

Call for Participants: British Academy Virtual Sandpits 2021

Scheme Notes for Applicants

2021 Competition

**PLEASE READ THESE SCHEME NOTES
CAREFULLY:**

**INCORRECTLY SUBMITTED
APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED
INELIGIBLE**

**Applications should be submitted well in
advance of the deadline (Wednesday 16
December 2020, 17.00 UK time).**

Purpose

1. The British Academy is inviting applications for participants in international virtual sandpits to take place in February 2021. Participation is open to researchers based in the UK and internationally across the whole range of the humanities and social sciences. The Academy is keen to ensure that the diversity of the humanities and social sciences is represented at the virtual sandpits.
2. The Academy wishes to encourage early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to participate and therefore will look to ensure there is significant representation at the sandpits from these scholars.
3. The virtual sandpits will be framed around the themes of ‘Just Transitions’, ‘Global (Dis)Order’, and ‘What is a good city?’. Through these virtual sandpits the Academy wishes to engender new thinking, develop interdisciplinary collaborations, and further international engagement with a particular international policy and practice focus.
4. There will be three virtual sandpits related to the above themes. Each sandpit will have three sessions of a maximum of two hours each. The sessions will take place on separate days in February 2021. Participants will need to be available for the three sessions. There will be additional time required for offline working. Participants will apply to attend a sandpit related to a specific theme, however, opportunities for synergies during the sandpits could be explored.
5. **This call is for applications to participate in the virtual sandpits. It is not an application for funding. Participation in the virtual sandpits is not a guarantee of funding.** It will be necessary through the virtual sandpits to apply for funding generated through the discussions and collaborations developed.

Purpose and Focus

6. These virtual sandpits will aim to draw on the insights of the humanities and social sciences to explore the themes of ‘Just Transitions’, ‘Global (Dis)Order’, and ‘What is a good city?’. This framing is not intended to be prescriptive. Instead, the Academy wishes to incentivise bottom-up ideas. However, in order to indicate some of the questions that might be relevant, we have provided some guide questions below.
7. *What is a good city?*
 - What are and have been the criteria of a good city? Who makes and has made the good city? What are the values embedded in urban policymaking now and in the past? How will or can the transformation of urban spaces in a decarbonised society of the future open up or effect collective action and democratic processes?
 - The good city evokes the good life, however, urban citizens often have lived with ill health, pollution, poor living conditions, fear, anxiety, isolation, crime and helplessness, how can urban life maintain and repair human wellbeing and mental health rather than the opposite?
 - What positive measures can a city undertake to make things better for different groups of people to live together? What infrastructural – understood well beyond the physical – decisions can be taken to better the wellbeing of citizens?
8. *Global (dis)order:*
 - Is there a ‘multilateral system’? Can there be an ‘open, liberal world order’ with ‘global rules, norms and standards’? What can a more historical perspective tell us

including on how the foundations of international order and multilateralism are shifting and that many armed conflicts are connected to the collapse of empires and the inherent difficulty of establishing new successor states?

- How are the organisations and institutions of global governance related to shifting geopolitical relations and how could these be brought into closer and more stable alignment? What role can there be for transnational governance and regional networks and movements?
- Are there better collective answers to global problems?

9. *Just Transitions:*

- What constitutes a just transition? How and by whom should such transitions be designed and led? How can the most profound social and environmental transformations in human history take place in a just and equitable fashion? How will these transitions be experienced and understood differently across societies and communities? How have such transitions been managed in the past and how have and will they be imagined and represented?
- How can political institutions – nationally, transitionally, regionally and globally - be reframed so as to encourage the adoption of forward-looking public policy? What role may there be for green deals or stimuli to support this transition and the COVID-19 response? How might the global economic system support or hinder this? How can a low carbon world be facilitated by human behaviour rather than attempt to be imposed by technological innovation?

10. The Academy is aware that there are considerable possibilities both within and across these framings. Applicants will be required to select a primary theme as they apply, however, there may be opportunities to develop synergies during the virtual sandpits.

Aims of the Virtual Sandpit

11. The virtual sandpits will be designed to be interactive and free-thinking experiences where a diverse range of participants and perspectives will be brought together. The idea is to develop an immersive and intensive opportunity to develop collaborative thinking and construct innovative approaches to the themes set out above. The process for the virtual sandpits will include the following:

- Applying to participate;
- If successful, receiving further briefing and orientation information and opportunities to engage with participants prior to the first session of the virtual sandpits;
- Networking and relationship-building as the virtual sandpits begin;
- Sharing and learning from perspectives on the theme and challenges that it presents;
- Developing a set of common understandings related to the themes and their challenges that speak across different perspectives, terminologies, experiences, and methodologies;
- Focused activities to build on these common understandings to create tangible ideas for research collaboration;
- Transforming these ideas into the forms of innovative research projects for further discussion and comment;
- Applying for funding for collaborative research projects;
- Taking forward the research projects following a funding decision and after the virtual sandpit.

12. The Academy aims to bring together international applicants from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss the themes above. In particular, the Academy wishes to:
 - Foster creative ideas related to our understanding and thinking towards global challenges past, present and future;
 - Develop interdisciplinary collaborations across the humanities and social sciences through cultivating discussion and engagement across disciplines and with practitioners and policymakers;
 - Create international partnerships focused on tackling global challenges;
 - Provide opportunities for participants to apply for further small-scale funding for high-quality research projects.
13. There will be three virtual sandpits related to the above themes. Each sandpit will have three sessions of a maximum of two hours each. The sessions will take place on separate days in February 2021. Participants will need to be available for the three sessions. There will be additional time required for offline working. Participants will apply to attend a sandpit related to a specific theme, however, opportunities for synergies during the sandpits could be explored.
14. In order to stimulate collaboration and networking, small-scale research funding will be made available after the virtual sandpits, which participants can apply for competitively. The Academy expects there to be around £250,000 available in total across the three themes and the Academy intends to provide opportunities across all three themes. The Academy has no preconceived idea whether a virtual sandpit might apply for one large award or a series of smaller awards. The Academy wishes to provide the opportunity for participants to discuss how best to structure and form any collaborations during the virtual sandpits.
15. **This call is for applications to participate in the virtual sandpits. It is not an application for funding. Participation in the virtual sandpits is not a guarantee of funding.** It will be necessary through the virtual sandpits to apply for funding generated through the discussions and collaborations developed.
16. These collaborations must be international and interdisciplinary in their composition. Time will be set aside for participants to share and discuss their ideas for collaboration over the course of the virtual sessions with the aim to build these out into tangible research projects. The application form for this funding will be circulated in advance of the virtual sandpits to ensure participants are fully aware of the opportunity and requirements.

Eligibility

17. For the purpose of this virtual sandpit, participants must have a doctorate (or equivalent research experience).
18. Participants are welcome from any eligible UK or international university or research institute.
19. Participants must have fluency in spoken and written English.
20. Participants must be able to participate fully in the virtual sandpits. This includes access to the internet and a functioning device that enables voice and video communication. Sandpits are intensive activities and participants will be required to be able to attend throughout.

Participation

21. The Academy wishes to encourage early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to participate and therefore will look to ensure there is significant representation at the sandpits from these scholars.
22. The Academy wishes to ensure an appropriate mix of disciplinary backgrounds across the humanities and social sciences. The Academy intends to select around 20-30 applicants to participate in each of the themes for the virtual sandpits. It will only be possible to apply to one theme.
23. The Academy does not have any preconceived ideas regarding the composition of the disciplinary backgrounds of participants. The onus is on applicants to convince the Academy that their participation would address the aims described in this call and advance the success of the virtual sandpits.
24. Virtual sandpits are collaborative endeavours working across disciplines and in this case internationally. Applicants will therefore be required to demonstrate their commitment and ability to work across disciplines and bring together different communities of expertise including outside academia. **This call is for applications to participate in the virtual sandpits. It is not an application for funding. Participation in the virtual sandpits is not a guarantee of funding.** It will be necessary through the virtual sandpits to apply for funding generated through the discussions and collaborations developed.
25. The virtual sandpits will by design bring together participants who would not naturally interact and engage with each other. Applicants willingness to be open to new and different perspectives, ways of working and methodologies will be key, as well as their openness to developing new approaches.

Selection Criteria

26. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - The applicant's rationale and motivation for participating;
 - The applicant's potential contribution to the virtual sandpits, including methodological skills, and ability and experience in contributing to interdisciplinary and international engagement and research;
 - The applicant's ability and experience of working in teams and with experts outside of academia, particularly in policy and practice.
27. The Academy will aim on the basis of these criteria to select participants that will ensure a mix of disciplines across the humanities and social sciences and that supports significant early career researcher participation.

Application Process

28. All applicants must register in the British Academy's online [Flexi-Grant](#) system to enable the processing and assessment of their application. All applications must be submitted in English.
29. All applications will be subject to an eligibility check undertaken by appropriate British Academy staff before being put forward for assessment, and applications that are not completed correctly and on time will not be considered.

30. Applicants should provide a completed application form, including:
 - A CV which should not exceed two pages;
 - Responses to the assessment criteria set out in paragraph 21 above
31. Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), [Flexi-Grant®](#).
32. The deadline for submissions is **Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 17.00 (UK time)**. Applicants will not be allowed to make any changes to their applications or submit any additional information after the 16 December deadline.
33. We will seek to notify successful applicants in January 2021.

Code of Practice

34. The British Academy has a [Code of Practice](#) for assessing applications, setting out the principles of equity, integrity and confidentiality governing the treatment of all applications for research support. The Code of Practice also covers Data Protection, the Academy's ethics policy and the appeals procedure.
35. Feedback is not a feature of this programme and the Academy is, regrettably, unable to enter into correspondence regarding the decisions of the awarding committee, which are governed by the Code of Practice. Please note that by applying to this programme, applicants undertake to accept the terms under which applications are assessed.

Further Information

36. Further information is available from Christina Moorhouse, Georgina Fitzgibbon, and Flora Langley at international@thebritishacademy.ac.uk

Application Information

37. Applications can only be submitted online using the British Academy's online Flexi-Grant® Grant Management System (GMS) system via (<https://britishacademy.flexigrant.com/>). Further information about the GMS can be found here: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/flexi-grant>. If you have not previously used the British Academy's Flexi-Grant® GMS, please follow the registration process from the Flexi-Grant® homepage. Applications cannot be submitted on paper or in any other format. *The deadline for applications to be submitted is **Wednesday 16 December 2020***. The application will always be treated as confidential.

When completing your application on Flexi-Grant®, it is recommended that you take particular note of the following points:

- **Personal details:** When registered in the British Academy Flexi-Grant® system, a user has the option to add or update personal information such as contact details, log-in details (including email address and password), interests, research, and employment details, at any time. **This does not form part of the specific application form for any individual scheme**, but represents a personal record of your account in the system. It is useful if this information is kept up to date, but it is not essential to the progress of an application.
- **Automatic log-out:** You are strongly advised to save your work regularly to prevent accidental loss of information. In particular you should be aware that if the system does not detect any activity for 2 hours it will log out and save the application at that time. Please note that moving between *pages* within an application form will save the page that you are exiting but completing a *field* on a page is not considered an activity. It is recommended that you write the text for longer sections/fields in a word processor such as Word and then copy and paste into the relevant text box to avoid being timed out in this way.
- **Multiple sessions:** You should not have multiple browser windows/tabs of your application open at the same time as this may cause information to be lost. Only one user should edit an application at a time, otherwise changes might be lost.
- **Word limits:** When completing boxes that have a restricted length (note that it refers to words) you should note that if you exceed the specified amount you will not be able to save when you press the save button. You should type the text for the longer-length boxes in a word processor. You will then be able to check the word count and paste it into the British Academy Flexi-Grant® system. You will then still have a copy of the text to return to in the word processor. The word limit applies to text boxes.
- **Plain text:** If entering plain text, please avoid using symbols as some may not be accepted by the British Academy Flexi-Grant® system. You should generate and view a PDF of your application to check that the application appears as you want it to by clicking on 'print form'.
- **Uploading PDF documents:** When uploading PDF documents, please add your name and a heading at the top of every page to show what the document is. Please avoid uploading documents containing illustrations with fine details or colour as this can cause problems when creating a PDF of the application. Please note we will only print your applications in black and white. Each PDF cannot exceed 3 Mb in size.

- **Email addresses:** The British Academy Flexi-Grant® system relies heavily on automatic email contact. It is essential that you ensure you enter accurate email addresses where requested as it may cause considerable delay in the submission/processing of your application if any of these are incorrect. You cannot make changes to email addresses after your application has been submitted for approval.
- **Submission:** You will not be able to submit your application until you have completed each section in full.
- **Application sharing:** All applications must be started by the applicant who is to be the Principal Investigator (PI) on the award. You can invite other contributors to join the application (e.g. Co-Applicant, Finance Office contact etc.), but in order to do so your contributor will need to be registered in the British Academy's Flexi-Grant® system first. You will need to ensure you have their registered email address to invite them to participate in your application. You can let other British Academy Flexi-Grant® users view your draft application, in advance of submission, by providing their email address and entering the permissions you want them to have. They will be able to log in using their existing password and also see and, depending on permissions, amend your application.
- **Application deletion:** You can delete your application at any time although it is often a lot easier to just re-edit your existing application. We will be able to recover a deleted application for a period of 7 days after deletion. After this it will be permanently removed from the system.
- **Application returned for editing:** The approver can return your application to you for further editing. See 'Submission of Application' below.
- **Guidance:** In the tables below you will find in the left-hand column each question as set out in the application sections and in the right-hand column useful guidance on its completion.
- **Further clarification:** If any of this advice is unclear, or you need further information, please do not hesitate to seek clarification from the British Academy's International Team (contact details below).

PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU CREATE A PDF OF YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION (by clicking 'Download as PDF'), AND CHECK IT THOROUGHLY, INCLUDING EMAIL ADDRESSES AND UPLOADED PDF FILES, BEFORE SUBMITTING IT FOR APPROVAL BY YOUR HOST ORGANISATION. IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO RECTIFY MISTAKES IN TIME FOR THE DEADLINE.

WORD LIMITS APPLY TO PLAIN TEXT ONLY. PAGE LIMITS APPLY TO PDFs ONLY.

ALL FIELDS MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK* ARE MANDATORY.

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE MULTIPLE BROWSER WINDOWS/TABS OF YOUR APPLICATION OPEN AT THE SAME TIME AS THIS MAY CAUSE INFORMATION TO BE LOST. ONLY ONE USER SHOULD EDIT AN APPLICATION AT A TIME, OTHERWISE CHANGES MIGHT BE LOST.

Completing the application form: The application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:

Page 1: Applicant Details

Page 2: Application Form

Page 3: Equal Opportunities

A full list of question fields to be completed as part of the application can be found in the following table. Each box in the table represents a page of the application form: the left-hand column contains the questions within each of these pages as set out in the form; the right-hand column contains useful guidance on its completion. A red asterisk (*) indicates which questions are mandatory and therefore must be complete before the application can be submitted. **Please read the guidance notes carefully before completing the form.**

SUMMARY

<p>Summary table</p>	<p>When your application form is complete, all sections on this summary table will be marked as 'Complete'. The 'Complete' status will only appear when all the mandatory fields in that section have been completed. All mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk '*'. Only then will a 'Submit' button appear for you to be able to submit your application.</p> <p>If you are unable to see the submit button but your application appears complete on the Summary page, you will need to check the Contributors tab to ensure that your invited contributors have completed their pages and marked them as complete. Once this has been done, and all the other pages have been completed, the 'submit' button should appear.</p>
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PAGE 1: PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

<p>Applicant Details*</p>	<p><u>Applicant Details</u></p> <p>Please take care to review and complete your personal details accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in the processing of your application. You can update your personal details by checking 'My Account' and selecting the link to 'My Contact Details' and 'My Organisation' and ensuring the relevant details are up to date.</p>
<p>Nationality*</p>	<p>Please use the drop-down list to select your nationality. Additional nationalities can be added after the initial selection if required by selecting 'Add Row'.</p>
<p>Applicant Organisation*</p>	<p><u>Applicant Organisation</u></p> <p>Please use the search bar to find your home institution and add the organisation to your application. If your organisation is not available, then it may not be registered in our system. Before requesting the addition of a new organisation, please check that it is not affiliated with any organisation that is already registered. If it needs to be added, please email us at International@thebritishacademy.ac.uk.</p>
<p>Virtual Sandpit Themes*</p>	<p><u>Virtual Sandpit Themes</u></p> <p>Please select which of the three themes you wish to apply for.</p>

Present Appointment*, Department*	Please give details of your current appointment.
PhD Award Date*	<p>Applicants working towards a PhD or awaiting the outcome of their viva/submission of corrections are not eligible to apply. Please therefore confirm that you have a PhD by filling in the date awarded. If you are an established scholar with relevant equivalent experience, but no doctorate, please put the current date and indicate in the 'personal statement' field why you should be eligible for consideration.</p> <p>Please enter the date of your viva voce examination in the 'PhD Awarded Date' field.</p>
Personal Statement	This field is optional, but may be used, for example, in providing information regarding interruptions to an academic career or your equivalent research experience. The limit on this field is 150 words.
CV Upload*	A brief CV should be uploaded here as a PDF file . This should be no more than 2 sides of A4. <u>Any CV submitted which is over the 2-page limit will render your application ineligible for consideration.</u> In order to comply with this 2-page limit, the applicant could omit, for example, conference presentations from their CV.

PAGE 2: Application Form

Rationale and Motivation*	Please outline your rationale and motivation for participating. (500 words max).
Potential Contribution*	Please outline your potential contribution to the virtual sandpits, including methodological skills, and ability and experience in contributing to interdisciplinary and international engagement and research. (500 words max).
Experience of working in teams and with experts outside of academia*	Please outline your ability and experience of working in teams and with experts outside of academia, particularly in policy and practice. (300 words max).
Previous British Academy Applications	Please use this space to provide details of any applications (successful or unsuccessful) that you have made to any British Academy funding calls. (300 words max).
Previous ODA-eligible applications	Please use this space to provide details of any GCRF, Newton Fund, or other ODA-funded activities that you have been involved with in the past (whether related to the British Academy or to another funding body). This may include, but is not limited to: GCRD or Newton Fund awards you have held as a Principle Investigator, GCRF or Newton Fund awards with which you have been involved as a Co-Investigator or in another capacity, GCRF or Newton Fund events you may have attended or participated in, and any GCRF or Newton Fund applications you may have made which were unsuccessful.

PAGE 3: EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Equal Opportunities	This section is optional however the British Academy would greatly appreciate it if you can complete the details to assist us in our diversity monitoring.
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The British Academy is committed to its policy of Equal Opportunity in the provision of its grants and awards. Please help us to monitor the effectiveness of this policy by providing information concerning your age, gender, ethnic origin and disabilities (if any).

To select a date in the past using the calendar feature, click on the month and year in between the two arrows at the top of the box. To change the year keep clicking on the box – a second click will produce a decade. Use the arrows to move back or forward in time. To change the month, a second box will appear where you can select the month you wish and then you can type the year you require in the box provided. Click on the date and the calendar will take you to the month and year you have selected where you can select the relevant date for display.

This information will be kept separately from the rest of your application and will not be seen by those involved in making decisions in the selection process, including referees etc.

THE ACADEMY WILL ONLY PROCESS COMPLETE, SUBMITTED AND APPROVED APPLICATIONS.

Outcome of Application

Once your application has been submitted, and if it has been approved, you will not be contacted again by the British Academy until the decisions have been made. You can track the progress of your application by logging in again to the Flexi-Grant system at any time. Results are issued by email.

Applicants in any doubt about their eligibility or any other aspect of their application under this call are advised to contact the British Academy's International Team:

Email: international@thebritishacademy.ac.uk