***Call for Proposals, Design Collaborators and Panel Members***

[**Office for Students Funding competition**](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/improving-access-and-participation-for-minority-ethnic-groups-in-pgr-study/)**: To improve access and participation for  
Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in postgraduate research study**

Loughborough University is seeking internal proposals for interventions to increase access and participation for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Students in post-graduate research, volunteers to collaborate on the design of an existing proposal, and volunteers to participate on a panel that will evaluate and select the proposal(s) that are taken forward and developed by a collaborative team that includes the proposer(s), the Doctoral College, the BAME Staff Network, LSU and the emerging LSU BAME Student Council.

This call for participants is **open to any members of staff and PGR students** who have an interest in taking an anti-racist, structural approach to supporting and encouraging BAME students into PGR study. We have **two opportunities available** for all LU academic (RTE, SSAT, and PGR students) and student support staff and **one opportunity** available to all LU staff, students and LSU committee members.

Individuals are welcome to express their interest in contributing either or both 1) or 2), but as we wish the panel to be independent of the proposers please only express interest for 3) if you are not also proposing an intervention or collaboration.

1. **Proposals:** this call seeks proposals for interventions to increase the numbers and improve the experiences of BAME PGRs. We are open primarily to suggestions that avoid the ‘deficit model’ that assumes BAME undergraduates or PhD students need to adapt themselves to better fit university norms. Instead, we encourage proposals that think ‘outside the box’, holistically consider the challenges experienced by BAME students along the student journey from UG to PGR study, engage and amplify the work of BAME-led partner organisations, and include attention towards creating or improving structural support mechanisms for BAME PGRs.
2. **Design collaborators:** this call seeks collaborators on a project centring around BAME undergraduate student research internships being led by Aston University, and will require collaborators to design and lead the LU work packages, including student consultation and local intervention design.
3. **Panel members:** we are seeking a panel of 5-7 members to review the calls in 1) and 2) and select which will proceed with university support. We hope for this panel to be composed of 50% BAME people and 50% women/non-binary people, and to include non-researchers, students, and LSU officers. This panel will be selected by a cross section of university leaders, including the PVC-R, A-PVC for Doctoral College, the BAME Staff Network, LSU and emerging LSU BAME Student Council.

Please express your interest for the above as follows, by the dates specified:

1. **Proposals. Complete the attached pro-forma and send** **to** [**j.r.hill@lboro.ac.uk**](mailto:j.r.hill@lboro.ac.uk) **by 4.00pm on 26 Feb 2021** of your proposed project, including its title, how and at which stage of the student journey it will increase student access, participation, and improve experiences of study, and rough costings outline. The available budget for the project is £400,000. You are welcome to team up with colleague(s) or PGR students as co-proposers.

Where relevant, please indicate the specific group within the BAME heading you wish to support (e.g. Black British home students, women or non-binary students from a particular underrepresented racial or ethnic background). The call is limited to UK domiciled students.

1. **Collaborators.** **Contact** [**j.r.hill@lboro.ac.uk**](mailto:j.r.hill@lboro.ac.uk) **by 19 Feb 2021 to express interest**, including your general availability for the next month, and we will organise a call to discuss the current proposal in more detail so you can consider how you might collaborate.
2. **Panel members**. **Contact** [**j.r.hill@lboro.ac.uk**](mailto:j.r.hill@lboro.ac.uk) **by 19 Feb 2021 to express interest,** with your name, your current role or area of study, and a short blurb about yourself and the experience you have that would help you to identify a strong proposal.

**For an informal discussion of any of the above, please contact:** [**e.peel@lboro.ac.uk**](mailto:e.peel@lboro.ac.uk) **(Doctoral College) or** [**a.dy@lboro.ac.uk**](mailto:a.dy@lboro.ac.uk) **(BAME Staff Network)**

**Proposal for Intervention(s) to Increase Access and Participation for  
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Students in Post-Graduate Research (PGR)**

Proposals are sought from colleagues at Loughborough University for ways to address Research England and the Office for Students (OfS) funding competition to increase BAME PGR access and participation, as described in [this call](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/improving-access-and-participation-for-minority-ethnic-groups-in-pgr-study/). These proposals will go through an internal selection process. If internally successful, proposers would be named Institutional Lead(s) of the LU bid, would compose the bid draft, and consult relevant students, with support. The OfS application deadline is 27 May 2021. If successful with the OfS, the project would have the institutional support of the PVC-R, Doctoral College, BAME Staff Network and LSU.

Please send completed proposal forms to [j.r.hill@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:j.r.hill@lboro.ac.uk) **by 4.00pm on 26th February 2021.** Please **do not provide more than the 2 pages** provided in this form, and keep existing margins and font (Calibri 11).

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| **Your project title** |
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| **Details for lead proposer at Loughborough University** | |
| Title and name: |  |
| School/Department: |  |
| Job family (e.g. RTE, SSA, PGR): |  |
| Email address: |  |

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| **Details for co-proposer** | |
| Title and name: |  |
| School/Department: |  |
| Job family (e.g. RTE, SSA, PGR): |  |

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| **Additional co-proposers** | |
| Tick to indicate any additional proposers and provide details on a separate sheet |  |

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| **Tick one or more box to indicate which aspects of the BAME student lifecycle will be addressed by your proposal:** | |
| i. Improving access (the number of students applying for and entering into PG research) |  |
| ii. Improving and enhancing the PGR student experience |  |
| iii. Diversifying and improving routes into research and teaching careers |  |

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| **Project costs** |
| In a few sentences, please indicate the type and scale of staff and non-staff costs envisaged.  Please note: The available budget for the project is £400,000 from Research England and the OfS, in addition to internal match funding required from Loughborough University in the form of cash investment or investment in kind. |
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| **Project description** |
| Briefly describe your project aims and objectives. Please focus upon how the project will deliver practical outcomes for PGR students, including increased student access, improved participation, and/or improved study experiences, and share any evidence and/or information upon which you are basing your proposed plan of action. Projects will be judged based on the following: 1) their fit with [OfS assessment criteria](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/71320e74-e548-47de-852d-59db8fe2e5dd/pgr-funding-call-bidding-guidance-updated-jan2021.pdf), 2) taking an approach that assumes it is institutions, rather than BAME students, that need ‘fixing’, and 3) working with relevant expert partners to expand activities at Loughborough, or in domains of activity of particular relevance to Loughborough University. |
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