

Arts and Culture University of Exeter Creative Fellowships 2024-25

Exploratory placements over 4-5 weeks, working in interdisciplinary contexts

Introduction

Arts and Culture Creative Fellowships offer creative practitioners the opportunity to engage with innovative academics and professional services staff across the University of Exeter's colleges and campuses. They are open to practitioners of any artform, including visual, digital, sound and performing arts, craft, design, film, literature, music and beyond. Rather than being a residency, these opportunities are described as placements. The creative practitioner is a peer, opening up new approaches and conversations with the University hosts while developing and enriching their own creative practice. This scheme encourages mutually beneficial exchange, where both the host and the creative practitioner gain new insights and potential ways of working.

The role of an Arts and Culture Creative Fellow

The Creative Fellowships are designed to benefit both the Creative Fellow and the host, providing inspiration for new approaches to creative practice and generating fledgling ideas that could be the springboard for future initiatives. The emphasis is on process, so documentation and evaluation will be intrinsic to project delivery, and we will be making a short film summarising each Creative Fellowship.

The Creative Fellow will be introduced to key contacts working on a specific area of research. They will be supported to work alongside these research communities, producing creative outputs that investigate and interrogate the processes and practices of research undertaken at Exeter, using creative skills and supporting the aims of the University.

On a practical level, this may involve attending informal department meetings, working with students and audiences, building 1-1 relationships with particular researchers and exploring novel perspectives on the activities that support the University's work. It is important that a Creative Fellowship builds towards a tangible outcome that communicates the value of the project.

Our preference is for Creative Fellows to come into this process without a fixed output in mind, but to develop new work rooted in their established practice and responding to the university context. We are not anticipating fully resolved work to be made, but we would expect draft work to be in development. We anticipate that the Creative Fellow will collaborate closely with Arts and Culture to share their process with a broad audience, across the University and the region.

To give a sense of how varied and bespoke each project can be, please click on the links below to find out about three of the Creative Fellows we have worked with in the past; Siân Docksey, Daksha Patel, and Tom Stockley:

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/the-politics-of-sexual-nature>

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/exploring-environmental-justice>

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/a-thousand-bursts-of-light>

The University and its Campuses

The University of Exeter's campuses in Devon and Cornwall host over 22,000 students. There are two campuses in Exeter (Streatham and St Luke's), one in Penryn, and one in Truro. Streatham campus also holds the Exeter Northcott Theatre and the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum. Find out more about the campuses at: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/life/ourcampuses>

Creative Fellowship Aims

- Connect individuals and disciplinary perspectives within the University through creative engagement and outputs.
- Advocate for artistic processes and creative methodologies within the context of a research-intensive university.
- Work with interdisciplinary groups that span a broad range of methodologies and perspectives.
- Document processes and ways of working using creative practice.
- Develop a tangible outcome that communicates the process of the Creative Fellowship.

Outputs and Timetable

The timing and detail of outputs are to be developed in discussion with hosts. No two Creative Fellowships are the same and we are committed to an open and process-driven approach.

The Creative Fellowship runs over a period of 4-5 weeks to be agreed with the University of Exeter, split between in-situ research and production time.

Information about timescales and locations of each Creative Fellowship can be found in the appendices below.

The Arts and Culture team aims to work with the Creative Fellows to offer dissemination events and activities to showcase the process and resulting works.

The project must be completed within the 2024-25 academic year. The fee covers the period from November 2024 to July 2025.

Budget

The total budget per Creative Fellowship is £6,000 (inclusive of VAT). This must include the practitioner's fee, equipment, travel and accommodation, and production costs. The Arts and Culture team will support additional expenses including film-making and photography, event planning and delivery, promotion, and dissemination.

Required Skills and Experience

- Experience of arts placements or residencies with non-arts professionals.
- Ability to plan and deliver projects to deadlines.
- Strong interest in use of creative processes and application of artistic insights and behaviours in diverse contexts.
- Collaborative and enquiring outlook.
- Willingness and ability to spend time on the University of Exeter campuses

Application Process

Two Creative Fellowships are being offered in the 2024-25 academic year. Details of the two Creative Fellowships have been included in the Appendices below, so that artists can make informed choices about which strand to apply for.

Following a call out across the University's Exeter Campuses in Summer 2024, two initiatives were selected to each host a Creative Fellow. Practitioners from any creative discipline are invited to apply and will be selected following interview. The interview panel for each Creative Fellowship will consist of the Lead Contact for the host group, a representative from Arts and Culture and one other member of University staff. All interviews will be online by Zoom.

Apply by emailing a one page written response (with up to six supporting images, or link to one video file if appropriate), plus a CV to artsandculture@exeter.ac.uk. (Please note that the maximum size for emails is 10MB.) Please specify which of the Creative Fellowships you are applying for, and what you would contribute to a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and practice.

The two creative Fellowships in this callout are:

- **Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies**
Food Citizenship: Researching belonging(s) and homemaking through food (See Appendix 1)
- **Archaeology and History**
Wills as Windows onto Past Lives (See Appendix 2)

Deadline for applications is midnight on Sunday 3 November 2024.

Interview dates:

Title	Date	
<i>Food Citizenship: Researching belonging(s) and homemaking through food.</i>	20 November 2024	Zoom link to be sent to candidates; remote interview.
<i>Wills as Windows onto Past Lives</i>	22 November 2024	Zoom link to be sent to candidates; remote interview.

Please note - £100 will be provided to cover the creative practitioner's time to prepare and attend interview.

If you have any queries, please email artsandculture@exeter.ac.uk

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APPENDIX 1 – Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (IAIS)

Website: <https://arabislamicstudies.exeter.ac.uk/> and <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/centres/kurdish/>

Lead: [Dr Clemence Scalbert Yucel](#)

Senior Lecturer in Ethnopolitics and Kurdish Studies, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Streatham Campus

Team: Dr Clemence Scalbert Yucel

Fellowship

Title: *Food Citizenship: Researching belonging(s) and homemaking through food*

Key dates when the Fellow must be present/available

There are no specific dates. However, it is expected that the Fellow will spend some time in Devon to meet members of the academic and Kurdish community, visit relevant places, and, if possible, attend some local community events.

Location

Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (IAIS), Streatham Campus, other locations in Exeter and Devon and online.

Introduction to Area of Practice

I am developing new research on Kurdish migration, belonging, and food citizenship in Devon. Devon's population is primarily white-British (92.63%), yet the county is increasingly diverse and has been a place of dispersal for Kurdish asylum seekers.

Research on migration in Devon is nearly inexistent; very little is known on the history of the Kurdish migration or on the ways Kurdish migrants have made Devon their home. I want to explore these issues by looking at food citizenship, a notion that stresses that we are not just consumers but participants and actors of the food system. I want to explore how, through food-related practices such as purchasing, growing, importing, foraging, sharing, running a restaurant, etc, residents of Kurdish descent may develop a home and a sense of belonging in Devon and the UK while maintaining relations with their home countries.

The project is multidisciplinary: it brings together geography, cartography, anthropology of food, and gender studies (and why not economics, natural sciences, or health sciences?). It also adopts participatory research methods. Through its focus on food citizenship in the context of migration, the research engages with the themes of social justice, environment and health and wellbeing.

Summary of Fellowship Opportunity

The Fellowship will help develop new ways of researching belonging(s) and homemaking through food, help engage in original ways with new disciplines and help develop creative and participative research methods engaging the community.

The process of working with a creative practitioner will support my learning and understanding of participatory and creative research methods.

The Fellowship will also support the engagement activity by working with and alongside the community. The Fellowship may also support the exploration of the rich Kurdish collections of the archives at the University of Exeter.

Additionally, it will support the teaching of Kurdish Studies at the IAIS. I use project-based assessments, through which students engage with different forms of knowledge production, including art. With the Creative Fellow, I would like to explore creative methods that will inform my teaching in future.

There will be opportunities for the creative practitioner to meet with academic colleagues in Translation Studies, Food Studies, Geography, and Modern Languages in particular, as well as with our students in Kurdish Studies.

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APPENDIX 2 – Archaeology and History

Website: <https://arch-history.exeter.ac.uk/> and [The Material Culture of Wills, England 1540-1790 > The Material Culture of Wills, England 1540-1790 \(exeter.ac.uk\)](#)

Lead: [Dr Laura Sangha](#)

Associate Professor of Early Modern History

Team: Dr Laura Sangha and The Material Culture of Wills Project Team

Fellowship

Title: *Wills as Windows onto Past Lives*

Key dates when the Fellow must be present/available

The Creative Fellow will be welcome to attend at workshop I am running with Exeter U3A on Tuesday 11 February in the Digital Humanities Lab on the University's Streatham Campus, where we will be looking at and discussing wills.

Location

Exeter, online and also the choice to spend some time in London.

The Creative Fellow will be able to meet with other members of the wills project team: two other historians; our two digital experts, one of whom is based at The National Archives (TNA) in London; and two postgraduate students.

They will be able to view original copies of wills at TNA in London.

Introduction to Area of Practice

Although many people might perceive of History as more of a science than an art, a discipline that deals with facts rather than artistry, the process of producing History is inherently creative. The work of transforming the stuff that survives from the past (texts, objects, landscapes, buildings ...) into histories is a creative act. Yet in my career to date, I've only transformed past words into more words, reading books, diaries, sermons, or account books and then writing about them in chapters, articles, and blog posts.

Indeed, I am currently part of a project team who are analysing 25,000 texts -wills -in order to explore English history between 1540-1790. But wills are much more than mere legal texts, they are full of people, places, relationships, emotions, and objects; they are deeply evocative but also often frustratingly mysterious, a mere glimpse into a person's life. Because of the multi-layered and incredibly rich nature of historic wills I believe this research represents a great

opportunity for me to disrupt my traditional ways of working by collaborating with a creative fellow to find more playful and experimental approaches to my source material, both in terms of exploring its nature and content, and in producing different forms of history from it.

There is more about the project, the team and the wills themselves on [the Material Culture of Wills website](#).

Summary of Fellowship Opportunity

The multidimensional nature of wills means they present many entry points for collaboration with a creative fellow. I'm particularly interested to have conversations about how creative approaches can be used to grapple with the fragmentary nature of historical evidence and to 'fill in the gaps' in sources.

All kinds of people made wills, including marginal groups such as women and lower sorts (e.g. craftsmen and farmers), and members of immigrant and religious minority communities. My research on wills thus links to the University's priority of working towards a fair, inclusive and socially just society, since it directs attention away from the history of monarchs and social elites towards ordinary people, valuing their experiences and bringing their often unheard voices to the fore.

Depending on the Creative Fellow's expertise, there is potential to use various aspects of wills as a springboard for exploration: visual and material (descriptions of household objects, clothes and furnishings), literary (wills can be simultaneously formulaic and deeply idiosyncratic), or emotional (keepsakes bequeathed to beloved friends).