# Friends of Aberdeen University Library Research Awards (2024)

**Funded by the Friends of Aberdeen University Library**

#### ‘Open to All and Dedicated to the Pursuit of Truth in the Service of Others’

Anyone who would like to carry out innovative research using the rare and distinctive archive, library and museum collections cared for by the University of Aberdeen can apply for a Research Award.

The awards are funded by the Friends of Aberdeen University Library and administered by Museums and Special Collections.

The rich and diverse collections at the University of Aberdeen include over 230 000 rare books, 5000 archive collections and 300 000 museum items. For details, see [www.abdn.ac.uk/collections](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/collections) especially the ‘Study the Collections’ section. Other library resources can be found at [www.abdn.ac.uk/library](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library).

People who receive Research Awards will have access to the collections and associated research facilities, and will also contribute to the outreach activities of the Friends of Aberdeen University Library and Museums and Special Collections.

Application budgets should not normally not exceed £2000, although in exceptional cases awards of up to £3000 can be made. While in the past awards have focused on travel and accommodation for an individual person, we are also looking for projects that might have a lesser environmental impact, interdisciplinary projects, analytical work, projects with public engagement proposals and those that increase accessibility. Applications for creative, practice-based, or community-engaged forms of research, as well as traditional research, are welcome.

We warmly encourage applications from researchers from a diverse range of backgrounds, and applications will be anonymized before the selection process. A Research Award cannot be held concurrently with a FAUL Postgraduate Research Bursary.

When preparing an application, applicants are strongly advised to contact Museums & Special Collections staff at least two weeks before the deadline to discuss the feasibility of the application, including aspects such as access to specific materials and proposed public work, using the email address [uoacollections@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:uoacollections@abdn.ac.uk)

Please ensure that your research proposal has addressed any potential issues of ethical concern.

Applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of representatives of Museums and Special Collections and the Library (both University of Aberdeen) and the Friends of Aberdeen University Library, along with additional experts as appropriate. Under certain circumstances, the panel may request further information from applicants before making its decision. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their applications by email.

The following criteria will normally be considered by the panel when assessing applications:

* The research quality of the project.
* The extent to which the project connects with or necessitates use of the university’s library and museum, archive and rare book collections.
* The nature and clarity of any proposed outputs and future plans for the project.
* The credibility of the budget and costing as well as the extent to which the specific expenditure proposed is of an appropriate type and amount.
* The extent to which the project is logistically credible for the application and university.
* The nature, credibility and potential impact of the proposed contribution to the Aberdeen community, which can include the public and/or the research community of the University.
* The extent to which there is other support available to the project at this stage, whether or not that support has already been attained or sought.

If there are more applications that are judged to be of a high quality according to the criteria above than can be funded, random selection will be used to make final decisions.

We warmly encourage applications from researchers from a diverse range of backgrounds, and applications will be anonymized before the selection process. Please do not include any information below which would reveal the gender of the applicant.

Applications will be treated as confidential by the panel. However, the details of successful projects (including the names of successful applicants) will be advertised on the University’s websites as well as distributed to third parties, which may include the media. Submission of the application form will be interpreted as acceptance of the holding and processing of application and personal data for the purposes of processing applications and awards. Acceptance of any award will be interpreted as acceptance of the holding, processing and sharing of necessary and appropriate data only publicly for publicity, marketing and advertising purposes. All decisions of the panel will be final. Applicants will be informed of the decision by email.

Please get in touch with uoacollections@abdn.ac.uk if you would like to ask anything about the questions below, or would like to provide the information below in an alternative format.

##### Project Title

##### Name of Applicant (initials plus surname)

##### Co-Applicant(s) (if any)

##### Estimated duration and (if known) dates of visit(s)

##### Total Cost

##### Brief Description of the project which should be open to circulating to third parties (up to 100 words).

##### Full description, including research context, research questions, importance of research to academic and/or other audiences, any associated partnerships or networks, necessity of access to materials, indicative list of items to be used, any ethical considerations (up to 1000 words)

##### Project Timetable (up to 200 words)

##### Impact and outcomes (up to 200 words)

##### Intended contribution to Aberdeen community, such as provision of event during visit or longer-term collaboration (up to 200 words)

### Budget (add lines as required)

##### Staff

##### Conference

##### Exhibitions

##### Travel

##### Accommodation

##### Other

##### Total

### Other sources of support (add lines as required)

##### Funding source

##### Value requested

##### Purpose of award

##### Value received

##### Total

Please note that expenditure will be claimed per the University’s expenses and benefits policy.

[Expenses & Benefits Policy October 2022 (abdn.ac.uk)](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/documents/finance-policies-and-procedures/Expenses_Benefits_Policy_Oct2022.pdf)

Please submit application forms by e-mail to **specialcollections@abdn.ac.uk** by the **end of Friday 15th March 2024**.