

Call for Applications: Creative Artists – Feb 2027-2028

Leverhulme Centre for Humanity and Space (LCHS)

- Deadline:** Midnight, Sunday 11 October 2026
- Eligibility:** Practising artist or creative producer, preferably local to the East Midlands.
- Support:** Up to £6,000 per application (we are aiming for 5 artists between Feb 27 to Feb 28) to support artist fees, expenses and materials.
- Duration:** Flexible - ideally within a 12-month duration from February to January. We are funded for 10 years from 2026, so there will be multiple calls for artists and possibly multiple artists per year.

Overview

The Leverhulme Centre for Humanity and Space (LCHS) is seeking a **Creative Artist(s) in Residence**. This project is an exciting opportunity to work alongside members of the flagship [Leverhulme Centre for Humanity and Space](#), cumulating in an artwork, installation, performance, documentary, film, game, interactive or digital experience, or other creative work that will be displayed during or following the residency. We also encourage the resident to exhibit the works in wider contexts during or after the residency.

The residency offers a unique opportunity to exchange and collaborate with researchers working in space, across the social science, arts and humanities. The LCHS is a unique research centre that supports multi-disciplinary work on humanity and our connection with outer space.

Research already taking place in the Centre is looking at topics as diverse as the medieval history of comets, understanding sustainability and responsibility as concepts in outer space governance, developing legal frameworks for outer space, anthropologies of space start-up companies, and studies to support positive life-experiences for long-distance astronauts, nuclear-space nexus and queer/feminist studies of space media. We are looking for a Creative Person in Residence that will complement these existing interests and interpret or be inspired by the work with a form of art.

The Residency will be open annually and can involve collaboration with the Centre from 1-12 months. There is no studio or desk space provided, but the artist will be invited and encouraged to attend LCHS events for engagement with our research team. LCHS is working in collaboration with [Attenborough Arts Centre](#), the University of Leicester's Arts Centre, and there may be opportunities to use their facilities, on application.

We are looking for creative practitioners whose work engages with and is inspired by our research themes of humanity and space and can develop new work during their residency at the LCHS. A summary of our team and their research projects is on the link below:

[Our people | Humanity space | University of Leicester](#). There will also be a cohort of 11 PhD students joining the Centre from September, which will incorporate further research topics within each theme.

About the LCHS

The Leverhulme Centre for Humanity and Space is an interdisciplinary research centre at the University of Leicester focusing on the interaction of the social dimensions of our world and outer space. The LCHS is funded by [The Leverhulme Trust](#) through a ten-year grant that started in February 2026 and focuses on promoting social sciences, arts, and humanities as methods for engaging with outer space.

The LCHS is located at [Space Park Leicester](#) (SPL), an academic-public-private science and innovation environment that hosts University of Leicester academics, researchers, private companies and public bodies, all of whom focus on space research from multi-disciplinary perspectives. It may be possible to facilitate introduction with communities beyond LCHS at SPL. LCHS is collaborating with [Attenborough Arts Centre](#) on the Creative Artist and they have a long-standing commitment to inclusive arts and creativity.

Project Outputs:

This is an intentionally open call and we are looking for creative ideas rather than fully developed project plans. We are interested in ideas from any art form or creative practice. Possible outputs are as follows:

- A piece (or pieces) of creative work that are inspired by the work of researchers in the LCHS.
- A short reflection piece or blog (1000 words or equivalent video/photo output).
- An exhibition highlighting your work (we are collaborators with the [Attenborough Arts Centre](#) who may help to facilitate this).
- Digital art.
- Theatre, show, podcast.
- A workshop or creative activity that includes your practice for adult participants.
- A talk for the Space Park Leicester Community (which includes physical science researchers, policy makers, humanities and social science researchers).
- Another suggestion, not covered by the above.

We will provide:

- Funding of up to £6k per application. To cover artists fees, travel or residency expenses, production and material costs for final artwork. *The residency fee will be paid in two portions, one at the start and one on completion of the proposed output.*
- Connections to researchers at LCHS, SPL, Attenborough Arts Centre and beyond.
- Engagement with ideas and practice that you bring to the LCHS.

The Creative Person in Residence will retain ownership of pieces made during the residency.

Accessibility

We are happy to accept applications in alternative formats e.g. large-print versions, audio applications or video submissions. If you would like this application form in another format or would prefer to submit your application in a different way, please contact Laura Nevay at humanityandspace@le.ac.uk.

Selection Criteria

- Project engagement with the themes of the LCHS.
- Preferably Local to the East Midlands and up and coming artists.
- Project and funding feasibility for tangible output in the project period.
- Willingness to contribute to LCHS, SPL and AAC events.

Application:

- Completion of the application form (via Word, online form or video/auto recorded, if required for accessibility reasons).
- Once the deadline is past a panel of four will convene to discuss the applications.
- Applications will be judged on how they align with the Researchers projects within the Centre.
- Please note that the Leverhulme Trust and LCHS will need to be acknowledged as the funding source and that permission to use photographs will be required for LinkedIn.
- Any queries and completed application forms should be made to humanityandspace@leicester.ac.uk.