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# Sections

October 2024

Programmes and Activities Update (June 2024): Paper F

<b>This paper is for information</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>
<i>This paper provides Sections with information on the Academy's Programmes and Activities and covers the period March to June 2024.</i>
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>
<i>Sections are invited to note this report.</i>
<b>Author</b>
<i>Contributions are from British Academy Heads and Teams (edited by Nickolas Lambrianou, Head of Fellowship Engagement &amp; Governance).</i>
<b>Financial or resource implications, and/or risks to consider</b>
<i>None</i>

## Introduction

1. These reports are regularly refreshed and circulated to Council, Sections and Academy committees, for information. Fuller information on many of the items referred to in this paper, including texts of reports etc, is available on the Academy's website, [www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk).
2. The document is organised around the core strategic objectives as outlined in the recently published [Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#):
  - a. [To invest in the very best researchers and research](#)
  - b. [To celebrate and promote the humanities and social sciences](#)
  - c. [To inform and enrich debate around society's greatest questions](#)
  - d. [To ensure sustained international engagement and collaboration](#)
  - e. [To make the most of our people, partnerships and resources to secure the Academy for the future](#)

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3. In addition, the strategy identifies three strategic priorities for 2023-2027:
  - Strengthening and championing the humanities and social sciences
  - Mobilising our disciplines for the benefit of everyone
  - Opening up the Academy
4. This report is structured around the five core strategic objectives whilst the three strategic priorities are embedded across all of our work summarised below.

## To Invest in the Very Best Researchers and Research

### *Research Funding*

5. The Research Awards Committee met on 15 May 2024 when the main subject of discussion was the award of 45 Postdoctoral Fellowships.
6. The 2023-24 competition for Postdoctoral Fellowships attracted 555 applications at the Outline Stage, the largest field since 2020-21. 115 applicants were invited to the second stage, and 45 awards have been offered to researchers planning to be based at 24 separate host institutions.
7. The third round of the Small Grants to be assessed through the Partial Randomization Trial saw the number of submitted applications increase again to 946 (up from 918 in the previous round, a further increase of 3%). The proportion which passed the quality threshold to be entered into the randomization rose slightly to 62% (591) compared to 58% (536) last time. The final number of awards confirmed was 308 giving an overall success rate of 32%, higher than in other recent rounds.
8. The characteristics of the successful applicants continue to show a wide diversity both personally and institutionally. The successful applicants are based at 87 different institutions, in addition to awards made to 18 independent researchers. 51% of awards were made to men, 48% to women and 0.3% were made to other/non-binary applicants. 42% of awards were made to applicants aged under 40. 72.5% of applicant who declared were of White ethnic backgrounds; 19% were Asian or Asian British; 2.4% were Black or Black British; 2.4% of Mixed ethnic origin and 3.4% were of other ethnic backgrounds. 5% of successful candidates declared a disability.
9. The trial is now half-way through its initial phase which was agreed for six rounds of competition. Work with Professor Philip Clarke and Professor Adrian Barnett is ongoing to undertake more detailed analysis of the impact that randomization has had on the characteristics of the pool of applicants. Since each grant can normally last up to 24 months, not many awarded through the randomization process have been completed so far. Detailed analysis of outcomes is therefore expected to happen nearer the end of the trial.

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10. The Academy's Innovation Fellowship scheme, introduced in 2021, focuses on knowledge exchange and partnership. This is divided between two 'Routes' – a 'Researcher-led' Route A where the applicant is free to propose the partner organisation with whom they will work; and a 'Policy-led' Route B where the Academy has pre-identified the partner. In 2023-24, 30 awards were offered in total, including 20 through Route A, 3 in partnership with the FCDO, 2 in partnership with the Local Policy and Innovation Partnerships and 5 with other Central Government Departments.
11. The Academy is a partner with ESRC, on behalf of UKRI, various other research councils and Innovate UK in the EDI Caucus initiative. The Caucus successfully issued the first call for funding to be offered through its Flexible Fund Call leading to the award of 4 projects focussing on mitigating the effects of Covid 19 on inequalities across the UK's research and innovation ecosystem. The Caucus has since launched a second call with priority given to proposals focussing on the exercise of academic judgement in the research process.
12. The British Academy continues to work with the other National Academies as well as the Learned Society of Wales, Royal Academy of Ireland and Royal Society of Edinburgh in fostering the UK Young Academy initiative.
13. The second cohort of members of the UK Young Academy were confirmed in February, and the British Academy hosted the first day of their two-day induction event on 19 March 2024. 32 new members have joined the UKYA on this occasion, including several who are working in core SHAPE disciplines. Among those appointed is Dr William Allen, a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at Oxford.
14. The British Academy is continuing to work with our liaison, Dr Denis Newman-Griffis, who is also Co-Chair of the UKYA, on more ways in which we can make members of the UKYA more fully aware of our activities and to integrate their voice, such as recently happened with the Strategic Mini-Forum on EDI held in March 2024.
15. The Research Funding Team continues to organise and participate in a range of university visits both online and, increasingly, in person once again. Successful visits have been made in the past few months to the Universities of Warwick and Southampton and London South Bank University. Participation in early career workshops and funders' fairs have also taken place at the University of Derby in March 2024, and fuller visits to the Open University and University of Hertfordshire have also been set up.

#### *Early Career Research Network (ECRN)*

16. The Early Career Researcher Network (ECRN) programme continues a highly successful trajectory with 3,591 Early Career Researchers as members across four

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regional Clusters (formerly hubs) with phased scaling up plans to achieve UK national roll out by 2026

17. London is the latest Cluster to join the network in November 2023, with four delivery partners at the Middlesex University, King’s College London, University of Greenwich, and University College London. Over 350 ECRs became members in the six weeks ahead of the London Launch Event that took place at the Academy with 67 ECRs in attendance, and other significant stakeholders. The Launch was highly successful with immediate highlights of the ECR panel discussions and a day with high engagement and enthusiasm.
18. The existing regional clusters have undergone a period of recommissioning of delivery partners with agreements and press releases being issued in March/April 2024 to announce the new partners. The Scottish Cluster remains with the same partners: the University of Glasgow and Stirling University. This recommissioning process enabled a change to better include Wales following discussions with the Learned Society of Wales. South Wales will join South West Cluster, mid Wales joining the Midlands Cluster and North Wales joining the North West Cluster. The latter being the next region to roll out, followed by four further clusters by 2026.
19. Key Engagement Findings
  - **All: 3,591** British Academy Funded ECRs: 314; Leverhulme Trust Funded ECRs: 85 Midlands ECRs: 1,129; South West ECRs: 770 ECRs; Scotland: 919 and London ECRs: 374
  - **91%** of Network members do not have British Academy funding.
  - **40%** of members are from Russell Group universities.
  - **2%** of members identify as independent researchers.
  - **66%** of Network members have less than 5 years postdoctoral experience.
  - **54%** of Network members are on an academic contract that is both teaching and research focused. There are almost **10%** of Network members on teaching only contracts.
  - Almost **83%** of members are on full time contracts with 12% on part-time.
  - **65%** of ECRs identify as White, with almost 15% identifying as Asian or Asian British and between 4% - 6% for all other ethnicities.
  - **65%** of ECRs identify as female.
  - Female ECRs dominate all ethnic groups apart from Black, Asian, Caribbean or Black British where the split between male and female is equal.
  - **75%** of ECRs on part-time contacts across the Network are female
20. The ECRN has been developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that will capture the successes of the programme and ensure programme delivery continues to achieve outcomes. Over the last year, the ECRN has delivered over 100 events and activities to enable skills development for the members, alongside other opportunities such as Seed Funding at Cluster level. A significant event was the Academic Book Publishing Conference in January 2024 with 70 ECRs attending to better understand the journey into book publishing with five publishers presenting, as well as the Head

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of Publishing from the Academy. The pilot phase of Encourage and Engage is underway as a mentorship scheme with Fellows, and alongside a host of other skills development and opportunities

21. The Network continues to support the Academies Strategic Priorities and programme successes continue to indicate the life-long impact and legacy for Early Career Researchers throughout the UK.

#### *UK Young Academy*

22. The British Academy is a partner with the other national Academies and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Learned Society of Wales and the Royal Irish Academy in the setting up of a UK Young Academy, as previously reported. The first cohort of 67 members of the UKYA has now been appointed - [Shaping a better future together | UK Young Academy](#) and a call issued for the second cohort membership who will be appointed with effect from April 2024. A successful introductory meeting was held between the two co-Chairs of the Executive Committee, Denis Newman-Griffis and Ed Pyzer-Knapp and the President of the British Academy, and two of the Vice-Presidents in October 2023.

#### *BIRI*

23. The Academy's engagement with the eight British International Research Institutes (BIRI) has continued and in 2024-25 we will welcome the Egypt Exploration Society (EES) as the ninth BIRI. The 24-25 funding bids and the 6-month reports from the BIRI for 2023-24 were reviewed by the BIRI Oversight and Engagement Committee in November 2023 and agreed the 24-25 funding distribution for the nine BIRIs. The next BIRI Forum and the meeting of the BIRI Oversight and Engagement Committee will be held on the 20 June 2024 where we will discuss the 12-month reports submitted by each BIRI, the future monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the BIRI as well as the findings from a project to explore potential future operating models for the Schools and Institutes to consider.

#### *Monitoring and Evaluation*

24. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team are poised for the anticipated Spending Review, expected to be commissioned soon after the upcoming July General Election. Underpinning data collation processes set up over the past six months are supplemented with evidence of impact from studies and evaluations commissioned over the past year.
25. Commissioned external evaluations of the British Academy/Wolfson Fellowship, Just Transitions programmes, COVID-19 Recovery programmes and the Newton Mobility Grants and Advanced Fellowships have been completed. An external evaluation of select challenge-led GCRF programmes is on track for delivery in September 2024.

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The M&E team are performing an internal evaluation of the Conferences Programme, due for completion in July 2024.

26. An externally facilitated Research Career Tracker proof of concept study focussing on the PDF and BARSEA programmes is progressing well, with high levels of engagement from alumni to date. A mid-study review will occur in July to assess interim results and ensure the final impact report and database continue to be on track for October delivery.
27. An economic study by consultants Cambridge Econometrics is close to completion, providing HM Treasury-approved data regarding economic spill-over benefits of some select programmes, and recommendations to enable these calculations to be applied to further programmes. This information is very important in demonstrating the impact of Academy funding and presenting a strong case for continued HM Government financial support.
28. The ECRN M&E plan is under final review, expected to be operational from July 2024. The M&E team have mapped Academy-wide reporting indicators to BIRI activities as part of the ongoing M&E deep dive, and will be initiating a consultation with the BIRI at the next Forum in June.
29. The M&E team has completed an in-depth analysis of the Fellowship and the UK SHAPE Professoriate, which is now under review by the Chair of the Fellows Diversity Group.
30. The Academy M&E Framework continues to be developed, with an anticipated delivery of September 2024. This may be delayed due to the upcoming Spending Review, to enable the M&E team to support commission response.

### *Academic publications*

31. The [\*Journal of the British Academy\*](#) has been relaunched in a new format as a showcase for high-quality articles by those who have been supported through the Academy's programmes and activities, and by Fellows of the Academy. The double issue posted on 22 May includes contributions by 14 Fellows, some arising from previous Fellowship Engagement Week activities.
32. Three new volumes by Academy-supported early career researchers have been published in the open access *British Academy Monographs* series: *Female Servants in Early Modern England*, by Charmian Mansell; *Just Prospering? Plato and the Sophistic Debate about Justice*, by Merrick Anderson; *Memes, Monsters, and the Digital Grotesque*, by Cristina Moreno-Almeida.
33. Three more volumes arising from Academy Research Projects have been published: *Richard Rufus of Cornwall: Scriptum in Metaphysicam II, Zeta to Lambda*, edited by Rega Wood, Jennifer Ottman, and Neil Lewis (*Auctores Britannici Medii Aevi* 44);

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*The Reports of Theophilus Opoku: A 19th-Century Gold Coast Pastor*, edited by Michelle Gilbert and Paul Jenkins (*Fontes Historiae Africanae/Sources of African History* 24); *Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man: Anglo-Saxon, Hiberno-Scandinavian, Hiberno-Manx and Other Coins and Currencies (to c. 1275)*, by Kristin Bornholdt Collins (*Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles* 73).

34. [Biographical Memoirs](#) have been posted for Peter Dickson, Alastair Fowler, and Nigel Palmer.

## To celebrate and promote the humanities and social sciences

### *Research and Higher Education Policy*

35. The Higher Education and Research Policy, Public Policy, and International Policy teams are undertaking a new programme that aims to explore the UK's economic framework, addressing fundamental questions about sustainable economic growth and development. The work originated from a seminar the public policy team organised with the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and His Majesty's Treasury in September 2023.
36. The programme features four working groups meeting regularly to discuss interconnected themes around the broad area of UK economic strategy. The groups, largely chaired by Fellows, are: International trade and geo-politics; R&D, technology and innovation; Skills; and Sustainability and social value. In April 2024 we brought together all Co-Chairs with the Permanent Secretaries and a number of officials from DBT and HMT to discuss the direction of the programme. This was a positive meeting which endorsed the general direction of travel and our intended method of reporting findings through short, iterative outputs throughout the rest of the year 2024.
37. The Higher Education and Research Policy team have underway a project exploring research careers in SHAPE. It will consider key questions for SHAPE research talent, including mobility, precarity, and identity. We expect there to be significant overlap with wider Academy work on research culture, bureaucracy, international collaboration, and talent and will work in conjunction with other teams. We will shortly be publishing the outputs of the first phase on identity, which includes a survey of UK SHAPE researchers.
38. In May we held an Open Access workshop with members of SHAPE Learned Societies and representatives from Research England, at their request. This build on a similar event in November 2023 both of which will feed into the consultation on Open Access requirements which closes in June 2024.
39. The Academy has been engaging with the Department for Education's new Unit for Future Skills (UFS), which has been set up to improve the quality and accessibility of jobs and skills data. Dr Molly Morgan Jones, Director of Policy, is a member of the

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Unit's External Advisory Group, and the Unit is chaired by Professor Sir Ian Diamond. The Academy's HE & Skills team has also been interacting with UFS staff to feed into its future work in areas such as non-salary measures of graduate outcomes and returns.

40. We are currently working with London Economics to update our analysis on graduate outcomes, similar to the analysis published in [Qualified for the Future](#). This work is expected to report to the Academy in June 2024, and we will work to share the findings on our SHAPE Observatory.
41. On 30 May we published a [briefing paper](#) on the role of Quality Related (QR) research funding in the UK. This briefing was developed to support a discussion of the Academy's Higher Education Policy Development Group (HEPDG) on research funding in the UK. It outlines the particular importance of QR to the SHAPE disciplines, exploring recent trends in QR funding levels compared to wider Research Council budgets. The briefing highlights the stability and security which recurrent QR research funding provides to UK higher education institutions, as well as the differences in the allocation of QR funding across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.
42. In the next stage of our work on R&D in the SHAPE disciplines, we have partnered with the Campaign for Science and Engineering to commission two new pieces of work:
  - a. Cambridge Econometrics will produce an analysis of key technology areas (informed by the Government's Science and Technology Framework) to understand where value is created in path from conception to product/service, and which policy levers are needed to increase the creation or capture of this value.
  - b. Fathom Consultancy will undertake an update of our quantitative understanding of R&D multipliers, looking at the return on investment for R&D funding in the UK.
43. Both pieces of work are expected to be delivered to the Academy by the end of September 2024.

#### *SHAPE Observatory on the health of the disciplines*

44. Our [SHAPE Observatory](#), which aims to ensure the sustainability and capacity of the SHAPE research base, by providing regular accounts of the health of our disciplines, is under development. We have previously created live data dashboards on the Observatory which allow users to interact with data and are now working to extend these across a range of education levels, research areas, and demographic data.
45. Under the governance of the Research and Higher Education Policy Committee, State of the Discipline assessments are underway on Media Studies and Political Studies.



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The Advisory Groups for each report include Fellows from the related Sections, learned societies, and external academics from the field.

46. Both pieces of work are progressing well. The report on *‘Media, Screen, Journalism and Communication Studies’* is due to be released at the end of May 2024, followed by a launch event on 11 June at the British Film Institute. This event will be Chaired by Marcus Ryder, CEO of the Film and TV Charity and Chair of the Board of RADA. All members of this Committee should have received an invitation to the event.
47. The report on *‘Political Studies and International Relations’* is in progress, with qualitative interviews underway. This report is scheduled for October 2024, though significant delays with the publication of student data from the Higher Education Statistic Agency may push this date back.
48. A project analysing changes in patterns of post-16 subject choice is nearing completion. The National Foundation for Educational Research are due to report at the end of May on the main trends and patterns in subject choice over the past 20 years, with respect to the social sciences and humanities disciplines for level 3 qualifications in England. Preliminary findings show that the number and range of subjects studied by students at Level 3 has become smaller and narrower, and that these changes have had a particularly negative effect on uptake of humanities and arts subjects.
49. This evidence is critical for plans to reform post-16 education, which the Department of Education recently consulted on. We submitted a [response](#) to this consultation outlining the need for a broad and balanced offer.
50. We have started a new project mapping the closure of SHAPE departments over a 10–15-year period. Using HESA data, we are mapping where in the UK where closures have taken place, where closures are leading to cold spots in provision, and what this means for student access, especially access to SHAPE subjects at different entry tariffs. We are prioritising this work to provide the evidence base needed in ongoing policy debates about the causes and impacts of instability in the sector and intend to publish them on the SHAPE Observatory as soon as possible.
51. A new, large-scale project on *‘Understanding languages skills and capabilities in the UK research base’* is underway, being delivered by a team from King’s College London’s Centre for Language Acts and Worldmaking. This research will address the primary question: *What is the evidence base for the role, appreciation, and usefulness of language skills in academic research disciplines outside Modern Languages and cognate fields in UK universities?* This is a significant piece of work, which the Academy expects to be delivered in the summer of 2024.
52. As a culmination of the current phase of work on Educational Research, the British Academy and the Royal Society have [published](#) a policy briefing which highlights comparative underfunding and makes several recommendations. This briefing is

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supported by a comprehensive [Landscape Review](#) of educational research, and an [accessible summary](#) of the same research.

### *Networks*

53. The Strategic Forums for Social Sciences and Humanities held a joint special meeting on EDI in SHAPE in April 2024. Both forums will hold their own individual meetings in June 2024.
54. In April we also held the spring meeting of our Higher Education Policy Development Group. The Group discussed the regulation of higher education in the UK, focussing on the form and function of the Office for Students.
55. On 25 April we held the second meeting of the Advisory Committee on Languages, which replaces the former Languages Governance Group and reports to this Committee.

### *Academic Events*

#### *Lectures*

56. In Spring, seven lectures have taken place with one further lecture scheduled in June. Lectures have taken place throughout the UK, including for first time in recent years at the University of Edinburgh and Kew Gardens.
57. The lectures have been well attended, with increased engagement with partners, including strategic meetings taking place prior to lectures. The lecture ‘What social media can tell us about dialect variation and change’ had a two-hour meeting with members from The Philological Society.
58. Nominations for the 2025-27 cycle opened during March Sections Week. A new model for partners in Scotland will feature, and Fellows will be invited to suggest potential partners in that region.

#### *Conferences*

59. The Conferences programme has delivered seven events, including two at the Royal Society while 10-11 Carlton House Terrace undergoes refurbishment. Highlights include – *Therapeutic Spaces Behind Bars: Eco-psychosocially Supportive Prisons and Forensic Psychiatric Wards*, *How can we prevent gender-based violence? A 10-year vision*, *The Realisation of Human Rights in Societies Beyond Growth*, *Transnational Elites: Imperial Histories, Global Power and Public Resistance Today*.
60. The call for proposals for the 2025-26 conference scheme received 71 applications, and in May the Publications and Conference Committee approved seven away

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conferences for DSIT and nine Wellcome Funded conferences, with two as home conferences. Planning for the next cycle will commence shortly.

61. The Academy's Monitoring and Evaluation team are undertaking a review of the British Academy Conferences scheme, to provide data and analysis for regular reporting to DSIT. With Wellcome funding due to expire, this is also as an opportunity to review the whole programme. This will be complete in summer 2024

#### *Public Events and Summer Showcase*

62. The public events team are underway with production for The Summer Showcase and Autumn launch 2024. Due to the building delays, we are no longer using the lower ground spaces at the Showcase as they will not have the new AV installed.
63. This has not affected the content of the Showcase – all exhibits and events will be going ahead as planned. The Showcase will still act as an unveiling for our Autumn programme and will feature headliner Fellows and Honorary Fellows such as Mary Beard FBA, David Olusoga Hon FBA and Gary Younge Hon FBA.
64. The events and marketing teams have developed a marketing strategy working with marketing consultant Florence Eves. This includes identifying our 'warm' target audiences are and how we might engage them (Young and Established Academics) and our cooler 'stretch' audiences (Curious minds) that we might reach with a long-term strategy. The two teams are putting in the structures and measures to monitor success, as well as developing new campaigns that will engage these audiences with the new public programme.
65. The Autumn 2024 season is themed 'We are the British Academy' with a programme of 11 events that will showcase the 'best of' The Academy. These include Open House, our first LATE, a poetry performance event, screenings and events including notable Academy Fellows: Baroness Helena Kennedy Hon FBA, Sir John Curtice FBA and Professor Lyndsey Stonebridge FBA.
66. A new arts-based event (a talk and zine making workshop) is being piloted on 28 May.
67. Skeleton programmes for the upcoming 'The Age of Mistrust?' and 'Folklore Reimagined' seasons are currently being signed off by the Fellow/expert season advisors. Production of these will begin in June.
68. The next three themed seasons (for 2025-26) were discussed at the May Communications and Engagement Committee meeting. Leading topics include: 'The Age of Self?', 'Ends and Beginnings', 'Green Futures' and 'Tomorrow's World' (exact titles tbc).

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### *Prizes and Medals*

69. In February, Bridget Kendall Hon FBA replaced Bronwen Maddox Hon FBA as judge for the British Academy Book Prize.
70. The British Academy Book Prize Judging Committee met on 28 March to decide a longlist of 30 books from the 263 books submitted for the 2024 prize. The judging committee will meet again on 21 June to determine the shortlist of approximately 4-6 books, and again on 7 October to decide the winner.
71. Work on the Photography Commission for the British Academy Book Prize, funded by Hawthornden Foundation, began. Arko Datto, a visual artist from [Panos Pictures](#) has been commissioned to carry out the project. Following meetings with Nandini Das, Datto, who is based in Kolkata, will create 30 digital images expressing the themes of *Courting India* in a new, visual medium. These images will be displayed in a dedicated section of the British Academy Book Prize website and will feature in their own digital exhibition during Open House in the new, lower ground floor spaces.
72. The Communications and Engagement Committee met on 23 May to determine its nomination for the 2024 President's Medal. A complete list of disciplinary prizes and medal winners will be presented to Council for ratification in June. The Committee also confirmed new messaging for the President's Medal which brings the award in greater alignment with the Academy's strategic objectives.
73. An edited text of Nandini Das' and Professor Charles Tripp FBA's 'In Conversation' event (held on 15 January) was published on 22 May in the relaunched *Journal of the British Academy* as '[On Courting India](#)'.
74. The British Academy sponsored nine events at Oxford Literary Festival (March), four events at [Cambridge Literary Festival](#) (April) and two at [Hay Festival](#) (May). David Crystal FBA's event at Oxford Literary Festival was chosen as a special 'British Academy Lecture' at which Professor Neil Kenny FBA introduced the talk and the British Academy's policy research on languages and funding of [The Language Gateway](#).
75. Further festival events are scheduled at Edinburgh International Book Festival for August with a special reception for members of the Early-Career Researcher Network based in Scotland and northern England. Three more events are being scheduled for Cheltenham Literature Festival (October) and an opportunity for partnership with Belfast International Arts Festival (October) is also being explored.
76. The British Academy Book Prize announced on 22 May two online Writing Talent Webinars, funded by Hawthornden Foundation, which will be available to up to 120 members of the Early Career Researcher Network with the aim of cultivating new non-fiction writing talent. The first session is entitled '[Why you should think beyond](#)

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[academic publishing](#)’ and will take place on 4 July; the second session is entitled ‘[How to write for a non-specialist audience](#)’ and will take place on 8 July. Speakers include: Professor Charles Tripp FBA, Professor Sujit Sivasundaram FBA, Professor Nandini Das, Professor Toby Green FBA, Hana Teraie-Wood (Penguin Press), Laurence Laluyeaux (RCW), Caroline Sanderson (The Bookseller) and Emma Paterson (Aitken Alexander Associates). These workshops sold out in less than 24 hours, showing a high demand by early career researchers for training and networking in the literary non-fiction space.

### *Public Engagement*

77. The SHAPE Involve and Engage pilot public engagement programme continues with researchers reporting exciting interactions with their audiences across the country. Upcoming activities include an immersive Georgian Ball at the Bath Assembly Rooms, a climate change-themed family day at the Potteries Museum in Stoke on Trent and workshop sessions with the community of Kilburn, London in collaboration with Camden Libraries and Archives.
78. The News and Public Affairs team have published two project profiles on [Birmingham’s No 11 bus route](#) and the [forgotten history of Portchester Castle](#), with more to follow.
79. Finally, the Being Human Festival took place from 9-18 November. The Academy is a founding partner of the festival. This year’s theme was Rhyme or Reason, and 279 events and activities took place in 49 towns and cities across the UK, reaching 18,000 people.

### *Media and Public Affairs*

80. In March, we released a new report, commissioned by the Prime Minister’s Council for Science and Technology, on the topic of public trust in science when it is features in policy. The report was [covered by](#) Research Professional, and the Academy’s Molly Morgan Jones teamed up with Professor Christina Boswell FBA to [co-write](#) a comment piece for the LSE Impact Blog
81. Research Professional [published](#) a story on the Academy’s Researchers at Risk scheme and the Academy’s calls – along with that of our Fellows – for more funding to expand the scheme to researchers at risk globally
82. Our letter to the government’s Migration Advisory Committee – penned by Simon Goldhill FBA – urging against restricting the graduate route for international students – was [featured in The Guardian](#).
83. We published an essay collection jointly with the Higher Education Policy Institute, showcasing the experiences of early career researchers and presenting solutions for

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how the sector can better support them, which received coverage in [Times Higher Education](#).

84. As we announced the recipients of our Pump Priming Grants, which supports UK researchers to take advantage of the opportunities afforded through association to Horizon Europe, there was keen media interest in the results of the scheme, with enquiries from the Financial Times and coverage in [Research Professional](#).
85. The Academy worked to secure thought leadership on our mission to make the case and speak up for our subjects during this period, against a backdrop of amassing course closures. Our President, Julia Black, penned a comment piece for the Academy's website on the need for an urgent review of University finances, and a regulator to oversee the system as a whole. The piece received [a welcome response](#) among our community and was covered in [Times Higher Education](#). Hetan Shah's remarks at a UUK panel discussion about the situation facing international students were [covered in the same publication](#). And Hetan contributed to another [Times Higher Education piece](#) on what the next government can do to fix the financial situation at Universities. Finally, BBC Radio 4's Front Row [ran a discussion](#) on cuts to arts and humanities courses in UK Universities, which featured Anna Vignoles FBA (Director of the Leverhulme Trust) alongside Jo Fox of the School of Advanced Study. The discussion resulted in several mentions of our policy work related on SHAPE Skills (with [statistics](#) from our report helpfully rebutting claims that STEM courses are more likely to lead to employment)
86. Our Fellows and Honorary Fellows continued to share their insights, expertise and thought leadership across both traditional and emerging media. Highlights included Gary Younge Hon FBA [on](#) the lack of diversity among UK journalists, David Runciman FBA [on](#) how Covid changed politics, Tom Shakespeare FBA [on](#) redefining disability, and John Akomfrah Hon FBA [interviewed in the Guardian](#) ahead of the Venice Biennale
87. Researchers funded by the Academy continued to showcase their research and insights in the media, with The Conversation emerging as a key platform for sharing research with a mainstream audience. Topics included [the political dangers of ignoring protests by Welsh farmers](#), [the success of reality show \*The Traitors\*](#), [how nature alters our sense of time](#), [how the government should define extremism](#), [the normalisation of racism against women MPs](#), [the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine](#), [China's economy](#) and [2024 as a record year for global elections](#).
88. Our funded research/researchers also garnered national attention. Highlights included a [Financial Times piece](#) on how central heating changed our homes, Global Professor Katy Sampeck on the history of chocolate [for BBC Radio 5 Live](#), a discussion on Times Radio [on](#) how a career in politics affects family life, a Post Doctoral Fellow on animal rights [for BBC World Service](#), and coverage in [The Scotsman](#) of British Academy-funded research around the protection of Scotland's

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intangible cultural heritage, which became timely with the UK joining the UNESCO Convention on cultural heritage.

89. In April, we announced the programme for our Summer Showcase, which included a tease of two art stories relating to our art collection: the acquisition of a new piece by Hew Locke OBE and the digitisation of our collection through the Bloomberg Connects app. Professor Rana Mitter was interviewed for a [piece in the Observer](#) which profiled the Academy’s ‘opening up’ ambitions, with nods to the Showcase programme, our 2025 events seasons and the art collection
90. Following the announcement that a general election will take place on 4 July, the [British Academy published a manifesto](#) and a [letter to the Prime Minister](#) setting out the serious situation facing the higher education sector and asking that the government acts with urgency to ensure we remain a world-leader in the social sciences and humanities.
91. The Academy wrote to other party leaders and wider parliamentarians and sector stakeholders to share the British Academy manifesto and details of our wider work.
92. Hetan and Julia have held numerous meetings with Parliamentarians including Thangam Debonnaire, the Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Rt Hon Greg Clark the Chair of Science Innovation & Technology Select Committee, Matt Western, the Shadow Minister for Higher Education, as well as wider parliamentarians and advisors across the Houses of Parliament.
93. The British Academy was mentioned in Parliament several times during a debate about skills and their importance for the UK Economy and Quality of Life.

### *Digital, Brand and Marketing*

94. Between 1 March – 24 May 2024, the Digital, Brand & Marketing team completed a brand refresh project which saw the development of a “brand narrative pyramid” which is now used across the Communications directorate to aid colleagues creating copy for a public audience.
95. The team also collaborated with Bond & Coyne to develop brand tone of voice guidance for our marketing and communications needs, with input from senior Communications colleagues, which provides guidance for how to communicate with our public audiences, centred in the Academy’s values and strategic objectives.
96. The team completed the design work for the wayfinding and signage for new and existing Academy spaces, with input and sign off from various senior teams including Art Committee, SMT and Project Board.
97. We are currently working on developing the design work for the public events programme, ready for the marketing launch at this year’s Summer Showcase – with

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outputs ranging from social media cards and templates to a fully designed printed programme for the Autumn season. The team also collaborated with an external consultant to develop an events marketing strategy for the new public events programme – using research from the Audience Agency report conducted by the Events team. We’re currently in the process of implementing this in time for the Autumn season launch at the Summer Showcase.

98. The team marketed the last season of academic events for the 2023-24 cycle, which has resulted in multiple sold out conferences and lectures. Our marketing tactics included organic social media promotion, direct marketing and email marketing.
99. The team is now working closely with the Events team with a more structured workflow process to ensure the teams are in sync for the new public events programme’s marketing campaigns.
100. We also oversaw the brand refresh work for the Journal of the British Academy, including cover art for the printed edition to mark the Journal’s relaunch and digital assets for the web edition.
101. Meanwhile, we continued to manage production of publications for teams across the Academy, including the development of design work for major publications such the Media Studies report and ‘Public trust in science-for-policymaking’.
102. Between 1 March – 24 May 2024, the Academy’s website was visited by 71k individual users, who generated 307k pageviews. Research funding schemes accounted for the highest proportion of traffic during this period, with Small Research Grants (21.5k views by 9k individual users), ODA Challenge Oriented Research Grants (21k views by approx. 9k users) and Postdoctoral Fellowships (6k views by 4k users) attracting particularly high engagement, while International Fellowships, Knowledge Frontiers International Interdisciplinary Research Projects and Mid-Career Fellowships were also among the 20 most-visited pages on the website. The Fellows of the British Academy section (8.5k views), the events homepage (2.2k views) and the News and Analysis section (2.4k views) continued to generate significant traffic.
103. Work to review and strengthen the website’s security processes and architecture continued in collaboration with an external web agency and the IT team – we expect the project to be completed in June.
104. The team continued to collaborate with the HE & Research Policy team on data visualisations to be published as part of the SHAPE Observatory, ensuring that the Academy’s chosen data viz tool, Power BI is integrated with the website.
105. Between March and June 2024, the team published and promoted five funding schemes in collaboration with the Research Funding and International teams, and with the Media & Public Affairs team published 15 funding award announcements. The teams also continued to collaborate through the latest in a series of workshops



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aimed at making the administrative and content production processes underpinning funding scheme launches and award announcements more efficient.

106. Since March, the team has been working closely with the Events and Media & Public Affairs teams to promote the Summer Showcase, with the programme published on 24 April. The team developed brand design work for the Summer Showcase, resulting in a range of assets from social media cards and building hoarding, to printed leaflets and printed map programmes. The assets are being used across all our social media campaigns, website and Eventbrite pages, and have been shared with partner organisations. Targeted email marketing campaigns, organic social campaigns, and paid social campaigns on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn are underway for the Summer Showcase. We're currently in the process of getting the event listed on various London-based listing sites; producing printed flyers that will be distributed locally; and liaising with partner organisations on cross-promotional efforts.
107. During this period, over 146k emails were sent out through the Academy's newsletters, with 3.8k clicks and 64k opens.
108. In May, the team updated the Communications & Engagement Committee on the status of the Academy's social media channels and the mitigations the team has identified following the recent volatility of X/Twitter, where the Academy has its largest social media following. The recommendations of the Committee will be fed into a new digital content strategy to be produced by the autumn. The team also presented the latest cut of a refreshed brand video to the Committee, which aims to deliver the Academy's key messages clearly and concisely. This will replace the current brand video on the homepage of the website and be used at Academy events to introduce the Academy to a public audience. The recommendations received from the Committee will be fed into the final development of this video.

## **To Inform and Enrich Debate Around Society's Greatest Questions**

### *Social and cultural infrastructure*

109. The Bennett Institute project team has produced an interim report on its first phase of work in measuring social and cultural infrastructure, which the Academy commissioned in 2023. The team are working closely with the Academy, organising a series of events to draw on the insights of stakeholders and test initial ideas for measures. The final report is due at the end of 2024.
110. The first round of sector-focused roundtable discussions was completed in May 2024. Exploring the overarching question '*What is the role of universities in different sectors in developing and sustaining resilient social and cultural infrastructures?*' the roundtables, held in London, Sheffield and online, convened an impressive variety of stakeholders from the higher education sector and was supported by the Research England funded National Civic Impact Accelerator.

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111. A series of nine commissioned discussion papers addressing the overarching question of how policy interventions can support the role of social and cultural infrastructures in strengthening the UK's social and cultural fabric in May 2024. Each discussion paper engages with the overarching question of how policy interventions can support the role of social and cultural infrastructure in strengthening the UK's social and cultural fabric. The collection encompasses detailed case studies on a wide range of social and cultural infrastructures, covering areas including sports infrastructure, community business, and heritage, and themes varying from the role of social and cultural infrastructure in superdiverse societies to governance frameworks for digital social and cultural infrastructure.
112. The Academy commissioned London Development Trust (LDT) to carry out a project focused on social and cultural infrastructure and young people. LDT is a charity and social enterprise, that delivers services and arts programmes within communities across London, and that also acts as a consultancy. The project has completed its focus groups with groups of young people and provide interim findings to the Academy. LDT is now developing a reporting tool for identifying and articulating the resources they need to thrive socially and culturally.
113. The Academy continues to work with the Nuffield Foundation on the Understanding Communities collaboration. The six funded projects are nearing completion, and the two organisations are finalising plans for a final conference later in the year. New articles have been published on the Understanding Communities blog on [medium.com](https://medium.com).

### *Sustainable Futures*

114. Following the completion of a series of four regional Policy Insight Workshops in the *Where we live next* programme, which took place in Manchester, Exeter, Cardiff, and Glasgow, the programme team are analysing the evidence collected and producing a set of findings to engage a set of national-level policy stakeholders in workshops focused on three policy areas: housing, energy, and nature. These workshops are being managed by an expert facilitator on sustainability to deliver a set of principles for place-sensitive policymaking.
115. The programme published its first report on 'Governance for Net Zero' on 19 February 2024. Since then, the report has been disseminated to a range of key policy stakeholders. On 8 May, the Academy hosted the event *Governance for Net Zero Research into Action* to mark the publication of the *Governance for Net Zero* report, creating an opportunity for the Academy to share its findings with academic and practitioner communities, and to work with those communities to build insights towards the objectives for phase two of the programme. The programme team also had a very positive meeting with the DESNZ CSA, Professor Paul Monks, where agreement was made for the Academy to work with DESNZ to deliver a roundtable looking at the SHAPE research agenda for Net Zero.

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116. Work is now focused on commissioning a series of discussion papers to explore the role of people and leaders in the governance of Net Zero. A call has gone out for papers on the perspective of leaders (including policymakers across layers of government) who direct, oversee and create accountability for an organisation's Net Zero commitments and create an enabling environment for private and third sectors to support those efforts. A parallel call is also out for perspectives of publics (including individuals/people, communities and groups) to whom leaders are accountable, and who are affected by and participate in the net zero transformation.
117. The latest round of SHAPE Sustainability Impact Projects is underway, and interim project proposals have been submitted by the project teams at Lancaster, Bedfordshire, FXU, Wolverhampton, UCL and Nottingham Trent. Around 40 researchers from the Academy's Early Career Researcher Network have been recruited to support the projects. The final conference has been confirmed for the end of June and will take place at the University of Birmingham.

### *Digital Society*

118. The Academy has launched a new round of Innovation Fellowships focused on the 'digital society' theme with an initial call, opened in April, for Fellowships partnering with the Unit for Future Skills in the Department for Education. The central topic that Fellows will be working on is on understanding AI Skills across the UK. Agreements have been made to host further Innovation Fellowships with a digital focus in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), and the new AI Safety Institute. These calls will open in September. The Academy is also currently in negotiations with the AHRC-funded Bridging Responsible AI Divides (BRAID), who are interested in providing co-funding for the September call for Innovation Fellowships.
119. Three policy insight case studies on digital society commissioned by the Academy have now been completed and a policy brief which synthesises the findings of the case studies is being drawn up to provide to relevant stakeholders.
120. The Academy commissioned a series of 13 discussion papers in response to the prompt, 'What are the possibilities of a good digital society?' Final drafts have been submitted and the Academy is in the process of getting them ready for publication in July along with an extended introduction.
121. The final workshop in the series on 'online data access for research' was held successfully at the newly opened building of the Edinburgh Futures Institute, University of Edinburgh and brought together people from the tech industry with relevant research and policy stakeholders.

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### *Governance, Trust and Voice*

122. The Academy has published its report *Public trust in science-for-policymaking: Understanding and enhancing the role of science in public policy debate in the UK* in March 2024. A symposium and roundtable were held on 26 April to mark the launch of the report and engage key stakeholders with its findings.
123. The award holders for the Innovation Fellowship Route B (Central Government) scheme launched in September 2023 are now beginning their placements at the Cabinet Office, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and, for a jointly-hosted Fellowship, His Majesty’s Treasury and the Department for Business and Trade (HMT/DBT). A further two Route B Fellowships were awarded in March 2024 and have been placed in the ESRC-funded Local Policy Innovation Partnership hub at the University of Birmingham.

### *Economic Strategy*

124. The four working groups for the economic strategy have all met several times over the past few months to develop insights for officials in HM Treasury and the Department of Business and Trade on UK economic strategy. All Working Groups have been asked to work to the top-line question: what are the critical elements of a holistic, sustainable, future-oriented and strategic approach to the UK economy, given current and developing national and international contexts? The working groups are:

<b>Working group theme</b>	<b>Chairs</b>
International trade and geo-politics	Professor Patricia Clavin FBA Professor Tony Venables FBA
R&D, productivity and innovation	Professor Paul Nightingale Dr Anna Valero
Skills	Professor Sandra McNally Professor Julian Birkenshaw FBA Professor Richard Blundell FBA
Sustainability and social value	Dame Henrietta Moore FBA Professor Dominic Abrams FBA

125. The co-chairs of the working groups have now met twice to discuss cross-cutting themes. In addition, a meeting was held between the co-chairs and senior officials from HM Treasury and the Department of Business and Trade to discuss early insights and provide the working groups with further steer.
126. The working groups are now considering the best approach to delivering written outputs. It is likely that a series of short briefings will be created across the four working groups to help disseminate findings within the departments and beyond.

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### *Policy histories*

127. A first draft of the next instalment in the Policy Histories series on Regional Development Policy was submitted in May. This follows a seminar organised with DLUHC in which the authors of the report's chapters summarised their perspectives to a range of civil servants. The report will provide a history of attempts by central government to reduce regional disparities since the 1920s. Coordination of the final report is being led by Professor Ron Martin FBA.
128. An initial scoping session was held with researchers with expertise on energy policy with the aim of setting parameters for a new policy history on UK energy policy. Further work on this policy history will start later in the year.

### **To Ensure Sustained International Engagement and Collaboration**

129. The fifth round of funding under the [Global Professorships](#) programme closed on 1 November 2023. The final awards panel took place on 20 February 2024, and eight awards were [made](#). The sixth round is expected to open on 12 June 2024. The total amount of funding available per award remains at £900,000 and it is expected that the Academy will be able to make up to eight awards in this round of the competition.
130. In February 2024 the Academy launched nine funding opportunities under the *ODA Challenge-Oriented Grants* programme, funded under the International Science Partnerships Fund, which is managed by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. The aim of these calls is to support ODA-eligible international research collaborations between humanities and social sciences researchers in the UK and researchers in Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, Thailand, Vietnam and/or Least Developed Countries on the following themes: [women and climate action](#); [social determinants of health](#); [societal challenges and approaches to responsible technologies](#); [power and voice in climate action](#); [pandemic preparedness](#); [environmental resilience and climate action](#); [culture, heritage and climate action](#); [antimicrobial resistance](#); and [climate change adaptation and mitigation led by or actively involving indigenous peoples and local communities](#). The deadline for applications was 10 April. Funding of up to £200,000 was available for projects of 18 months in duration. The Final Awards Panels for each of the 9 themes, all chaired by Professor Simon Goldhill FBA, met on 20-22 May. Following these meetings, the Academy expects to make 52 awards and the International Department is working towards finalising these. Awards are to begin at the end of June 2024.
131. The tenth round of the *Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects* opened for applications in May 2024. This programme provides UK-based researchers, active in any discipline within the humanities or the social sciences, with the opportunity to develop and lead international and interdisciplinary research projects related to the theme of Just Transitions. Awards of up to £300,000 and 24 months' duration are available. Applicants are required to demonstrate

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interdisciplinary research integrating both the humanities and the social sciences. The deadline for applications is 18 September 2024 and awards are expected to begin in March-April 2025.

132. In March 2024 the Academy announced 29 new awards under the latest round of the *International Writing Workshops* programme, funded under the International Science Partnerships Fund, which is managed by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. These awards, of up to £30,000 and two years in duration, began in March-April 2024.
133. In May the Academy launched the *ODA Research Management Capacity Strengthening* programme. The Academy is inviting proposals which seek to embed and enhance working practices and systems within and between institutions to support equitable partnerships in international research through support for skills collaboration between research offices and research management functions. Projects will be led by individuals based in research offices and/or research management functions, including HR, finance, and legal operations, who can be based in an eligible university or research institute in the UK, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, Thailand, Vietnam and/or Least Developed Countries. Awards of up to £50,000 and 18 to 24 months' duration are available. The deadline for applications is 30 October 2024 and awards are expected to begin in March 2025.
134. The Academy is organising a series of workshops designed to establish new approaches to equitable partnerships. The initial kick-off workshop will take place at the Academy on 2-3 July 2024 and will convene stakeholders comprising UK funders, universities and sector networks. This will be followed by a series of workshops overseas and will conclude with the 1st Conference on Equitable Partnerships at the British Academy on 11 and 12 February 2025. It is envisaged that the conference will provide a platform to summarise and discuss findings from the workshop series and draft and agree a joint declaration towards equitable partnerships.
135. The 2024 round of *International Fellowships* closed on 13 March 2024. The Final Awards Panel will take place on 18 July chaired by the Foreign Secretary & Vice-President along with Panel Members Professor Anne Haour FBA, Professor Ambreena Manji, and Professor Lucy Rial FBA. All award holders will receive two years of funding at 80% FEC.
136. On 1 May, the Academy hosted a roundtable as part of the International Forum Series which focused on domestic politics and elections in Ukraine in times of war. The roundtable was chaired by Sarah Birch FBA, and included opening remarks from Professor Olga Onuch (Professor in Comparative and Ukrainian Politics at the University of Manchester), Professor Gwendolyn Sasse (Director of the Centre for East European and International Studies, Humboldt University) and Professor Andrew Wilson (Professor of Ukrainian Studies, UCL). The roundtable brought together academics, members of the Academy's Researchers at Risk programme,

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policy makers from think tanks and government, as well as policy makers from Ukraine. Discussion built on previous IFS roundtables in a series which focuses on Ukraine and the impact of Russia’s full-scale invasion, and how the international can best support Ukraine and its citizens.

- 137. The Academy will hold the next event as part of its *Global Perspectives Series* on 12 November 2024, with [Professor Homi Bhabha](#) (CMP). Professor Bhabha will take part in a seminar, a public event chaired by the outgoing Foreign Secretary and Vice-President for International, as well as a high-level dinner.
- 138. The Foreign Secretary of the Academy wrote a [letter](#) to the chair of the Migration Advisory Committee, Professor Brian Bell, to safeguard the graduate route and highlighting the value and impact of international students. Additionally, the Academy submitted evidence to the House of Commons [call for evidence](#) on international students in English universities.
- 139. The Academy [signed up](#) to the Concordat for Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice. This concordat has been co-developed by more than 25 organisations across the UK’s research and innovation sector and represents a shared ambition for the UK to continue delivering cutting-edge research, but in a more environmentally responsible and sustainable way.

**To make the most of our people, partnerships and resources to secure the Academy for the future**

*‘By Fellows for Fellows’ Events*

- 140. Following feedback from Fellows it was decided not to hold the March 2024 online-only sessions as all preferred to wait until we can be fully back in the building and in-person again in October 2024.
- 141. The increase in spaces available due to the development of the lower floors means that October Sections Week and October Engagement Week in 2024 can now be combined in a new format, with one week of stimulating discussions, and opportunities to meet Fellows and staff across and within Section structures.

*Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*

- 142. To support the Academy in realizing its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) ambitions as set out in the Strategic Plan, the Fellowship Diversity Group and EDI Advisory Sub-Committee have been established to examine and advise on current practices and policies concerning EDI. This work is also supported by the Staff EDI Group, a voluntary staff network committed to building and fostering an inclusive workplace at the Academy.

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143. Last year the Academy recruited a full-time EDI Manager to help support the development of an EDI Strategy for the Academy. A series of consultations with workstreams, SMT and various other bodies, including the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering and UKRI paved way for the initial drafting of the Academy's EDI strategy. The EDI Advisory Sub-Committee has submitted their draft strategy for Council approval in June.

#### *Carlton House Terrace*

144. During the winter period we have completed a program of refurbishments works focused to other areas on the Ground floor events spaces ahead of the building reopening in 2024. We have also completed LED lighting upgrades to public spaces in the Mezzanine, Second and Third floors.
145. Works to upgrade Emergency lighting systems to fire escape routes and stairwells in public areas have now been completed.
146. The Facilities Team in partnership with CITATION continues to undertake routinely inspection of construction areas and will be working to review the organization Health and Safety Policy and undertake a new Fire Risk Assessment for the premises.
147. The Facilities team is continuously ensuring the maintenance regime for the Academy is to the highest standard and is working in conjunction with key contractors to provide the Fire, Security and Mechanical & Electrical Services for Academy.
148. We continue to support staff working from home and in the building conducting personalised site inductions and completing Self-Assessments forms, ensuring physical environment and adequate Display Equipment is assessed in line with our legal requirements.
149. The Facilities team in collaboration with IT/AV and other Academy departments is reviewing requirements ahead of the reopening of the building following the completion of the Basement project.
150. The Clio team delivered a busy autumn and Christmas period of events ahead of the building closing and took advantage of the changed building programme to maximise revenue in this period. With activity limited due to the building works the total generated funds can be safely projected as nearly £1.9 million.
151. Over this period the business mix continued to be varied with corporate clients including Cunard, Nordic Capital, The Government of Jersey and the Board of Deputies of British Jews where we hosted Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.
152. The return to Christmas parties was strong after 2 years of Covid disruption. 18 were hosted from late November to the middle of December, matching our pre covid 2019 total. Clients included Mill Hill School, KPMG, Politico and Koch Industries.



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153. The filming and wedding business remains consistent with five bookings respectively over this period, including shoots for fashion brands Next and Asos.
154. With the building at 10-11 Carlton House Terrace now closed to events, from January 2023 – May 2023, the team are focussed on projects to ensure a successful reopening in May and launch of the new spaces in spring 2024. This work includes achieving a second sustainability accreditation, implementing an EDI policy, completing an approved supplier tender along with database and reporting improvements.

### *People Strategy*

155. The People Strategy is being refreshed to take account of the new Strategic Plan. In the meantime, people and workforce highlights for the period from March 2024 to June 2024 include:
- Staff numbers were up to 170 on 3 June 2024, including staff on fixed-term contracts and agency workers. In addition, we have 4 new starters joining and 3 staff members leaving in June / July, with another 11 roles pending recruitment.
  - In March, we launched a project to embed our workplace values – to increase their visibility and enhance understanding of what they mean to us and the way we work together.
  - We completed a restructuring of our international funding and policy functions, which will come into effect on 1 July. The new structure will provide increased opportunity to develop new relationships and opportunities with international Partners, including additional funding and will help us to deliver an increased quantity and quality of international policy outputs. We will be better able to deliver on our international strategy for leadership in the SHAPE disciplines and as sector leaders for supporting equitable partnerships. There will also be more effective service delivery; more manageable workloads within reasonable working hours for staff; and more professional development opportunities for staff.
  - We are working with the Prospect trade union following their application to the Central Arbitration Committee for statutory recognition at the Academy. A ballot of staff will be taking place in June, with the outcome due on 1 July.

### *Securing Fundraising Income for the Academy's Strategic Priorities*

156. The Academy generated philanthropic income of £8.2M, +62% vs £5.1M raised in 2022/23 and the highest amount of fundraised income to date. While capital income made up 50% of this income and a large part of the year over year growth, the Academy also grew income in the Small Research Grant Programme (+56%), driven by additional funding from the Leverhulme Trust.
157. Fundraising for the capital appeal remains the top priority for the team as we head into the final stages of the campaign. With a total project cost of £9.6 million and philanthropic funds of £8.6 million secured to date, there remains £1 million left to

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raise. Whilst the outstanding amount can be underwritten by the Academy's Strategic Development Fund, it remains a priority to narrow the gap.

158. We are actively raising funds through our Public appeal to Fellows and friends, which aims to secure £500,000 towards the fundraising target. All Fellows have been asked to support this once-in-a-generation project. To-date, we have raised £376,000 with support from 322 Fellows and friends of the Academy. We plan to close the fundraising for the appeal by the Summer Showcase in July 2024.
159. Other fundraising priorities including the British Academy Book Prize, the Early Career Researcher Network and the Summer Showcase/New Public Events Programme.
160. We continue to speak with Fellows who are considering leaving a gift in their Will to the Academy. More information, including a free will-writing option that the Academy offers, is available on our website: [thebritishacademy.ac.uk/support-us/legacies/](https://thebritishacademy.ac.uk/support-us/legacies/). If you would like to leave a gift for a specific purpose, or to discuss your plans confidentially, please contact Lucy Johnstone ([l.johnstone@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:l.johnstone@thebritishacademy.ac.uk) or 020 7969 5319).
161. The Development team continues to run strategic in-person events to cultivate and engage prospective and current donors. In April we hosted two successful events with the President and International Fellows based in the US: a Boston Fellows Reception on 16 April, with Rana Mitter (28 guests); as well as a Princeton Fellows Reception on 18 April, with David Cannadine (11 guests). The Wolfson Professorships Symposium took place on 24 May. Looking ahead to the Summer, the annual Sino-British Fellowship Reception takes place on 27 June. We have 50 Development guests have accepted to join us so far for the Private View of the Summer Showcase on 11 July.
162. The Development Board, Chaired by Sir Victor Blank, meets on 18 June. The Acceptance of Funds Group, Chaired by John Shakeshaft (external), postponed its May meeting to consider prospective donors to the Academy.
163. We continue to steward the Academy's donors through a number of mechanisms including regular meetings, personal contact, engagement through events and reporting on their giving. In June we hosted three tours of the new spaces to our donors for the capital project, to which a total of 14 donors came along. We are currently working on our third capital newsletter for donors of the project, which is expected to go out over the Summer.