



## Being Human festival: 12–22 November 2020

### Open Call application guidelines

#### About this pathway

The Open Call is a great way to get involved in the festival for anyone with a connection to humanities research, including universities, museums, archives, galleries, publishers, subject associations, societies, libraries and more.

This pathway is all about well thought through activities that are easy to organise and fun for all involved. Activities in this category typically make use of existing resources, formats and platforms, while giving them a 'Being Human festival' twist. They run without a direct financial contribution from the festival (perhaps using institutional funding, resources from research grants etc.), but benefit from additional support and publicity from being part of the festival.

Activities of this kind form a large part of the festival programme. By submitting an event to the only national festival of the humanities, you are helping to make sure access to research continues to thrive and grow, as well as raising awareness about why the humanities are so important to our everyday lives. We also hope taking part in the festival will be fun and rewarding – it offers you the opportunity to share your work with new and diverse audiences.

In 2020, the festival theme is 'New Worlds' which can be used as a jumping off point for you to share your research and helps draw together a very diverse programme (for further details about the theme see the last section of this document).

#### What support is available?

Being Human is committed to supporting everyone taking part in the festival. The festival team offer advice and guidance to all organisers, and makes available resources to help give activities the best possible chance of success.

Available support and resources include:

- guides to promoting your event that contain marketing hints and tips
- copies of Being Human print and digital materials geared towards promoting the national festival as a whole

- templates you can use to produce your own marketing materials (posters, banners, digital and PowerPoint templates)
- support from the central Being Human social media accounts
- access to other marketing materials (e.g. banners and badges) to promote your activity

Being Human organisers also have access to specially arranged training events, and may be invited to take part in centrally organised festival activities.

### **What formats are suitable?**

Open Call activities typically make use of tried and tested formats that produce fun, impactful and easy to deliver activities. We advise you look at our [training resources](#) that give tips on how to create a successful public engagement event.

Some good formats might include:

- a special iteration of a recurring event (e.g. museum lates, off-campus workshops)
- walks and 'behind the scenes' tours
- museum or gallery tours and object handling sessions
- film screenings with introductions
- 'research in the pub' or pecha-kucha style events
- special public access to archaeology digs, heritage sites, museums
- readings, talks, activities or performances in publically accessible places
- public talks (see below)

We do not include academic lectures in the Being Human programme. However, through the Open Call pathway we do welcome public talks that are held off-campus, in venues that are accessible and interesting to non-specialists. Talks should address interesting and relevant topics pitched at the right audiences and at the right level, and include opportunities for interaction.

Whatever the format, it is important to remember that we are looking for 'public engagement with research' events, not simply cultural activities. This means that audiences and participants at all events should come away having learnt something clear and understandable about humanities research.

### **What criteria are there for Open Call applications?**

Open Call applications stand a good chance of being accepted into the festival programme. However, all events must meet the general eligibility criteria for taking part in the festival:

- demonstrate aspects of humanities research in ways that are entertaining, accessible and relevant for non-specialist audiences
- have direct involvement from a humanities researcher in delivering the event\*
- be held during the festival dates

- be completely free to attend (please note that in 2020 all activities need to be free, not just those funded by Being Human). This includes free access to venues where events are being held (such as heritage sites or museums that charge an entrance fee)

\* See our [FAQs](#) for our definition of a professional researcher. This could mean simply inviting a university researcher to speak at an event.

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria, successful applications should:

- respond to the interests and needs of a clearly defined audience
- be well thought through and achievable within the timeframe
- be held off-campus wherever possible (excluding campus-based theatres etc.)

Activities that are not suitable for the festival programme are ones that:

- have only a tenuous link to humanities research
- are not tailored to their defined audience's needs and interests
- are unlikely to fit in a public festival context (i.e. if subject matter is likely to be highly sensitive or emotionally triggering)
- are over-ambitious and at high risk of failure

It is also important that all Being Human activities consider issues around diversity in the speakers and researchers represented at events (e.g. in terms of gender, age, ethnic diversity), and that activities are held in accessible venues.

## Should I apply?

The Open Call pathway is a great way to get involved in the Being Human festival if you have an idea or format that's good to go and fits in with the festival's ethos. We would love to hear from you! The deadline for Open Call applications is Friday 12 June. However, applications may be accepted and reviewed if submitted before this, on a rolling basis.

This year we are particularly keen to hear from people who want to get involved in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This includes big cities such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cardiff and Belfast – but also smaller cities, towns and rural areas.

## Application process

The Open Call application form and activities grid is available on our website at [www.beinghumanfestival.org/get-involved-2020](http://www.beinghumanfestival.org/get-involved-2020). Letters of support should be provided from any cultural and community partners named on your application. Applications should be made on the correct form and returned via email to: [apply.beinghuman@sas.ac.uk](mailto:apply.beinghuman@sas.ac.uk).

- Friday 12 June (5pm) – deadline for Open Call applications\*
- By mid-July – notification of outcome of applications

\* Open Call applications will be reviewed at regular intervals in the lead up to this deadline so feel free to submit your proposal at any time before this date.

Further information about the festival and the level of support available when organising your activity can be found on the [FAQs section of our website](#). If you have any questions please email [beinghuman@sas.ac.uk](mailto:beinghuman@sas.ac.uk).

## **2020 festival theme: 'New Worlds'**

The theme for the 2020 Being Human festival is 'New Worlds'. The theme is there as a prompt and a guide to help draw together a very diverse programme. It is primarily intended as a jumping off point to help you share your enthusiasm for research in the humanities. We want you to respond imaginatively to the many possibilities of the theme. All research opens up a 'new world' of some sort!

### **Engaging with the theme**

Possible starting points include (but are certainly not limited to):

- New worlds in local or global contexts: discovery and exploration on either macro or micro levels
- New worlds in fiction: sci-fi, fantasy, utopias and dystopias
- What new worlds do we want? Thinking about the future in relation to climate change, contemporary politics, global issues
- New worlds and old worlds – could looking back offer solutions for the future?
- New worlds/ new horizons – for example, opening up new possibilities for people with disabilities, people affected by social exclusion and stigma, opening up access to education and resources
- Discoveries and developments, events and landmarks that have changed our world

If you want to read more about the theme, check out our blog announcing the 2020 festival [here](#).