

# Seminar Series Competition

## Further Particulars

Please read this document carefully before completing your application form (available at the Urban Studies Foundation [website](#)). Please note that the deadline for applications to the 2018 competition is **14<sup>th</sup> September 2018**.

Questions or clarifications regarding the competition can be addressed to the USF Director of Operations, Joe Shaw, at [joe.shaw@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:joe.shaw@glasgow.ac.uk)

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### 1. Overview

The Urban Studies Foundation (USF) Seminar Series Competition aims to support the generation of internationally excellent research in all areas of urban studies. In the 2018 competition, we seek to support **between 6 and 8** seminar series, in each case up to a maximum of £20,000. Applications to the Competition must be received by **14<sup>th</sup> September 2018**, and a final decision will be made by the awarding panel within eight weeks of this date.

All proposals should be capable of generating scholarly debate and dialogue that is compelling, significant, and contribute to publications of world standard. However, proposals that include non-academic actors in the programme or associated events can be included.

We welcome proposals from academics working in any country, and we expect the proposal to be of international interest in terms of its coverage and scope. Details of funded proposals from previous years are included below as an Appendix.

### 2. Application form content

*The USF expects every field in the application form to be fully completed.*

## Section 1: application information

This section should contain all the basic information and contact information for the project leader, additional team members, and the basic proposal information (title, host institution or venue, event duration, total funds requested, supporting information, referee information). Please note that the USF requires that the event take place within 18 months of approval.

## Section 2: proposal information

This section should contain a detailed outline of the proposal, with sections that cover the following aspects of the seminar series:

- A statement orienting the series theme within contemporary scholarly literature that links the proposal theme to current research debates of interest (Section 2.1).
- A detailed and clearly justified budget (Section 2.2 and 2.3) with a total requested amount in the currency of the host institutions, along with a GBP conversion where necessary. The Urban Studies Foundation cannot cover the cost of significant currency fluctuations, and applicants would be expected to adjust their budget downwards if a significant revaluation occurs between the award and the event. Please reference any additional supporting documents here, which can be included with the application if useful (including currency conversion rate).
- The format of the seminar series event(s), along with programme information (e.g. key speakers and their significance to the topic).
- The background and goals of the proposal.
- The intended participants and audience.
- A detailed feasibility and planning statement that includes an outline timetable for the event(s) organisation and which covers the role of other potential partners to the event.
- Concrete and achievable publication plans that arise directly from the event.

Overall, we expect Section 2 of the application to demonstrate the capacity of the host applicant to run the event successfully and to assume all remaining risks. We therefore expect particular attention to be paid to all sections as follows:

### **Section 2.1 and 2.5-2.7: Proposal summary, background and other supporting information:**

We expect these sections to clearly and succinctly explain why the proposed event will contribute to urban research; why the USF's funds add value; what the event objectives are; who the intended participants are; and why the applicant(s) is/are suitable and capable of delivering the proposal on time, within budget and to maximum efficacy. All sections must be completed and within the word limit, and we expect all referenced literature to be detailed in a standard bibliography, under section 2.9 of the application form.

### **Section 2.2 and 2.3: Budget and Funding**

Overall, the USF expects a detailed and justified budget as part of the application that clearly outlines why the proposed event is good value for money. Please note that we do encourage an

international exchange of ideas and support overseas travel, but these need to be fully justified and should demonstrably add value.

We expect to support reasonable travel and subsistence expenses, set up and running costs of events (room hire, secretarial support, consumables, a conference dinner and other valid conference seminar expenses, plus support for post-publication administration) including language support for those from non-English speaking backgrounds. We would not normally expect to cover speaker fees and institutional overhead recovery is not covered. We will not fund direct staff costs of the academic proposers (including daily rates).

We recognise that support for participants/speakers from the Global South might either be expensive (e.g. travel) or require other subsidies, and would consider proposals that seek to address these issues as a legitimate cost. Equally we would expect any event to charge (at most) only minimal or nominal fees for attendees, given the level of support coming from the Foundation. The event should not be regarded as a money making enterprise for your establishment. We would also welcome co-funding and sponsorship of events (but this needs to be confirmed in writing and not just an assertion of support).

We reserve the right to revise elements of budgets contained in applications. Payment would be in two stages – 67% on approval and the balance after the submission of a report on the successful completion of the event and evidenced publication plans for the academic output from the event. The amount being sought from the Urban Studies Foundation must not exceed £20,000 (and that would be inclusive of all local taxes and other hidden costs), but the overall event(s) budget might be larger if other partner contributions are forthcoming.

We also expect details of other costs (if appropriate) to explain the full budget of the proposal if funds being sought from the Urban Studies Foundation are only to meet part of the overall cost.

#### **Section 2.4: Event Format**

Applicants must explain the precise nature of the events that they will organise. We anticipate that this can encompass research seminars, colloquia and round-tables involving at least two separate events in one or more different institutions. The seminar series is not intended to be based on a single event. The events must all take place within 18 months of approval and must stay within the overall budget of £20,000. The short post-event report should also be completed within this timescale.

Preference will be afforded to proposals for new events. However, the possibility of funding continuing events or series is not excluded provided a strong case is made.

#### **Section 2.8: Publication**

There must be a credible, timely and well thought through post event publication strategy. This may include plans in the form of books, special issues in peer-reviewed journals or other meaningful and

substantial academic dissemination plans. A concise post-event summary of dissemination plans is required prior to final payment being made.

### 3. Supporting documents

As detailed above, all applicants should submit the following documentation along with a completed application form:

- A letter of support from the host institution(s) or venue(s).
- CVs of the project lead and additional team members.
- Any additional supporting documents the applicants wish to include if necessary.

### 4. Assessment

Adjudication of proposals will be carried out by a panel of at least three Urban Studies Foundation trustees. The decision of the Urban Studies Foundation will be final. Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Academic quality of the proposal and contribution to key contemporary areas of urban studies scholarship.
- Value for money.
- Feasibility and quality of dissemination strategy.
- Confidence in deliverability of the event.

We will announce the result of the competition within eight weeks of the application deadline.

*Please note that successful lead proposers from the previous year are ineligible from entering this year's competition, but can apply in subsequent years.*

### 5. What will a good proposal look like?

The aim is to encourage research that is significant and innovative in its approach to urban agendas. The proposal should therefore clearly set out what its distinctive intellectual or academic contribution consists of and how the proposed speakers and themes contribute to the event's well-specified academic objectives. In other words a good proposal should clearly answer the following questions:

- How does the proposal speak to contemporary academic developments in urban studies?
- How credible is it in terms of its ability to meet its own objectives stated in the proposal?
- How innovative and original is the proposal in terms of the current state of the art of the relevant literature?

- To what extent can the proposal if realised make a contribution at an international academic scale (e.g. publication in top international journals)?

Finally, whilst the core outputs should be published in English, the Foundation also encourages publication in other languages. The proposal should also be completed in English.

## 6. Past successful proposals

Please note that details for the most recent successful grant proposals are also available on the Urban Studies Foundation's [website](#).

### Successful Proposals 2016

#### **Reconceptualising Urban Landscapes of Work**

*Dr Darja Reuschke and Dr Carol Ekinsmyth (Universities of Southampton and Plymouth)*

#### **Polarization, Fragmentation and Resilience: Four Urban Contexts Compared**

*Professor Si-ming Li (Hong Kong Baptist University)*

#### **The Future of Urban Network Research**

*Dr Ben Derudder and Dr Zachary Neal (Universiteit Gent and Michigan State University)*

### Successful Proposals 2014

#### **Doing Global Urban Research**

*John Harrison and Michael Hoyler (Loughborough University)*

#### **The Edges of Home Ownership**

*Marietta Haffner (Delft University of Technology)*

#### **Starting from the South: Alternative Visions of Comparative Urbanism**

*Garth Myers (Trinity College, Hartford)*

### Successful Proposals\* 2012

#### ***Bearing the brunt of environmental change: understanding climate adaptation and transformation challenges in African cities***

*David Simon (Royal Holloway, University of London)*

#### **Interrogating Urban Crisis: Governance, Contestation and Critique**

*Jonathan Davies (De Montfort University)*

#### **Smart Urbanism: Utopian Vision or False Dawn?**

*Simon Marvin (Durham University)*

### Successful Proposals\* 2011

#### **Towards an emerging geography of gentrification in the global south**



*Loretta Lees (King's College London)*

**Urban revolutions in an age of global urbanism**

*Eric Sheppard (University of Minnesota)*

*\* Awards from 2011 and 2012 were funded by the Urban Studies Journal.*