

## **John Rylands Research Institute Pilot Grants 2025-26**

**Application deadline: 5pm, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Applications should be e-mailed to: [research.jrril@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:research.jrril@manchester.ac.uk)**

Pilot grants are available to academic staff at The University of Manchester who wish to conduct initial and exploratory research into the Special Collections at The University of Manchester Library, which includes the collections of the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE (Race Archives and Community Engagement) Centre. The work will be funded during the 2025/26 academic year in preparation for a larger, externally funded grant bid to be held at The University of Manchester.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to cover activities directly linked to the type of research and grant preparation activity described above, including teaching buyout and the costs of hiring a research assistant. Please note: **Applicants must discuss their application with their line manager, and all requests for teaching buyout must be agreed with the respective Head of Department in advance of submitting an application.** Please liaise with your school research office to calculate costings before submission.

Guidance on the eligibility of expenses and research assistance costs is available from the Institute office: [research.jrril@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:research.jrril@manchester.ac.uk).

Successful applicants will subsequently receive support from the Institute/School grant writer to develop a larger grant application based on the research supported by the pilot grant, which must be submitted to an external grant-awarding body by an agreed date.

### **Application Process**

The completed application form should include:

- The names and affiliation of the application team with contact details for the lead applicant.
- A short summary of the relevant experience of each person involved. This can include a named research assistant if applicable (maximum 500 words total).
- Details of the intended project to include: title, start and end dates, objectives, methodology, outputs and pilot project costs.
- An outline of the sources from the UML Special Collections to be consulted.
- Future plans for the research project which must include grant capture.
- Brief up-to-date curriculum vitae and list of relevant publications (max. 2 pages per applicant).
- Applications and queries should be e-mailed to: [research.jrril@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:research.jrril@manchester.ac.uk) by the deadline.

### **What will the applicant receive?**

- A maximum of £5,000 will be awarded per application.
- Support from expert curators, conservators and imaging specialists.
- Support from the Institute grant writer.

**What will the Institute expect from the applicant?**

- A short blog post at the end of the project
- Contribution to a work-in-progress seminar series (dates TBC)
- All awarded Pilot Grant funding must be spent before **31 July 2026** and all claim forms must also be submitted to the grant holder's research or administrative office by this date.
- All grant holders must submit an application for further grant funding based on the research supported by the pilot grant to an external grant-awarding body by an agreed date.

The significance and scope of The University of Manchester Special Collections is extensive. We advise applicants to consult the [Guide to Special Collections](#) and the searchable [A-Z](#) on The University of Manchester Library website for more information on our holdings.

We also **strongly recommend** that applicants get in touch with relevant curators early on in the application planning process, especially if they are unfamiliar with the collections. Information about curators and their subject specialisms can be found on the [John Rylands Research Institute and Library website](#), and Institute staff are also happy to be approached for advice.

Pre-application advice is also available from:

Professor Guyda Armstrong, Director of the John Rylands Research Institute:  
[guyda.armstrong@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:guyda.armstrong@manchester.ac.uk), and the JRRI Research Facilitator, Guilherme Moreira Fians:  
[guilherme.fians@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:guilherme.fians@manchester.ac.uk).