
Humanities Research Centre VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAM 2018

Guidelines for Applicants

The Humanities Research Centre (HRC) was established in 1974 as a national and international centre for excellence in the Humanities and as a catalyst for innovative Humanities scholarship and research within the Australian National University. The HRC interprets the ‘Humanities’ generously, recognising that new methods of theoretical enquiry have done much to break down the traditional distinction between the humanities, the creative arts, and the social sciences. It also recognises the importance of establishing a dialogue between the humanities and the natural and technological sciences.

The Centre encourages interdisciplinary and comparative work and gives special attention to topics and disciplines in need of particular stimulus in Australia. One of its central functions is to bring to Australia scholars of international standing who will provoke fresh ideas both within and beyond the academic community. The HRC also has extensive contacts with many other Australian and international research centres, libraries, and cultural institutions, and is a member of a number of cooperative clusters, including the international Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) and the Australasian Consortium of Humanities Research Centres (ACHRC).

Our theme for 2018 is *Imagining Science and Technology 200 Years after Frankenstein*, a description of which appears below. We encourage scholars from all over the world working in every discipline (including the natural and physical sciences) to apply for Visiting Fellowships at our Centre. (One fellowship will also be offered through the ANU Gender Institute – see below).

HRC THEME FOR 2018

Imagining Science and Technology 200 Years after *Frankenstein*

‘It compels us to feel that which we perceive, and to imagine that which we know’

(Percy Bysshe Shelley)

In 2018, the Humanities Research Centre will be looking at the humanities’ engagement (and failure to engage) with an accelerating science and technology. The questions we want to ask concern our understanding and imagining of the significance and implications of our own rapid scientific and technological development. Do we understand the motivation for a billion-dollar medical science industry, for example, one that promises more and more radical forms of genetic engineering? How have Artificial Intelligence and robotics redefined what it means to be, and to act, human? How far is the development of science and technology culturally and ideologically inflected? Does science and technology – *should* science and technology – contribute to social equity and justice? Where are we in the debate about the mutually abrasive existence of ‘two cultures’? What control do we currently exercise, individually and collectively, over scientific development? What price do we pay – economically, psychologically, culturally – for our accelerated scientific literacy and technological sophistication? How have literature and film, the visual and musical arts, absorbed and informed the advancement of science and technology?

The HRC looks forward to engaging hard scientists, as well as humanists and social scientists, writers and artists, in its conferences and debates and as Visiting Fellows.

Fellowships are awarded in the following categories:

- **Visiting Fellowships (with grant).** The standard period of tenure for an HRC Visiting Fellowship is from a minimum of six to a maximum of twelve weeks. The grant covers travel and accommodation. The maximum contribution for travel is \$3,000 AUD. Accommodation is in a one bedroom, self-contained apartment on the university campus. (This financial assistance for travel and accommodation expenses is *not* a salary replacement. No stipend or living allowance is attached to this fellowship.) While participating in seminars and other activities at other Australian universities is encouraged, Visiting Fellows are not expected to be away for more than 7 days on any one occasion during their fellowships.
- **Visiting Fellowships (without grant).** Academic staff from other Australian universities, as well as from national or international cultural institutions, may apply to use the facilities at the HRC and contribute to its intellectual life during their periods of research leave (e.g. sabbatical). These awards do not provide financial assistance and are dependent on the availability of office space in the Centre.
- **Visiting Fellowships, HRC-ANU Gender Institute (with grant).** The HRC offers a dedicated HRC-ANU Gender institute (GI) Fellowship as part of its annual round. The ANU Gender Institute was established in 2011 as a cross-campus virtual Institute to provide a focus for existing activity on issues of gender and sexuality and a catalyst to develop and deepen them. The Gender Institute has two distinct but related tasks. One is to support and deepen research, education, and outreach on gender and sexuality across the University, in particular promoting collaboration and linkages in this area across the seven Colleges. The second is to support the employment and retention of women and LGBTI people at all levels, in all disciplines, across the University. To do this it works closely with ANU Diversity and Inclusion Unit on programs to support the attraction and retention of women staff. This fellowship enables the GI to showcase and involve a visitor whose work intersects with the focus of the Institute *and* the nominated theme of the HRC. Interested applicants should look at the research areas of focus identified by the GI and in their application suggest which node/s of the GI they would best intersect with (it may be more than one). See: <http://genderinstitute.anu.edu.au/people/>

The standard period of tenure for a GI Visiting Fellowship is 12 weeks. The grant covers travel and accommodation. The maximum contribution for travel is \$3,000 AUD. Accommodation is in a one bedroom, self-contained apartment on the university campus. (This financial assistance for travel and accommodation expenses is *not* a salary replacement. No stipend or living allowance is attached to this fellowship.)

Eligibility:

Applicants for fellowships must have an institutional affiliation to a University or equivalent research or cultural organisation, and generally have at least a higher research degree (or equivalent professional experience), research experience, and publications. These fellowships are not as a rule offered to independent scholars, nor are students working to complete a higher degree eligible to apply. International applicants are strongly encouraged. Visa documents, if required, are the responsibility of the applicant. The ANU will offer a formal letter of invitation to successful applicants which may be used for visa purposes.

Visiting Fellows are expected to participate in the programs of the Centre and the College, meet regularly with other fellows, make public presentations of their research at the Centre's weekly seminar series, possibly offer to contribute to a graduate seminar/Master Class, and avail themselves of other opportunities for scholarly exchange. Visitors must be in residence for at least 75% of their appointment.

Assessment Process:

The criteria for assessing nominations include academic distinction demonstrated by the standard measures of academic level and place of appointment, record of publication, honours and awards; the relevance of the proposed research to the annual theme (*Imagining Science and Technology 200 Years after Frankenstein*); referee reports; potential or identified links with researchers and programs and activities in other parts of the Australian National University, especially in the College of Arts and Social Sciences.

Selection of Visiting Fellows for the 2018 program will be announced by 30 June 2017. The HRC strives, in its selection process, to have a mixture of early career scholars along with more established researchers, and to achieve a gender balance. While preference will be given to those whose work is relevant to the 2018 annual theme, fellowships occasionally may also be awarded to scholars working elsewhere in the broad field of Humanities.

The Centre does not discriminate for or against any applicant on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, age, medical record, marital status, impairment, disability, nationality, or sexual preference.

Further information in relation to the programs of the Humanities Research Centre and the Research School of Humanities and the Arts, staff and facilities, is contained on our Website at the following address: <http://hrc.anu.edu.au>

Application procedures:

1. Application Form:

Applicants should submit a completed application form, together with a CV, including a list of publications and/or professional activities. The application form may be downloaded from our Website address <http://hrc.anu.edu.au/2018-annual-theme>

2. Project Proposal

Applicants should provide a one to two page description and the title of their planned research project.

3. Referees' Comments:

Applicants need to identify and provide the referees' comments form to three referees who will support this application. Referees should submit their confidential comments separately to the Senior Administrator of the HRC on the form provided. These comments should reach us no later than 23 June 2017. The referees' comments form may be downloaded from our Website address <http://hrc.anu.edu.au/2018-annual-theme>

The deadline for applications and comments is **23 June 2017**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications should be posted to:

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Research School of Humanities and the Arts
Sir Roland Wilson Building
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The Australian National University
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Australia

Or emailed to:

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Enquiries to:

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