

Our Core Business

Our Purpose:

We are the UK's National Centre for the promotion and facilitation of research in the Humanities. Through our eight institutes and our specialist hubs for digital humanities and public engagement, we **train** the next generation of humanities researchers, devise **innovative methods** for new discoveries, connect humanities researchers and practitioners across disciplines and sectors, and provide unique humanities **research infrastructure** to create new knowledge.

We achieve this by:

Creating and supporting the next generation of advanced humanities researchers

Initiating and advancing cross-disciplinary and cross sector initiatives

Innovating and facilitating new humanities research methods

Providing unique resources and capabilities for humanities researchers

To meet our core mission, we need to engage with:

Researchers at all career stages;

Organisations that promote research in the humanities and social sciences;

Partners across multiple sectors (galleries, libraries, archives, museums, heritage, the arts, creative industries, government, policy formation, media, business, industry, technology, health and science);

The public.

Pressures to change

An ambitious new strategy is needed to prepare for and respond to:

How information and communication technologies will affect research;

International realignments in research, mobility, and education;

The changing environment around Research, Development and Innovation (planned increase of R&D investment to 2.4% GDP, review of QR, levelling up agenda);

Pressures on humanities and social sciences research and teaching funding, and funding to HE more broadly;

Demands for new forms of training, interdisciplinary collaboration, public engagement, accountability, and key skills, such as those in modern languages and digital literacy;

Recovery from the effects of the Coronavirus.

Future

To better serve the community of humanities researchers, we shall:

Create training and networking opportunities to ensure that the emerging generation of researchers are as fully equipped as possible with the skills necessary for the new worlds of research and work. (through the following activities: Leadership mini-residencies/ Future Leaders Fellowship training; disciplinary and interdisciplinary fellowship schemes; ECR training programme reaching across the UK that meets researcher needs now and pre-empts future skills needs; nationwide humanities research culture cafes; networks, seminars and events programmes; portfolio of study options (seasonal schools, online workshops, study days and courses, professional accreditation, CPD opportunities));

Develop new ways to connect humanities researchers across disciplines, universities, research organisations and sectors in ways that benefit culture, society and the economy and encourage new forms of knowledge (through the following activities: 'Open' Programme (Open disciplines, Open for Discussion, Open Scholarship, Open Knowledge) , new MA programmes, Purpose Economy, public fellowship scheme, Centre for People, Place and Community, GLAM secondments scheme, History & Policy, international partners scheme, Refugee Law Initiative, law and humanities);

Develop fresh and experimental humanities-based approaches to disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and extend access to the benefits of advanced work in the humanities (through the following activities: DH hub; Book Lab, DH visiting fellowships, Centre for Experimental Humanities, Centre for the Politics of Feeling);

Boost the national infrastructure for Humanities through the development of our unique resources and capabilities to enable new methods and support the growth of ideas (through the following activities: mapping UK's humanities infrastructure project, mobilising the Consortium of Institutes of Advanced Study, developing our world-class specialist libraries and bibliographic resources to support advanced humanities research, Warburg Renaissance Project, dedicated humanities academic press with distinct mission, Centre for Public Humanities, Being Human Festival 2.0, developing hybrid events infrastructure with national and international reach), inclusivity and equality initiatives, networks and neutral brokerage for HEIs and research organisations);

Become more financially sustainable and organisationally resilient (through the following activities: growth in earned income streams, ensuring appropriate staff balance, efficient use of space, flexible and considered staffing structure to support strategy, effective working practices and relationships, a new staff development programme and career support).

We shall judge we have been successful when:

The communities we serve across the UK engage frequently with us, see real value in what we provide, and approach us as the 'first port of call' in our key areas;

Our partners value our contribution to collaborative initiatives;

Our work has increased visibility and presence across academic communities, across wider research-focused communities, with the public and through coverage of our activities in the media;

Our work attracts increased funding from external bodies;

We are recognised and valued across the UK and internationally for our work in promoting and facilitating research in the humanities.

In summary, we will become:

The National Centre for the Humanities, an accelerator for humanities research, connecting and amplifying the work of humanities scholars across the UK and internationally.

Lead indicators

Grow national and international partnerships and networks

Partnerships and initiatives established through: e.g CIAS, regional HE partner projects, AHRC, BA, CaSE, Wellcome, national and internal HEI's, subject associations and networks, RLUK, Jisc, National Center for the Humanities, Trinity Long Room Hub ; increased approaches for partnerships.

A

Engage research communities across the UK

'Open' Programme established (Open disciplines, Open for Discussion, Open Scholarship, Open Knowledge); library and digital resource usage; events, workshops and network numbers, reach and feedback; regular meetings with key stakeholders and feedback acted on; advisory group reformed to reflect wider research communities and key stakeholders; fellowship programmes.

A

ECR support and development

Establishment of consolidated training programme and research culture cafes; uptake and reach of ECR training; extension of Future Leadership Fellowship training programme; uptake and reach of ECR-focused events; engagement with ECRs about future needs; 'future humanities' training pilot programme with Trinity Long Room; fellowship programmes reviewed.

A

Funding from external bodies

Increased grant capture (applications vs success rate, type, overhead capture, amounts); monitor impact of ODA grant loss; increased funding for 'stand alone' national infrastructure projects; horizon scanning for funding opportunities, increased philanthropic income (development group established, projects identified, targets set and met).

R

Cross-sector initiatives and engagement

Initiatives launched and success measured through establishment of key initiatives, income generation, events type/reach/participant analysis), increased published outputs, increased coverage for, e.g., the following areas: public fellowship scheme established, Centre for People, Place and Community, Centre for the Senses, GLAM secondments scheme established, History & Policy, international partners scheme, Refugee Law Initiative, law and humanities.

A

Increase visibility

Change makers launch, Talking Humanities refresh, Alt-metrics (media coverage), increased numbers and reach of events and engagement programme, increased numbers of collaborations, social media and communications support in place with plan for SAS.

R

Sustainability

Positive relationship with Research England; Positive EBITDA; stabilisation of staffing base; key positions appointed to; increased investment from multiple sources (including philanthropy); containment of costs; increased earned income from teaching portfolio; introduction of staff team-building and staff development programmes.

A

Current status:

A = Amber R = Red

