

LRG Research Fund 2026

Funding call & Application form



About the Landscape Research Group & Research Fund

The [Landscape Research Group](#) (LRG) is an international, independent and not-for-profit organisation. We work to advance interdisciplinary landscape research through dissemination, communication and exchange across global communities of interest. We do this by funding research and publications, collaborating on research projects, organising and sponsoring events, seminars, conferences and conference sessions, giving educational awards and providing expert advice. We also publish the peer-reviewed journal [Landscape Research](#).

We believe that research has a vital role to play in realising a fairer, ethical and more sustainable future, in terms of the relationships that people have with the places they live, and the environments they share with each other and with other living things. We wish to ensure that research can play this role in the fullest possible way.

We are committed to creating, maintaining and enhancing network ties and linkages among people interested in landscape research across boundaries:

- Between nation states or cultures
- Between academia and the various forms of landscape-related practice
- Between different landscape-related disciplines, different approaches to landscapes and different perspectives on landscapes.

We are concerned with all types of landscape. LRG represents (through our trustees, members and partnerships) a broad range of disciplines and sectors. Our [membership](#) is open to anyone who has an interest in landscape and the ways we shape, and are shaped by, the places in which we live.

The Research Fund was created in 2017, and continues to annually support a number of high-quality projects which align strongly with LRG's current strategic priorities, as outlined in our [Research Strategy](#) and specified below. You can find summaries on previous projects supported by our research fund on our Landscape Exchange website (link: https://lex.landscaperesearch.org/explore-media/?sft_collections=funded-projects)

Reimagining Landscape Change: Methods and Tools for a Transforming World

Landscapes are changing at an unprecedented pace and will continue to do so in the coming years due to a wide range of interacting drivers, including climate change, more-than-human relations, wars and displacement, economic pressures, rapid urbanisation, and depopulation. These processes are reshaping landscapes in complex and uneven ways, challenging how they are understood, represented, and governed. In this context, robust understanding is essential for effective action. Landscape researchers therefore have a critical role in developing new ways of seeing, analysing, and interpreting landscape change. It is increasingly important to continuously advance, test, and rethink the methods and tools through which landscapes are studied.

This year, the Research Fund invites proposals that develop interdisciplinary, innovative, and methodologically advanced approaches to understanding landscape change across scales, ranging from planetary systems to intimate, lived environments, encompassing humans, non-humans, and more-than-human relations in more equitable ways.

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The Research Fund will support proposals that develop or apply new methods, tools, and approaches in the following areas:

- **Historical, memory-based, and biographical methods:** Approaches that use oral histories, archives, maps, Indigenous knowledge systems, collective memory, and other historical sources as structured methodological tools for interpreting long-term landscape change, including landscape biography approaches that integrate layered temporal understandings of place.
- **Computational, spatial, and visual methods for landscape change:** Development and application of AI, geoAI, machine learning, computer vision, remote sensing, and large language models to analyse, simulate, and anticipate landscape change, combined with spatial analysis techniques and advanced visualisation methods such as participatory mapping, 3D modelling, immersive visualisation, and augmented/virtual reality tools.
- **Creative and arts-based research methods:** Arts-informed methodologies (e.g. visual arts, performance, digital creativity) that enable new forms of understanding and communicating landscape change, including participatory and community-engaged approaches.
- **Language and knowledge systems as methodological tools:** Approaches that use linguistic diversity and Indigenous knowledge systems as structured methods for interpreting landscape change and enabling cross-cultural and transboundary understanding.
- **Participatory and co-produced methods:** Development of tools and frameworks for collaborative research with communities, stakeholders, and more-than-human perspectives, enabling shared interpretation and decision-making in contexts of rapid landscape change.
- **Ethical, reflexive, and decolonial research methodologies:** Frameworks and tools that embed ethics into landscape research practice, including data sovereignty, Indigenous governance, racial justice, consent, and more-than-human ethical considerations, alongside approaches that critically examine knowledge production and challenge dominant epistemologies to support more inclusive and plural understandings of landscape change, particularly in the global south.
- **International law and governance tools for landscape change:** Methodological innovations that support legal and policy responses to spatial injustice, transboundary landscape change, and evolving planetary governance frameworks, including tools for analysing human and non-human rights and responsibilities.
- **Policy-to-practice methodological interfaces:** Tools that translate landscape research into actionable policy and practice, improving the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions addressing landscape change.

We invite researchers from diverse disciplines to contribute to this critical and evolving field, fostering deeper understanding of landscape change.

Eligible projects

The Research Fund is open to projects dealing with any aspect of landscape, as consistent with the way that term is used and defined in our [Research Strategy](#).

The LRG adopts a broad definition of ‘research project’ in this context. Projects should aim to produce, disseminate and/or use knowledge, understanding or insight, or to create

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opportunities and mechanisms which enable people to work towards these ends. We will consider proposals for activities including but not limited to: fundamental research; applied research; research & development; knowledge exchange; dissemination; and capacity-building.

Priority will be given to projects which include a strong element of collaboration and exchange which transcends individual disciplines; different sectors; and/or the boundaries between professional researchers, practitioners and the public. As a charity, the Landscape Research Group is particularly interested in funding projects with a clear public benefit. We also prioritise supporting early-career and independent researchers, as well as arts-based researchers, who would particularly benefit from our seed funding to support and develop their work.

Applicant eligibility

There are no restrictions as to discipline, sector or nationality. All applications will be assessed against the criteria specified below.

Applicants must be LRG members, joining details are on our [website](#).

The LRG wishes to support early career researchers and practitioners in the field of landscape and we encourage applicants at any stage in their career to apply for funding for projects appropriate to their experience.

Funding Available

The LRG Board has allocated a total of £15,000 to the 2026 Research Fund. Applications are invited for an LRG funding contribution of between £1,000 and £5,000.

Preference will be given to applications that propose to maximise the impact of LRG's funds by securing additional funds and/or in-kind contributions. In sections 4 and 5 of the Application Form, applicants should provide details of the costs to be covered by LRG funding and the costs to be covered from other sources (where applicable). Please note that LRG does not support projects that already have significant external funding, nor is its funding intended to serve solely as mobility support for larger, externally funded research projects.

Arrangements for Payment

For smaller grants, payment will be made in two stages: 1) part payment following confirmation of the award, and; 2) payment of the balance following satisfactory completion of the agreed deliverables (e.g. an end-of-project report to LRG; submission of agreed projects outputs). For larger grants, payment will be in three stages, with an additional stage payment being made part-way through the grant period. LRG will specify details of the funding stage payments in its letters of award to successful applicants and reserves the right to withhold any part of the payment if the specified conditions of grant are not complied with. An update on the progress of the project may be required midway through the funding programme.

Timing

Call Announcement

1 April 2026

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| Deadline for submission of applications: | 15 May 2026 |
| Applicants notified of funding decision by: | 05 June 2026 |
| Earliest possible project start date: | 15 June 2026 |
| Projects to be completed by*: | 15 June 2027 |

* The project completion date refers to the main project activities. It is accepted that some activities, particularly relating to project outputs, may continue on after this date (e.g. where a paper has been submitted to a journal for publication but has yet to go through peer review and be published), although it is expected that continuation of activities beyond 15 June 2027 will be avoided wherever possible. Applicants should specify a project timetable in Section 2 of the Application Form and, where an activity is anticipated to continue beyond 15 June 2027, this should be explained and justified.

How to Apply

Completed applications should be submitted to the LRG Research & Policy Co-ordinator at the email address: research@landscaperesearch.org.

Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications

LRG will assess any applications for the 2026 Research Fund against the following criteria:

1. *Alignment with the 2026 Research Funding Call*

Does the proposed project align clearly and strongly with the 2026 Funding Call and the LRG Research Strategy? What contribution will the project make in relation to the LRG's overarching priority of advancing research that contributes towards just and sustainable relationships between people and landscape? What contribution will the project make in relation to the 2026 Research Fund objective of supporting research which addresses the challenge of injustice in landscape contexts? Does the project, if appropriate, seek to integrate with other LRG sponsored work, such as the publication of the journal *Landscape Research*, the e-newsletter, seminars and conference sessions and other events?

2. *Significance of the project*

Relative to the scale of the project and the funding requested, how significant will the project be in terms of:

- advancing landscape research and/or making use of the results of research?
- the delivery of public benefit?

3. *Credibility and deliverability of the project*

Is the project coherent? Are the proposed activities reasonable, proportionate and appropriate in relation to the stated aims and objectives of the project? Will the proposed activities realistically deliver the stated outputs and outcomes?

4. *Credibility of the applicant/project team*

Are the applicant and, where applicable, the project team suitably qualified and/or experienced to undertake the project and deliver its stated outputs and outcomes?

5. *Ethical Statement*

Proposals will be assessed on the extent to which they demonstrate robust, thoughtful, and context-sensitive ethical considerations in the design and implementation of the research

6. *Financial justification*

Is the funding sought appropriate and realistic in relation to the project's aims and objectives? Is the budget for the proposed project coherent and reasonable? Does the LRG funding contribution represent value for money?

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| | | |
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| 1. Applicant Information | | |
| Name of applicant: | | |
| Date: | | |
| Institution/organisation, where applicable: | | |
| Address: | | |
| Email address: | | |
| Are you an LRG Member? (please tick the appropriate box – members will be given priority) | Yes | |
| | No | |
| 2. Project Description | | |
| Title of Project: | | |
| <p>Aims & objectives [maximum 200 words]: <i>State the aims of the project (i.e. the desired outcomes which the project is intended to deliver or support) and the specific objectives through which the aims will be achieved.</i></p> | | |
| <p>Methods/activities [maximum 500 words]: <i>Describe the methods/activities through which the project objectives will be met.</i></p> | | |
| <p>Outputs [maximum 300 words]: <i>List any outputs which the project will generate and briefly describe any dissemination/promotion plans.</i></p> | | |

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Project timetable:

Please include start and end dates. Where appropriate to the scale of the project, please detail major phases, significant milestones and any reporting arrangements.

Project applicant/team [maximum 500 words]:

Summarise the relevant qualifications and/or experience of the applicant and, where relevant, the project team and any partners/collaborators who will contribute to delivery of the project. Where appropriate, indicate the roles that the different contributors will play in delivering the project. Early career applicants are encouraged to apply for projects appropriate to their career stage.

3. Significance of the Project and Alignment with 2026 Theme and LRG's Priorities

[maximum 500 words]

Explain the significance of the project in terms of advancing landscape research and/or making use of the results of research and in terms of the delivery of public benefit. Explain how the project aligns with the 2026 Funding Call and how the results might, if appropriate, be disseminated through the various LRG sponsored research venues, such as the journal Landscape Research, the newsletter, the e-bulletin, seminars, conference sessions and events.

4. Ethical Considerations

[maximum 500 words]

Applicants are required to elaborate on the ethical considerations they will adopt in their proposed research. This includes identifying potential ethical challenges, how they will be addressed, and ensuring compliance with relevant ethical standards.

Where applicable, please provide evidence of ethical approval from your university or details on how you will obtain approval if selected for funding. If ethical approval is not required for your research, please explain why.

At LRG, we advocate for a strong ethical research ethos and expect researchers to take full responsibility for ethics compliance. Our commitment to ethical research is reflected in our Ethos of Care, which applicants are encouraged to review. You can find it here:

https://landscaperesearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Inclusive_Practices.pdf

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| 5. Costs | |
| <i>Give detailed estimates of:</i> | |
| 1) <i>the costs that will be incurred by, or on behalf of, the applicant while pursuing the planned project and for which funds are being sought from the LRG (section 5a below), and;</i> | |
| 2) <i>other costs which will be incurred in delivering the project but for which funds are not being sought from the LRG (section 5b below).</i> | |
| 5a Funds requested from the Landscape Research Group | |
| <i>Description of cost</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
| | £ |
| | £ |
| | £ |
| | £ |
| | £ |
| Total requested from the Landscape Research Group | £ |
| 5b Additional project costs (funds not requested from the Landscape Research Group) | |
| <i>Description of cost</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
| | £ |
| | £ |
| | £ |
| | £ |
| Total additional project costs | £ |
| Total project costs | |
| Total project cost (total requested from LRG + total additional project costs) | £ |
| % of total funds requested from LRG | % |

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| 6. Budget Narrative [maximum 500 words] |
| <i>Provide a justification for the resources requested from LRG. Confirm whether or not the project is dependent on LRG grant support. Provide details of other funding sources which have been secured or are being sought (funder and amount of funding). Provide details of any in-kind contributions which have been secured or are being sought.</i> |

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Landscape Research Group Evaluation and Decision

Applicants should leave this section blank

Summary of evaluation

(evaluator to briefly summarise conclusions in relation to the six funding criteria):

1. Alignment with the 2026 Funding Call
2. Significance of the project
3. Credibility and deliverability of the project
4. Credibility of the applicant/project team
5. Ethical considerations
6. Financial justification

Funding decision and conditions of grant:

Signature

Date