Leverhulme Research Centres

Call Opens: January 2021
Leverhulme Deadline: 16 April 2021, 4pm
Internal EOI Deadline: Monday 25 January

https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/leverhulme-research-centres

(NB: pre-call stage at the moment - details of the Leverhulme’s application content and process are being reviewed and may change)

For UK universities to set up a Leverhulme Research Centre for outstanding original research aspiring to achieve a step-change in scholarship
The Trust’s aim is to encourage new approaches that may establish or reshape a field of study and so transform our understanding of a significant contemporary topic.

Value: Up to £1 million per year; £10 million maximum.
Duration: Between 5 and 10 years.
Costs covered: Salaries for research staff (75% min) and associated research costs (25% max)

Eligibility
- Eligible institutions are universities in the UK.
- A Leverhulme Research Centre may be single-site (one higher education institution) or multi-site ('hub and spoke/s').
- Each UK university is permitted to make only one bid as the principal applicant ('hub').
- Additional involvement in partnership(s) with other universities is permitted (as 'spoke').
- The participation of non-UK international institutions is encouraged, where this is relevant to the Centre's research focus, but this is not a requirement.

What the Trust is looking for
The Leverhulme Trust invites applications for Research Centres that will not only conduct research of outstanding originality but also aspire to achieve a significant step-change in scholarship. The Trust’s aim is to encourage new approaches that may establish or reshape a field of study and so transform our understanding of a significant contemporary topic. Applicants are therefore invited to be bold in compiling their bids.

The Trust has a reputation for encouraging higher-risk research which is often therefore fundamental or curiosity-driven – so-called 'blue skies' – and pan-disciplinary. The expectation is that Centres will draw upon a range of disciplinary perspectives and expertise, perhaps bringing new disciplinary mixes to bear on a particular topic. The hope is for bids that fold the social sciences and humanities authentically into the mix, rather than being framed primarily in physical and life science terms.

The Centres should have the capacity to become recognised internationally for excellence in their chosen area.
The chosen area should be sufficiently large-scale to support an ambitious but realistic research agenda, for between five and ten years.

Leverhulme Research Centres should not duplicate existing activity at a comparable scale, whether in Research Council-funded or university research centres.
The Trust wishes to support research activity where it can be confident that the work will have substantial added-value compared to smaller initiatives in the same area of research.
This competition is only for applications that Royal Holloway is leading

Expression of Interest requires:

1. Short CV (max 2 pages) for the proposed PI and key team and
2. if a “hub and spoke” model, the other Institutions involved and
3. a maximum 2 pages of A4 covering the following:
   a. The research vision and programme for the Centre
      i. the reasons why this is important and interesting
      ii. the key research questions to be addressed
      iii. how the Centre will create a step change in the subject area
   b. How the Centre will address the interdisciplinary expectation described by LH (see above)

Please submit your EOI to researchservices@rhul.ac.uk by midnight on Monday 25 January

Review and Selection
If more than 2 applications are received with the lead from the same School, the School will select 2 EOs to be considered by the panel

The College Panel will meet early February and make a decision on which bid to support (only one bid can be submitted by the College as lead).

See links below to Centres funded in 2015 and 2018
Appendix: Centres funded in 2015 and 2018

Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society https://centreforwildfires.org/
Dr Apostolos Voulgarakis
Imperial College London

Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science (LCDS) https://www.demographicscience.ox.ac.uk/
Professor Melinda Mills
University of Oxford

Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity https://www.york.ac.uk/anthropocene-biodiversity/
Professor Chris Thomas
University of York

Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence http://lcfi.ac.uk/
Professor Huw Price
University of Cambridge

Leverhulme Centre for Forensic Science https://www.dundee.ac.uk/leverhulme/
Professor Niamh Nic Daeid
University of Dundee

Leverhulme Centre for Functional Materials Design https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/leverhulme-research-centre/
Professor Andrew Cooper
University of Liverpool

Leverhulme Centre for Climate Change Mitigation http://lc3m.org/
Professor David Beerling
University of Sheffield