this fellowship the right way to develop your career and how will you use it to benefit others?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Ensure that you have identified:

- career development goals appropriate to the fellowship funding opportunity
- how the fellowship will provide a feasible and appropriate trajectory for your personal development and to achieve your stated career development goals (as appropriate to your career stage and field)
- how you will instigate positive change in the wider research and innovation community, for example through equality diversity and inclusion (EDI), advocacy or advisory roles, stakeholder engagement, participation in peer review, influencing policy, public engagement, or outreach

Within the Career development section, we also expect you to describe:

- how the proposed work will provide a feasible and appropriate trajectory for you to acquire additional skills, like research, leadership, communication and management
- what mentoring arrangements are proposed and how they are appropriate to you

RO/IRO support

Word limit: 1,000

How will the RO/IRO where you are based support your fellowship?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Provide a support statement including:

- evidence detailing how the host will support you, as appropriate for your career development and the vision and approach of the fellowship
- who you have engaged with in your host organisation (name and role)
- how your research environment will contribute to the success of the work, in terms of suitability of the host organisation and strategic relevance to the project
- how the host organisation will ensure your time commitment to the fellowship is protected
- what development and training opportunities will be provided and how they form a cohesive career development package tailored to your aims and aspirations

Resources and cost justification

Word limit: 1,000

What will you need to deliver your proposed work and how much will it cost?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Justify the application's more costly resources, in particular:

- significant travel for field work or collaboration to promote the work of the LUCIA programme to be costed as 'Exceptions'. Please note that all applicants may justify travel costs to enable attendance at conferences, and to facilitate cross-sector collaboration between LUCIA networks. Applicants who are not London-based also have access to an additional fund of up to £35,000 to facilitate regular travel to the LGA London offices. Please see details in the 'Funding available' section
- all facilities and infrastructure costs
- external training costs of up to £5,000, to be costed as 'Exceptions'
- all resources that have been costed as 'Exceptions'

Assessors are not looking for detailed costs or a line-by-line breakdown of all project resources. Overall, they want you to demonstrate how the resources you anticipate needing for your proposed work:

- are comprehensive, appropriate, and justified
- represent the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes
- maximise potential outcomes and impacts

Please note that an additional fund of up to £35,000 FEC has been ring-fenced for travel and subsistence. This will be exclusively open to applicants who are not London-based (defined as an applicant whose home address and RO/IRO are not based within one of the 32 administrative boroughs of Greater London). This ensures accessibility for applicants from across the UK, and enables flexible and regular in-person collaboration where necessary with LGA colleagues based within LGA's Westminster office at 18 Smith Square, London. This is expected to be justified within the Resources and cost justification section in the application questions. This is also permitted to be costed in as an 'Exceptions' cost which AHRC will pay at 100% FEC.

Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Word limit: 500

What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work?

If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Demonstrate that you have identified and evaluated:

- the relevant ethical or responsible research and innovation considerations
- how you will manage these considerations

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

If you are collecting or using data you should identify:

- any legal and ethical considerations of collecting, releasing or storing the data (including consent, confidentiality, anonymisation, security and other ethical considerations and, in particular, strategies to not preclude further reuse of data)
- formal information standards that your proposed work will comply with

Additional sub-questions (to be answered only if appropriate) relating to research involving:

- human participants

How we will assess your application

Assessment process

Assessment panel

If your application meets all UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) criteria for assessment, we will invite academic experts and experts by experience to assess the quality of your application within an assessment panel. The panel members will rank it alongside other applications, after which the panel will make a funding recommendation.

Timescale

We aim to complete the assessment process within five months of the closing date of this funding opportunity.

Feedback

If your application met UKRI criteria for assessment, and was discussed by the assessment panel, we will give feedback with the outcome of your application.

Principles of assessment

We support the [San Francisco declaration on research assessment](#) and recognise the relationship between research assessment and research integrity.

Find out about the [UKRI principles of assessment and decision making](#).

We reserve the right to modify the assessment process as needed.

Using generative artificial intelligence (AI) in peer review

Reviewers and panellists are not permitted to use generative AI tools to develop their assessment. Using these tools can potentially compromise the confidentiality of the ideas that applicants have entrusted to UKRI to safeguard.

For more detail see our [policy on the use of generative AI](#).

Assessment areas

The assessment areas we will use are:

- vision
- approach
- applicant capability to deliver
- career development
- research organisation or independent research organisation (RO/IRO) organisation support
- resources and cost justification
- ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Find details of assessment questions and criteria under the 'Application questions' heading in the 'How to apply' section.

Contact details

Get help with your application

If you have a question and the answers aren't provided on this page

Important note: The helpdesk is committed to helping users of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service as effectively and as quickly as possible. In order to manage cases at peak volume times, the helpdesk will triage and prioritise those queries with an imminent opportunity deadline or a technical issue. Enquiries raised where information is available on the Funding Finder opportunity page and should be understood early in the application process (for example, regarding eligibility or content/remit of an opportunity) will not constitute a priority case and will be addressed as soon as possible.

Contact details

For help and advice on costings and writing your proposal please contact your research office in the first instance, allowing sufficient time for your organisation's submission process.

For questions related to this specific funding opportunity please contact heuh@ahrc.ukri.org and include 'LUCIA-LGA ECR fellowship' in the subject line of your email for ease.

Any queries regarding the system or the submission of applications through the Funding Service should be directed to the helpdesk.

Email: support@funding-service.ukri.org

Phone: 01793 547490

Our phone lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm
- Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

To help us process queries quicker, we request that users highlight the council and opportunity name in the subject title of their email query, include the application reference number, and refrain from contacting more than one mailbox at a time.

See further information on [submitting an application](#).

Additional info

Background

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) has sought to understand the value of culture and the difference it makes to individuals and to society, investing richly and broadly in this area of research over the past decade.

In 2022, a [shorthand publication](#) written by AHRC's Cities and Urban Environments portfolio team, mapped out various research priorities within the portfolio.

Subsequently, the portfolio team completed analysis of the research portfolio within this area. The analysis pinpointed 'culture, identity and place', 'urban policy', and 'equality of opportunity for all', as three of the most well-represented key themes in the portfolio. The team have therefore been building the foundations of the Locally Unlocking Culture through Inclusive Access (LUCIA) programme since early 2023. It has been shaped with conscious recognition of the current funding landscape and the lessons learned from exciting funding opportunities, past, present and further afield.

In March and April 2024, the Cities portfolio team hosted two workshops and a series of one-to-one discussions with individuals who brought a vast range of expertise and experience to help further scope, co-design and build the LUCIA programme. Read the [workshop report summarising these discussions \(PDF, 4.4MB\)](#).

The LUCIA programme launched on 16 September 2024. Full information is available on the [LUCIA funding opportunity page](#).

The Local Government Association (LGA) is the national voice of local government, working with councils to support, promote and improve local government. It is a politically-led, cross-party organisation that works on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government. Its aims are to influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to councils so they are able to deliver local solutions to national problems. The fellowship will be hosted within the LGA's Culture, Tourism and Sport team, and under the remit of the LGA Culture, Tourism, and Sport Board.

Full information can be found on the [LGA website](#).

Research and innovation impact

Impact can be defined as the long-term intended or unintended effect research and innovation has on society, economy and the environment; to individuals, organisations, and the wider global population.

Webinar for potential applicants

The launch of the wider LUCIA funding opportunity has been supported by several webinars for prospective applicants.

The first LUCIA information webinar was held on 10 October 2024 and provided an overview of the funding opportunity, followed by a question-and-answer session.

[Watch the webinar recording](#)

[See webinar slides \(PDF, 723KB\)](#)

[See frequently asked questions document \(PDF, 184KB\)](#)

The second LUCIA webinar will be held on 28 January 2025 and focused on community engagement. The webinar will be co-hosted by the AHRC with the [National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement](#).

Research disruption due to COVID-19

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities. We are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career, such as:

- breaks and delays
- disruptive working patterns and conditions
- the loss of ongoing work
- role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic

Reviewers and panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the capability to deliver and career development of those individuals included in the application. They will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant and their wider team to deliver the research they are proposing.

Where disruptions have occurred, you can highlight this within your application if you wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

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<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/lucia-local-government-association-lga-ecr-fellowship-programme>