



COLLABORATORY Research Hub

Cohort 2027: Submit a PhD Project Proposal

Submit a PhD Project Proposal Collaboratory Cohort 2027

This form is for collaborative supervisory teams who wish to submit a PhD research project proposal for consideration for Collaboratory's 2027 project cohort.

It is essential that all project supervisory team members named on an proposal have read project proposal guidance, available to [download from our website](#).

- Proposals must adhere to the word limits provided. Word limits include citations.
- All project proposals, whether for PhD or Research Placement projects, **MUST** be submitted via one of our online forms. We cannot accept proposal submissions as email attachments
- **Deadline for submissions: 11:59pm on Monday 7th September 2026**

If you have any questions about this form or Collaboratory's project development process, please contact the team at info@collaboratoryresearchhub.ac.uk

Project Details

This section asks you for details about your project proposal. Please refer to the proposal guidance on our website for support.

1. Which programme chapter of Collaboratory does this proposal fall under?

*

- ☐ Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Chapter
- ☐ Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Chapter

2. Project Title

Please provide a provisional title for this project. Project titles should be concise, descriptive, and where possible, avoid unnecessary jargon or niche terminology. Amendments may be made by the Collaboratory team before advertising, if the proposal is successful.

Word limit: 20 words max

*

3. Project Summary

Please provide a summary of the proposed research project. The summary should be written in accessible language, avoiding unnecessarily complex terms, where possible. If successful, this will be used as the basis for creating a project advert. Please see our existing project profiles on our website for examples.

Take a look at our [existing project profiles](#) for examples of how we write project summaries.

Word Limit: min 150- max 400 words

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4. Research Aims

Please detail the aims of this research project. This should be a short list of concise, researchable aims. If successful, these aims will be included in the project advert description. For examples, please see profiles of our existing research projects on our website.

Word limit: 150 words

*

5. Potential for Impact: How will this work make a positive impact on local communities in (Nottingham and Nottinghamshire)/(Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland)?

What change does this research seek to make with/for one or more defined local communities? What potential do the anticipated outputs of this research have to affect this change? Does the proposed research have relevance to the needs or work of other local civic/community organisations/network/mechanisms?

Word limit: 400 words max

*

6. Community Basis: What local community need(s) does this research intend to address?

Please detail the community need which underpins the proposed research. Research must seek to address challenge(s) which are grounded in and informed by the genuine need(s) of local communities. This community basis must draw on evidence which illustrates the scope of the issue, the extent of the local knowledge gap, etc.

Word limit: 400 words max

*

7. With which specific 'priority themes' from the respective 2026 Community Priorities for Research report does this project proposal align?

Please give the number and title of the priority themes that you consider this proposal to address. Full 2026 Community Priorities for Research report for both Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland can be found on our website.

*

8. Academic Basis: What is the academic justification for this research?

Please detail the academic basis for this proposed research project. Research must seek to make a novel contribution to one or more academic specialisms and must demonstrate a strong justification for the work based on existing academic literature and/or broader sources of evidence.

Word limit: 400 words max

*

9. Research Methods

Please describe the anticipated methods by which the research aims would be addressed. Where relevant, please include details of specific methodologies, analyses, and participatory and community engagement approaches.

Word limit: 400 max

*

10. Additional Funding Requirements

If this research proposal would require additional funding beyond what is provided by a Collaboratory PhD Studentship, please provide brief details of these costs and how they will be covered. For a breakdown of what our studentship funding covers, please refer to the proposal guidance document.

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11. Supporting References

Please provide a list of full references for all sources cited in this section of the proposal form.

12. Did any of the supervisory team partners to be named on this proposal attend a Collaboratory led, in-person co-creation workshop?

Attendance at a co-creation workshop is NOT a mandatory requirement. We ask this question to understand the impact of the support we provide. Workshop dates for this call are scheduled for: (NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHAPTER) Weds 24 June 2026, and (LEICESTERSHIRE CHAPTER) Fri 26 June 2026.

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Details to Support Candidate Recruitment

This section asks for details which would be used by the Collaboratory team to create a project advert, if your proposal were to be successful.

As part of Collaboratory's work to create more inclusive and accessible routes into doctoral research, all our PhD and Research Placement opportunities are advertised in a typical job advert-style format. This will include a list of essential and desired competencies, plus a reading list. This enables high quality candidates to better identify their suitability for any given research project.

- Project-specific competencies should be those which the ideal candidate should possess that will enable them to rise to the challenges of the research project.
- Essential and desirable competency lists must NOT require candidates to already possess knowledge or experience of specific research technique or methodologies that they would reasonably be able to learn in the role.

For details of the core competencies used in our recruitment, and examples of project-specific essential and desired competencies, please see proposal guidance.

NOTE: For successful projects, final project specific competency requirements will be edited by the Collaboratory team to ensure they align with our inclusive recruitment framework.

13. Project-Specific Essential Competencies

Please detail up to 5 competencies based on transferable skills, knowledge and experience that both community and academic members of the named supervisory team feel would be essential for a candidate to possess in order to be successful on this project. Essential competencies should include broader skills and experiences which applicants could provide evidence against in a variety of ways. Essential competencies must NOT require direct previous experience of academic research, nor be those which can and will easily be taught as part of the PhD training experience.

Please see proposal guidance for links to previous examples of project adverts.

*

14. Project-Specific Desirable Competencies

Please detail up to 5 desirable competencies based on transferable skills, knowledge and experience that both community and academic members of the named supervisory team feel would be desirable for a successful candidate to possess. Desirable competencies may include more nuanced skills or experience that would give the candidate an advantage in the role, but which are not crucial the success of the project.

Please see proposal guidance for links to previous examples of project adverts.

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15. Recommended Reading List

*Please provide a list of up to 10 sources which would enable prospective candidates to obtain a moderately more in-depth understanding of some of the core elements that underpin this project. These **MUST** be open access (for academic literature) or free to access for anyone without university or organisation-specific affiliations.*

*

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Supervisory Team - Lead Academic Supervisor

This section asks for details of the lead academic supervisor who would take on the role of Director of Studies/Primary Supervisor for the candidate, if the proposal is successful.

Important Note!

The answers submitted in this section will be checked with the named individual's local PGR lead and line manager. If the named person will not meet local supervision policy requirement by 1st April 2027, the proposal will be rejected and cannot be considered.

16. Full Name

*

0/32,000 characters

17. University Email Address

*

0/32,000 characters

18. Institution

At which university is this person employed?

*

- ☐ Nottingham Trent University
- ☐ University of Nottingham
- ☐ De Montfort University
- ☐ University of Leicester

19. How many PhD candidates has this person supervised to timely completion?

Please differentiate between those supported in a leading or co-supervisory capacity. Timely completion is classed as submission within four years or less, for a full-time candidate.

*

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20. How many PhD candidates does this person currently supervise as lead and/or co-supervisor?

Please include all current PhD supervisions who have not yet submitted their thesis.

*

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21. Supervisor Justification

Please provide a brief justification detailing how this supervisory partner's work and wider experience makes them a suitable and necessary partner for the proposed research. Please include details of any previous work in the area of, or contributions to, civically- or community-engaged research.

Word limit: 300 words

*

22. **Has this person obtained approval from their line manager to take on this supervisory role, should the proposal be successful?**

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

23. **Line Manger's Name**

*

0/32,000 characters

24. **Line Manager's Contact Email**

*

0/32,000 characters

25. **Supervisory Regulations**

Is or will this person be eligible to take on leading supervision of a PhD candidate from 1st April 2027, according to their institutional and local departmental/school regulations?

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Not at present, but will be eligible as of 1st April 2027

☐ No

26. Has this person attended an information webinar for the Cohort 2027 call for proposals, or viewed a recording of a webinar?

Webinar registration links can be found on [our proposals webpage](#).

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Supervisory Team - Academic Co-supervisors

This section asks your for details of academic co-supervisors who would support supervision of the candidate, if the proposal is successful.

Important Note!

The answers submitted in this section will be checked with the named individual's local PGR lead and line manager. If any of the named persons in this section will not meet local supervision regulations by 1st April 2027, the proposal will be rejected and cannot be considered.

27. Full Name

*

0/32,000 characters

28. University Email Address

*

0/32,000 characters

29. Institution

At which university is this person employed?

*

- ☐ Nottingham Trent University
- ☐ University of Nottingham
- ☐ De Montfort University
- ☐ University of Leicester

30. How many PhD candidates has this person supervised to timely completion?

Please differentiate between those supported in a leading or co-supervisory capacity. Timely completion is classed as submission within four years or less, for a full-time candidate.

*

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31. How many PhD candidates does this person currently supervise as lead and/or co-supervisor?

Please include all current PhD supervisions who have not yet submitted their thesis.

*

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32. Supervisor Justification

Please provide a brief justification detailing how this supervisory partner's work and wider experience makes them a suitable and necessary partner for the proposed research. Please include details of any previous work in the area of, or contributions to, civically- or community-engaged research.

Word limit: 300 words

*

33. Has this person obtained approval from their line manager to take on this supervisory role, should the proposal be successful?

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

34. Line Manager's Name

*

0/32,000 characters

35. Line Manager's Contact Email Address

*

0/32,000 characters

36. Supervisory Regulations

Is or will this person be eligible to take on leading supervision of a PhD candidate from 1st April 2027, according to their institutional and local departmental/school regulations?

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No at present, but will be eligible as of 1st April 2027

☐ No

37. Has this person attended an information webinar for the Cohort 2027 call for proposals, or viewed a recording of a webinar?

Webinar registration links can be found on [our proposals webpage](#).

*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

38. Do you wish to add details of another co-supervisor?

*

☐ Yes

☐ No

39. Full Name - CS2

*

0/32,000 characters

40. University Email Address - CS2

*

0/32,000 characters

41. Institution - CS2

At which university is this person employed?

*

☐ Nottingham Trent University

☐ University of Nottingham

☐ De Montfort University

☐ University of Leciester

42. Supervisor Justification - CS2

Please provide a brief justification detailing how this supervisory partner's work and wider experience makes them a suitable partner for the proposed research. Please include details of any previous work in the area of, or contributions to, civically- or community-engaged research.

Word limit: 300 words

*

43. How many PhD candidates has this person supervised to timely completion? - CS2

Please differentiate between those supported in a leading or co-supervisory capacity. Timely completion is classed as submission within four years or less, for a full-time candidate.

*

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44. How many PhD candidates does this person currently supervise as lead and/or co-supervisor? - CS2

Please include all current PhD supervisions who have not yet submitted their thesis.

*

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45. Has this person obtained approval from their line manager to take on this supervisory role, should the proposal be successful? - CS2

*

☐ Yes

☐ No

46. Line Manager's Name - CS2

*

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47. Line Manager's Contact Email Address - CS2

*

0/32,000 characters

48. Supervisory Regulations - CS2

Is or will this person be eligible to take on leading supervision of a PhD candidate from 1st April 2027, according to their institutional and local departmental/school regulations?

*

☐ Yes

☐ No at present, but will be eligible as of 1st April 2027

☐ No

49. **Has this person attended an information webinar for the Cohort 2027 call for proposals, or viewed a recording of a webinar? - CS2**

Webinar registration links can be found on [our proposals webpage](#).

*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

50. **Do you wish to add details of another co-supervisor? - CS2**

*

☐ Yes

☐ No

51. **Full Name - CS3**

*

0/32,000 characters

52. **University Email Address - CS3**

*

0/32,000 characters

53. **Institution - CS3**

At which university is this person employed?

*

☐ Nottingham Trent University

☐ University of Nottingham

☐ De Montfort University

☐ University of Leciester

54. How many PhD candidates has this person supervised to timely completion? - CS3

Please differentiate between those supported in a leading or co-supervisory capacity. Timely completion is classed as submission within four years or less, for a full-time candidate.

*

0/32,000 characters

55. How many PhD candidates does this person currently supervise as lead and/or co-supervisor? - CS3

Please include all current PhD supervisions who have not yet submitted their thesis.

*

0/32,000 characters

56. Supervisor Justification - CS3

Please provide a brief justification detailing how this supervisory partner's work and wider experience makes them a suitable partner for the proposed research. Please include details of any previous work in the area of, or contributions to, civically- or community-engaged research.

Word limit: 300 words

*

57. Has this person obtained approval from their line manager to take on this supervisory role, should the proposal be successful? - CS3

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

58. Line Manager's Name - CS3

*

0/32,000 characters

59. Line Manager's Contact Email Address - CS3

*

0/32,000 characters

60. Supervisory Regulations - CS3

Is or will this person be eligible to take on leading supervision of a PhD candidate from 1st April 2027, according to their institutional and local departmental/school regulations?

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No at present, but will be eligible as of 1st April 2027

☐ No

61. Has this person attended an information webinar for the Cohort 2027 call for proposals, or viewed a recording of a webinar? - CS3

Webinar registration links can be found on [our proposals webpage](#).

*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Supervisory Team - Community Supervisor

This section asks your for details of the community partner who supported the development of this proposal, and who would take on the role of Community Supervisor, if the proposal is successful.

62. Full Name

*

0/32,000 characters

63. Contact Email Address

*

0/32,000 characters

64. Name of Organisation

This should be the organisation with which the named person above is affiliated.

*

0/32,000 characters

65. Organisation postal address, including postcode

*

0/32,000 characters

66. Organisation Website

*

67. Role within the organisation

What is the named Community Supervisor's role in the above named organisation?

*

0/32,000 characters

68. Nature of the Organisation's Work

Please briefly describe the nature of the work carried out by the named Community Supervisor's organisation.

Word limit: 150 words max

*

69. Supervisor Justification

Please provide a brief justification detailing how this named Community Supervisor and their organisation are a suitable and necessary partner for the proposed research project.

Word limit: 300

*

70. Additional Support Needs

Would this named Community Supervisor require any specific support, advice, training, adjustments, access, etc., to facilitate their full participation in this research project ?

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

71. Please briefly describe these additional support needs

*

0/32,000 characters

72. Do you wish to add details of another Community Supervisor?

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

73. Full Name - COM2

*

0/32,000 characters

74. Contact Email Address - COM2

*

0/32,000 characters

75. Name of Organisation - COM2

This should be the organisation with which the named person above is affiliated.

*

0/32,000 characters

76. Organisation postal address, including postcode - COM2

*

0/32,000 characters

77. Organisation Website - COM2

*

0/32,000 characters

78. Role within the organisation - COM2

What is the named Community Supervisor's role in the above named organisation?

*

0/32,000 characters

79. Nature of the Organisation's Work - COM2

Please briefly describe the nature of the work carried out by the named Community Supervisor's organisation.

Word limit: 150 words max

*

80. Supervisor Justification - COM2

Please provide a brief justification detailing how this named Community Supervisor and their organisation are a suitable and necessary partner for the proposed research project.

Word limit: 300

*

81. Additional Support Needs - COM2

Would this named Community Supervisor require any specific support, advice, training, adjustments, access, etc., to facilitate their full participation in this research project ?

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

82. Please briefly describe these additional support needs - COM2

*

Peer Reviews

Each PhD project proposal requires 2 COMPLETE peer reviews. Please use this section to upload the responses from your peer reviewers.

The peer reviewer's form is available to download from our website. For full details about who can be asked to peer review your proposal, please refer to the PhD project proposal guidance

Important Note:

You must retain the original digital response from each peer reviewer. The review panel may request to see the original response before making any final funding decisions.

83. Please upload the completed response form for PEER REVIEWER 1

NOTE: This form will only accept files in PDF format that are under 10MB in size.

*

 Select file

84. Have any recommendations made by Peer Reviewer 1 been actioned at the time of submitting the proposal?

*

- ☐ Yes, these recommendations are reflected in the proposal
- ☐ No, these changes have not yet been made
- ☐ Not applicable

85. Please upload the completed response form for PEER REVIEWER 2

NOTE: This form will only accept files in PDF format that are under 10MB in size.

*

 Select file

86. Have any recommendations made by Peer Reviewer 2 been actioned at the time of submitting the proposal?

*

- ☐ Yes, these recommendations are reflected in the proposal
- ☐ No, these changes have not yet been made

☐ Not applicable