

Midlands4Cities Summer School

What next? What does Arts and Humanities postgraduate research look like?

One of the aims of the Midlands4Cities Summer School - *What next? What does Arts and Humanities postgraduate research look like?* is to provide UG students with a new experience with the aim of encouraging them to consider a future research career or PhD in Arts and Humanities.

Eligibility

Before you apply, please ensure you are eligible and meet the criteria here:

- You should be registered as a UK (United Kingdom) (home) student on an arts or humanities undergraduate course at one of the Midlands4Cities universities: University of Birmingham, Birmingham City University, University of Warwick, Coventry University, De Montfort University, University of Leicester, Nottingham Trent University, or University of Nottingham.
- You should be entering your final year of Undergraduate study or about to start Masters level study in autumn 2025.
- Identify as being from a Black, Asian, or minoritized ethnic background.

You will **not** be eligible if:

- You are in your first or last year of your undergraduate degree.
- Are registered on your undergraduate University course on a 'Student Visa'

Completing the online application form

Applicants are asked to demonstrate why they are interested in participating in the M4C UG Summer School by responding to the six prompts below. (Maximum 150 words per section)

1. What research have you undertaken in the course of your studies so far? This could include preparation for essays and seminars. [150 words]
2. What skills do you anticipate you will need to carry out more extended research and how you can obtain them? [150 words]
3. Why do you think Arts and Humanities research is important? [150 words]
4. What area of Arts and Humanities research most appeals to you? [150 words]
5. How do you think the Summer School will contribute to any future career plans you have? [150 words]
6. Is there any other information you would like to bring to the panel? [150 words]



We recommend that you draft your answers to these questions before copying them into the form. There are no “right” answers to the questions, but the panel will be looking for you to be specific in the examples you provide as evidence.

Question 1. What research have you undertaken in the course of your studies so far? This could include preparation for essays and seminars. [150 words]

This question is intended to give you an opportunity to talk about what you already know and what you have already done. You may feel that you’ve not undertaken much research, but if you’ve submitted essays or participated in a seminar discussion, then you will have done some. Please reflect on the occasions where you have answered a question by finding out more information, looking at different points of view, and going beyond the minimum reading required for a task. You might want to choose one or two examples only, to illustrate what the question was and how you went about answering it.

Question 2: What skills do you anticipate you will need to carry out more extended research and how you can obtain them? [150 words]

This question is intended to give you an opportunity to reflect on what you’d like to do better. The skills might be as straightforward as learning how to use the library more efficiently, or learning data analysis, or as specialist as learning to how to conduct oral history interviews or a performance technique. You should focus on one or two, explain why you would need them, and how you think you would go about getting them. You might find it useful to look at the Summer School Programme and think about which activities you would find most useful and why.

Question 3: Why do you think Arts and Humanities research is important? (150 words)

This is an opportunity to talk about your values and your interests. You might choose to discuss very practical benefits to Arts and Humanities research, such as well-being, or economic benefits; you might choose to outline what your subject means to you and how you’ve benefited from your studies.

Question 4: What area of Arts and Humanities research most appeals to you? [150 words]

By ‘area’, you might want to consider your degree subject, but you might also want to think about a topic you’re interested in, which might not be in your discipline. In both cases, you should explain why that interests you. You might want to look at the Summer School programme and planned visits and think about what you might find most interesting.

Question 5: How do you think the Summer School will contribute to any future career plans you have? [150 words]

This question asks you to consider what you hope to gain from the Summer School, what skills you would like to develop, what topics you will explore, and how those will help you in the next stage of your education, particularly the final year of your degree, and in the first years of the next stage of your life.



Question 6: Is there any other information you would like to bring to the panel? [150 words]

Not everyone will want to answer this question, but if you have particular circumstances, you think are important to your application, this is the space to do so. For instance, if you have a condition such as dyslexia that has affected your studies, or if you bring practical skills to a project, such as dance or music experience, you might want to mention it here. If you don't have anything further to say, you can leave this box blank.

For further information, please contact the Midlands4Cities Site Directors for your institution:

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Timeline:



Application Deadline	12 noon Monday 30 June
Shortlisting for interviews	By 11 July 2025
Unsuccessful candidates informed	w/c 14 July 2025
Interviews to take place	w/c 14 July 2025
Successful candidates informed	w/c 21 July 2025

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act (2018). After you have applied, all information from your application will be stored securely and access limited to university employees essential to administering the scholarship. All your responses will be deleted from our records in line with the M4C University's published records and information retention schedules.

