



# Climate Policy Creative Fellowship

## Overview

The Climate Policy Creative Fellowship is an experimental programme supporting storytellers to develop skills to help policymakers. This interdisciplinary collaboration will explore how more compelling narratives could enable policymakers to take better decisions on climate change and communicate them to the public.

## Who is this for?

- Creative storytellers e.g., working in theatre, poetry, prose, film, television, podcasts, games, creative agencies, social purpose campaigning organisations. Your work is English language based and could be factual or fictional. You might call yourself a writer or a director or a designer or something else.
- People with ‘experience and a developed sense of their own practice’. What does this mean? If you’ve just graduated or started making work, this probably isn’t for you. You’ve probably been working in your field for 5-10 years and done a decent handful of projects. You’re not panicked by the idea of coming up with ideas and collaborating interdisciplinarily.
- People who are interested in exploring what it means to use their skills in an instrumental way, to help policy-makers. We get that it can be annoying when artists and creative people are expected to use their skills to fix all the problems of the world. If you’ve had enough of that, this Fellowship is probably not for you. If you’re excited by the idea of finding creative ways to engage audiences with complex subjects in a less purely artistic sense, read on.
- People with an interest in working in the climate space - but you don’t need previous experience of projects related to this.
- People who can travel to in-person sessions in London on the dates below.

## Dates

Please read these carefully and ensure that you can make all the dates before applying.

Applications open for expression of interest	Mon 12 August 2024, 9.00
Applications close for expression of interest	Weds 28 August 2024, 17.00
Interviews (online)	Tues 3 & Weds 4 September 2024
Shortlisted participants invited to attend final round workshop	Fri 6 September 2024

Final round workshop (central London)	Weds 25 September 2024, 10.00 - 16.00
Announcement of Fellows	Weds 2 October 2024
Workshop 1 (central London)	Weds 20 November 2024, 10.00 - 16.00
Workshop 2 (online)	Weds 27 November 2024, 10.00 - 16.00
Workshop 3 (central London)	Weds 4 December 2024, 10.00 - 16.00
Workshop 4 (online)	Weds 11 December 2024, 10.00 - 16.00
Workshop 5 (central London)	Weds 8 January 2025, 10.00 - 16.00
Workshop 6 (tbc)	Weds 15 January 2025, 10.00 - 16.00
Workshop 7 (central London)	Weds 22 January 2025, 10.00 - 16.00

## Fee

All participants invited to attend the introductory workshop will be paid an honorarium of £100.

Selected Fellows will be paid a fee of £1750, split into 2 instalments. (This is calculated as a day rate of £250, attending 7 days of workshops).

Support with travel costs will be available for Fellows based outside London.

Support with access costs will be available.

## Programme information

*Why does this programme exist?*

Policy action in response to climate change is not keeping up with the risks posed by climate change. There are lots of reasons for this but one of them is that climate risk information produced by scientists could be communicated in a way that is more helpful for decision-makers in the policy community.

This programme responds to the need for science, arts and policy communities to collaborate on dynamic strategies for decision-making in response to climate risk.

*How is this different from all the other 'artists/ creatives and climate change' schemes that already exist?*

As we know, practitioners in the creative storytelling community create compelling narratives which help audiences make meaningful connections between ideas and their experiences.

For the most part, this expertise is brought to bear when trying to help *public* audiences become more engaged in the climate crisis. This programme explores what it means to apply this skill set in a different context: to help *policy* audiences engage with climate risk information that could improve their decisions.

This could include storytellers communicating risk information, produced by the science community, in ways that are more useable for policymakers. It could also include storytellers creating compelling narratives out of *how* policymakers could or should make decisions about climate change, in ways that can improve the process of decision-making itself. This is the pilot edition of an experimental programme so we are also open to unexpected outcomes.

*Who is running and paying for the programme?*

The programme is supported by the [Strategic Climate Risks Initiative](#), a new organisation helping governments and institutions face up to the worsening risks of climate change. It is run by [UCL's Climate Action Unit](#), who use insights from neuroscience and psychology to explore the people-problems of climate change and how to overcome them. It is co-run by [Fast Familiar](#), a digital story studio who work interdisciplinarily in the climate space.

*What will happen?*

The first part of the programme is about exploring. You'll attend a series of workshops, some online and some in-person. You'll learn about the system we're working to change, e.g. how the science community communicates information; how the policy community makes decisions; how our brains process risks. That might take the form of workshops, talks by experts or something else.

You'll take part in creative tasks to explore different responses to what you're learning about. Sometimes you'll be asked to collaborate with another Fellow, sometimes you might be asked to try working in a form or medium that you're less familiar with.

In the second part of the programme, you'll start to work towards one idea and develop this in more depth. You might choose to work on your own or with another Fellow.

At the end of the programme, there will be some kind of presentation of these ideas.

*What will be asked of me?*

You'll be expected to show up to all the sessions and participate actively. This might mean discussing things, doing tasks, responding to a provocation.

There is no expectation of you needing to do related work between the sessions before Christmas. As we come closer to the end of the programme, realistically you might end up doing some work between sessions, but we recognise that you're not being paid for this time so we'll try to minimise it.

You'll be expected to collaborate with other people, provide constructive feedback, critique systems, come up with alternatives, articulate what you need, deliver on time.

*What happens to ideas that I might come up with during the programme?*

You own them. At the end of the programme they are yours to develop. If you collaborate with someone else, you'll need to figure out between yourselves how that works.

*Can I participate in all the sessions online, because I'm based somewhere far from London?*

No. Sorry. We think there's a benefit to sharing physical space with other people so for this first iteration of the programme we are going to insist on in-person attendance.

## How to apply

There are three stages of selection for the Fellowship.

### 1. **Expression of interest.**

This is due by Weds 28 August 2024, 17.00. We recognise that everyone is very busy so please please do not spend ages on this. It's just your contact details plus 3 questions (max 1250 characters each), which are:

- Tell us about a project you've done that you're proud of.  
*What was it, what makes you proud of it, (how) is it representative of what you do, what was different after it.*
- Tell us about a project you've done that has tried to change something in the world.  
*It doesn't matter if you feel like it succeeded or failed. What was it, how did you go about making it, what did you learn during the process, how did it change your practice.*
- Where are you at with climate change and how the arts and creative industries deal with it?  
*Please be honest - it's totally legit to feel terrified, frustrated, alienated, energised, like no one is listening to your opinion, like you don't know enough to have an opinion.*

There's a form [here](#) for you to enter your answers. If you have any questions, you can email [climateactionunit@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:climateactionunit@ucl.ac.uk).

### 2. **Interview (online).**

These short conversations will take place on Tues 3 and Weds 4 September. You will be sent a list of questions and/ or things we'll talk about ahead of time.

### 3. **Final round workshop (in person, in London).**

This will take place on Weds 25 September. We'll let you know if you've been invited to take part in this by Friday 6 September, so hopefully that will give you enough time to make arrangements and sort any diary clashes. You'll be paid an honorarium of £100 for attending the workshop.