

Post—Grad Community └ Interest Group

How to set up a Post-Grad Interest Group

UAL's [Post-Grad Community](#) Programme supports a growing number of issue-specific, cross-disciplinary interest groups led by postgraduate students and academics.

These groups connect creatives with shared research/practice interests across different specialisms and subject areas.

PhD students have launched interest groups in the past to coincide with exhibitions and symposiums that they have organised under the same theme. Students have also used Interest Groups as a working group towards research or a standalone event or series.

Interest Groups are a great way to build new networks at UAL for MA and PhD students with shared interests. A useful tool for finding cross-disciplinary MA students to work with on planned projects/activities, creating new audiences and ways to formally promote your practice.

To get started, the following preliminary information / outline of the anticipated activities envisioned for the group should be sent to PGCommunity@arts.ac.uk

Applications must include:

1. Primary focus of this Post-Grad interest group with as much detail as possible
2. Audience – (PhD/MA/Both/Alumni/External)
3. Initial activity to be undertaken by the group (discussion, workshop, external event visit, manifesto writing, research)
4. Listing of the core leaders for the group activities and meetings
5. Landscape image to represent the group in the [Post-Grad Interest Group Directory](#)
6. One sentence outlining key theme for listing (30 words max)
7. For its own webpage - Approx 300 words describing the Interest Group including - when the group will meet, how often they will meet, where will they meet, what the activities may include.

Get in touch!

Interest Group FAQs

How often will I need to commit to bringing the group together?

There is no maximum or minimum number of meet-ups, some interest groups can meet once a year, others three times a term or as often as every other week! This can also fluctuate depending on your workload. We do however recommend keeping your audience posted regularly on when the next meeting will be so that you don't lose interest.

Where can I run my interest group sessions

You can run session in different locations. If at a UAL campus, Post-Grad Community can assist you in booking a room. Exhibitions or artists' studios can also be interesting places to host themed conversations. You can also run your interest group remotely, create an online presence and organise video conference meetings.

Can I get funding for my interest group?

Post-Grad Community can provide you with some small funds for refreshments at your events or for tickets for visits within a limit. You can also apply for the [Post-Grad Project Fund](#) for more ambitious events.

Do I need to ask participants to read or prepare anything ahead of the meeting?

This depends on the type of interest group session you would like to run. Some follow a reading group format in which a text which has been announced well ahead is discussed as a group. Other sessions take the form of an open conversation for which no preparation is needed, or of a visit which can be freely discussed afterwards.

Can my interest group be open to students from outside UAL?

As long as you can get participants to access the building you are holding the meeting in, then non-UAL members can be part of the meetup. Post-Grad Community will not however be able to fund activities for non-UAL members.

Can I attend any interest group?

This is at the discretion of the organisers, but most interest groups are open and you do not need to attend all the sessions. You can get in touch with the organisers through their interest group webpages to get a better understanding of the group's activities and confirm your interest in attending their next session.