Funding Opportunities for Practice Research

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Finding funding for practice research can be difficult, but there are a significant number of opportunities available, either with the major national and international funders, or with smaller, more focussed funders.
What follows is a summary of these, prepared for the EARC workshop on practice as research (PAR) in January 2023. It is by no means exhaustive, and it is worth looking at the funding databases that exist and searching for your discipline, the type of funding you want, the amount available and the period it covers. These include:

- **Research Professional.** This is perhaps the most comprehensive of the databases, and offers an advanced search function so that you can filter by discipline, type of funding, eligibility and other parameters. It requires an institutional subscription, but all three EARC universities have this. If you need help with it, talk to your research and innovation services (or equivalent). Their details are at the end of this summary.
- **Grantfinder.** An alternative to RP, this is a useful list of arts, culture and heritage opportunities. Some of the deadlines have passed, but the list gives an indication of the variety and range of opportunities out there.
- **Grants Online.** Similar to Grantfinder, this is a good summary of the opportunities available for arts, culture and heritage research and wider activities.
- **Arts Council England.** We summarise some of the ACE opportunities below, but this list highlights some of the other, non-ACE grants that are available in the UK.
- **The Arts Development Company.** The Arts Development Company works ‘to strengthen the arts and culture sector and develop innovative, collaborative and creative solutions that transform people, place and community.’ The list of funding it provides has many commonalities with those given by those above, but it’s useful to cross-reference these and see if there are additional opportunities for your work, particularly around community-engagement.
- **Funding for All.** Aimed primarily at small charities, voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises across Kent and Medway, this list looks more widely at funding available. Once again, useful as a cross-reference.
The Major Funders
United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) is the primary source of research funding in the UK. It comprises the seven research councils and Innovate UK, together with Research England. The research councils, including the AHRC, and Innovate UK provide funding for discrete research projects, for which individual academics and others apply; Research England provides ‘block grants’ (or ‘quality-related’ (QR) funding) that is given to institutions based on their REF results.

**Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)**

The AHRC supports practice-led research. Applicants can apply to any of the AHRC’s rolling schemes, as well as some specialist calls, for research that involves practice. The AHRC Research Funding Guide gives the following stipulations for applications involving practice research:

*Creative output can be produced, or practice undertaken, as an integral part of a research process as defined above. The Council would expect, however, this practice to be accompanied by some form of documentation of the research process, as well as some form of textual analysis or explanation to support its position and as a record of your critical reflection. Equally, creativity or practice may involve no such process at all, in which case it would be ineligible for funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council.* (p.11)

As part of their application, applicants can request funds for the resources required for the practice such as “costs associated with producing a film or installation.” These costs are considered eligible if “the applicant must undertake the practice in order to address the proposed research questions.”
Funding opportunities

- **NEW AHRC Dance research matters network and programme lead**
  - Maximum award: £100,000
  - Deadline: 16 March 2023

- **NEW/PILOT AHRC Exhibition Fund**
  - Maximum award: £250,000
  - Deadline: 10 January 2023.
  - Note that “in this pilot opportunity, AHRC will fund 1 project. Following a review of the pilot, it is our hope that the Exhibition Fund will become an annual competition.”

- **NEW AHRC Early career fellowships in cultural and heritage institutions**
  - Maximum award: £250,000
  - Expression of interest deadline: 16 January 2023
  - Scheme deadline: 30 March 2023

- **AHRC Research in Film Awards**
  - Award: £2,000
  - Deadline: June 2023. This is an annual competition, and this is the expected deadline.

- **AHRC early career research grant**
  - Maximum award £250,000
  - Deadline: open – no closing date

- **AHRC standard research grant**
  - Maximum award £1,000,000
  - Deadline: open – no closing date

- **AHRC research, development and engagement fellowships: early career researchers route**
  - Award range: £50,000 - £250,000.
  - Deadline: open – no closing date

- **AHRC research, development and engagement fellowships: standard route to support mid-career and established researchers**
  - Award range: £50,000 - £300,000
  - Deadline: open – no closing date

- **AHRC follow-on funding for impact and engagement**
  - Maximum award: £100,000
  - Deadline: open – no closing date

Further info

- [Research Funding Guide](#)
- [Practice-led research guidance](#)
Innovate UK

Innovate UK offers funding for all innovative businesses: sole entrepreneurs, pre-seed, early stage, growth stage or those scaling up their business. There are opportunities for academics to gain funding for innovative research-informed business ideas or spin-off companies, or to collaborate with business and industry partners, for example in the creative industries.

Funding opportunities

**Creative England New Ideas Fund**
- Awards: £1,000 - £20,000
- Deadline 20 January 2023

- **Creative Catalyst 2023**
  - Awards up to £50,000
  - Deadline: 15 February 2023

The British Academy

The British Academy funds practice-led research where there is “a clear scholarly rationale for the choice of research-methods”. From the BA's guidance for applicants:

*The British Academy welcomes proposals for high-quality research in all its subject areas. While all proposals should be situated in an appropriate field of study, they may vary considerably in their approach to conceptualisation, methodology and/or outputs, depending on the discipline. In some cases, creative and professional practice may play a significant role in shaping the methods and/or outcomes of research. In all proposals, whether practice-led or not, a clear scholarly rationale is required for the choice of research methods, processes and outputs.*

Funding opportunities

- **Mid-Career Fellowships**
  - Maximum award: £160,000
  - Deadline: July 2023 (expected)

- **BA/Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowships**
  - Award value: 12 months’ replacement lecturer costs
  - Deadline: November 2023 (expected)

- **BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants**
  - Maximum award: £10,000
  - Deadlines: Two rounds annually, with expected deadlines this year in June 2023 and November 2023
The Leverhulme Trust

Leverhulme’s emphasis on risk-taking and discipline-hopping excursions into new areas of research make it a good fit for practice-oriented research projects. The Trust’s “mission is to fund excellent, risky and fundamental research, responding to academics’ own research interests and passions” and it encourages research that “transcends disciplinary boundaries”.

An assessment of the Trust’s published lists of previous awards demonstrates a record of funding practice-led research, and research that involves practice elements. For example, awards have been made to practising artists, creative writers and filmmakers for their research. The guidance for applications to the Research Fellowships scheme specifically includes instructions for “practising artists” allowing them to upload examples of their work such as “photographs or images, or a short example of film or music”.

Funding opportunities

- **International Fellowships**
  - Maximum award: £50,000
  - Deadline: November 2023 (expected)

- **Major Research Fellowships**
  - Award value: Replacement salary costs for the duration of the Fellowship.
  - Deadline: May 2023 (expected)

- **Philip Leverhulme Prizes**
  - Award value: £100,000
  - Deadline: 17 May 2023

- **Research Fellowships**
  - Maximum award: £65,000
  - Deadline: November 2023 (expected)

- **Research Project Grants**
  - Maximum award: £500,000
  - Deadline: open – no closing dates for the outline stage

Further info

To find out about some of the practice-led research that the Trust has previously funded you can have a look through and search projects listed in their [Annual Reviews](#).
Arts Council England

The Arts Council is “the national development agency for creativity and culture” investing “public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector” and to deliver on its investment principles and strategic vision. ACE is therefore a natural fit for creative practitioners, including individuals wishing to carry out practice-led research projects. ACE supports applications made by arts organisations (including universities in certain specific instances where the activity is deemed “extracurricular”), communities and individual practitioners.

Funding opportunities

- **National Lottery Project Grants**
  - Award value: £1000 - £100,000
  - Deadline: open – no closing date
- **Developing Your Creative Practice**
  - Award value: £2000 - £10,000
  - Deadline: open – no closing date

Further info

Read about ACE’s investment principles and strategic vision for 2020-2030 to find out more about ACE’s [priority areas for funding](#).

Heritage Lottery Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund “inspires, leads and resources the UK’s heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and for the future." National Lottery Grants for Heritage is an open programme for all types of heritage projects in the UK. Projects can include creative and/or practice elements such as, for example: “oral history recordings of people's stories, memories and songs, as a way of communicating and revealing the past”; “exploring the history of different cultures through storytelling, or things that you do as part of your community. This could be anything from dance and theatre to food or clothing. It could also include the heritage of languages and dialects.”

Funding opportunities

- **National Lottery Grants for Heritage**
  - Awards range from £3000 to £5 million
  - Deadline: Open – no closing date
Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe provides research and innovation funding from the European Union. The EU makes no distinction between practice-based research, practice-led research and all other types of research. Practice-researchers can apply for EU grants if they make the case that practice is a necessary part of the research process and a means of answering the specified research questions.

At the time of writing, UK researchers are still being encouraged to apply for Horizon Europe grants under the guarantee that UKRI will underwrite all successful grants should the UK not associate with Horizon Europe. This guarantee currently extends to Horizon Europe calls with a deadline on or before 31 March 2023. However, the UK government has indicated that this will be extended. Should the UK not associate with Horizon Europe, UK applicants can still apply for (but not lead on) Horizon Europe grants as a third country (as is the case for any other country in the world).

Horizon Europe has recently announced new Work Programmes for 2023-2024. These include Humanities and Social Sciences-related programmes, such as ‘Cultural, Creativity and Inclusive Society’. Potential applicants wishing to find relevant calls and join consortia applying for bids can search the Funding and Tenders Portal using terms relevant to their research (see link below). For example, searching for terms such as ‘arts’, ‘humanities’, ‘culture’ and ‘communities’ brings up potentially relevant calls for Arts and Humanities practice-researchers. Some calls will not be specifically Humanities-focussed, but there may well be scope to propose a Humanities and/or practice-led work package as a means to address the specified research questions, and to form part of the consortium responding to a call.

Funding opportunities and further info

- ERC Funding Schemes including Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy Grants
- Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2023-24
- Work Package 5: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Horizon Europe Funding and Tenders Portal – Search for relevant calls

Horizon Europe guarantee scheme: UKRI guidance
Specialist Funders
There is a huge range and diversity of specialist funders in the UK and abroad. They tend to provide smaller grants or limited fellowships for creative practice and/or practice research in a specific area; for example work that relates to or necessitates working in/with specific countries or areas of creative practice – visual art, curatorship, music, dance, theatre etc.

It would be difficult to include all of these, and the following list is intended to be indicative rather than comprehensive. It demonstrates the range of funding (from £100 to many thousands), the disciplinary or national focus, and the differing eligibility. For a more detailed list of possible funders for your work, contact your research development team; their details are at the end.

**Art Fund**

Grants provide funding for travel and other practical costs, to help curators undertake collections and exhibition research projects in the UK or internationally.

**Funding opportunities**

- **Jonathan Ruffer curatorial grants**
  - Award range £200-£5000
  - Deadline: Small grants are considered on a rolling basis. Large grant deadline is likely to be March 2023.

**Canadian Centre for Architecture**

CCA offers the opportunity to propose and curate a project at the CCA related to contemporary debates in architecture, urban issues, landscape design, and cultural and social dynamics while doing a residency at the CCA.

**Funding opportunities**

- **Emerging Curator Residency Programme**
  - Award range CAD$ 1000
Centre for Cultural Value

A national research centre based at the University of Leeds. The core partners are The Audience Agency, The University of Liverpool, The University of Sheffield and Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. The Centre is funded by the UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council, Arts Council England and Paul Hamlyn Foundation over five years.

The Centre is offering funding for collaborative projects between academic researchers and organisations/individuals from the UK cultural sector that ask new questions about the difference arts, culture, heritage and screen make to people’s lives. Successful projects will also develop the range of research methodologies used to explore the value of culture.

Funding opportunities

- **NEW Collaborate Funding** will support around 15 projects, and funding awards will range from £5K – £20K. | Deadline: the fund opens to academics from 5 January until 20 February 2023

Elephant Trust

The Elephant Trust aims to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the fine arts in the UK. Up to £5000 funding is available to support new work, with priority being given to artists in the fine arts and small organisations and galleries. It is important to note that the focus of the Trust’s funding is on the creation of new work and exhibitions, and proposals for “residencies or research” are not eligible: “Priority is given to artists in the fine arts and small organisations and galleries who should submit well argued, imaginative proposals for making or producing new work or exhibitions.”

Funding opportunities

- **Elephant Trust Grants**
  - Award value: £2000 - £5000
  - Deadline: 23 January 2023
Fidelio Trust

The Fidelio Trust aims to help individuals and groups who would not be able to carry out a project or activity without financial support, particularly those who are at an early stage in their careers. Fidelio welcomes applications for grants in support of the Arts particularly for Music, including Opera, Lieder, Composition and Dance.

Funding opportunities

- **Fidelio Trust Grants**
  - Award value: up to £5000
  - Deadlines: 13 January 2023, Friday 26 May 2023, Friday 29 September 2023

Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut promotes culture and the arts in every discipline. The Institut provides funding to enable professional as well as newcomer and amateur artists, whether in groups or individually, to carry out projects in Germany or abroad. In addition to grants for projects and translations, they award scholarships, prizes and fellowships. The funding criteria, application periods and types of funding vary according to the terms of the call for proposals.

Funding opportunities

- **Shadowing Programme for Young Theatre Professionals From Abroad**
  - Covers travel and maintenance
  - Open – no closing date

Further info

- Previous and upcoming funding calls

*Photo by Samantha Weisburg on Unsplash*
Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation

The Foundation seeks to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the UK and Japan through financial support for activities in a number of fields, from Arts and Culture to Humanities and Social Issues, from Japanese Language and Sport and Education, from Science and Technology to Medicine and Health. The Foundation’s Head Office is in London and there is a Liaison Office in Tokyo. The London office has three annual deadlines for their awards, and the Tokyo office has two annual deadlines. Grants are intended to be seed funding or partial support for worthwhile projects which would not otherwise be realised, and evidence of core funding should be available before any application is made for an award.

Funding opportunities

- **Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Grants**
  - Award value: £2000 - £6000
  - Deadlines: annual (see link)

Institut Français du Royaume-Uni

The Institut provides funding to support cultural cooperation in the performing and visual arts. There are funds to support the following activities: connecting French artists to the British art scene by supporting UK-based organisations to display their work; collaborations between young French and British artists; artist residencies for UK-based artists to spend time in France; promoting and translating the work of French playwrights in the United Kingdom.

Funding opportunities

- **Institut grants in the visual and performing arts**

John Hodgson Theatre Research Trust

Applications are invited for grants towards educational and research projects relating to the theatre and dance arts. Grants are awarded bi-annually, and while the projects themselves may involve others, applications should be made by individuals.

Funding opportunities

- **JHTRT Grants**
  - Award value: £500 - £5000
  - Bi-annual awards
John Templeton Foundation

The John Templeton Foundation is a philanthropic organisation that reflects the ideas of its founder, John Templeton. From 2019 to 2023, the Public Engagement department of JTF will support content projects that include video, audio, public events, and print media. In addition, we seek proposals that support the next generation of thought leaders, generate durable courses and programming at leading universities, and highlight the role of virtues like intellectual humility, gratitude, curiosity, and love in solving society’s most pressing problems.

Funding opportunities

- **Public Engagement Funding**
  - Rolling deadlines - see link

Metropolitan Museum of Art and Visual Culture

The Museum supports independent research projects that make use of the its collection and resources.

Funding opportunities

- **Fellowship in History of Art and Visual Culture**
  - Awards up to $52,000
  - Deadline (forecast) November 2023.

Paul Mellon Centre

The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art is an educational charity and research institute that champions new ways of understanding British art history and culture. The funding programme “supports scholarship, academic research and the dissemination of knowledge in the fields of British art and architectural history, and of British visual culture understood more broadly, from the medieval period to the present day”. The following are not eligible: “fellowships and grants in the fields of archaeology, the current practice of architecture or the performing arts”. However, previous funded projects include practice-based research outputs including, for example, exhibitions and short films.

Funding opportunities

- **Grants and Fellowships for Individuals**
  - Various amounts and deadlines – see link
- **Grants for Institutions**
  - Various amounts and deadlines – see link
Further info

- Previous funded projects

Polish Cultural Institute, London

The Institute focus lies in promoting Polish culture and heritage to British audiences, as well as developing collaborations and building bridges between key cultural or academic institutions in Poland and the UK.

Through nurturing these relationships, providing access to essential cultural resources and supporting through funding, PCI London is able to successfully showcase the best of Polish art, film, theatre, music, literature, science, and heritage to culturally diverse residents of the UK.

Funding opportunities

- British Council UK/Poland Arts Scoping Grants
  - Covers travel and accommodation costs
  - Deadline: 4 January 2023 (annual competition)

Society for Theatre Research

Grants may be made annually of sums ranging from £200 to £1,000, as contributions to the cost of research which is substantially concerned with the history and practice of the British theatre. Topics STR can consider include buildings, people, historical or contemporary concerns, theories and practices, and all kinds of performance arts.

All engaged in theatre research can apply – for example you may be an early career academic needing help with a particular piece of research, or an independent scholar digging up traces of local theatre or performers, or a theatre practitioner engaged in practical research on an aspect of performance practice.

Funding opportunities

- STR Grants
  - Award value: £200 - £1000
  - Annual competition (see link)
Unity Theatre Trust

The Trust was set up as a charity in the spirit of the traditions of the theatre and its history. The purpose of the Trust is: To advance the education of the public by fostering, promoting and increasing the interest of the public in the art of drama and in the related arts. There are usually four Trust meetings a year to consider a maximum of 30 successfully submitted grant applications at each meeting. The website is updated frequently to show the date of the next meeting and when the application process opens.

Funding opportunities

- **Unity Theatre Trust Grants**
  - See link for further info the funding available and deadlines
Further help and support

To explore opportunities for funding, get help with developing applications, or for any advice on supporting and managing practice research at the Eastern Arc universities, talk to the relevant research management colleagues. These are:

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<th>Name</th>
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Acknowledgements

Eastern Arc is indebted to Sophie Baldock, Research and Innovation Officer in the Division of Arts and Humanities at the University of Kent, who prepared this list. She had input and help in doing so from Kai Yin Low (Research Development Manager, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Essex), Emma King (Research Manager, Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, UEA) and Ian Beggs (European Funding Manager, UEA). Eastern Arc is hugely grateful to them for all of their work.