**PILOT GRANTS 2017/18**

**Application deadline 5pm, Friday 20 April 2018**

**Applications should be emailed to: jrri@manchester.ac.uk**

**Overview**

The John Rylands Research Institute promotes research activities linked to the University of Manchester Library’s world-leading Special Collections, which contain materials in several hundred languages, and on virtually every medium - from papyrus to pixels. We hold some of the most significant printed books and manuscripts ever produced alongside unique archive collections, maps and visual material documenting a wealth of cultural, literary, historical, political and religious traditions from around the world. Though these collections are breath-taking in their importance and their range, they have been little explored. This provides a huge potential for new and important research of the highest quality, learning at all levels and extensive and wide-reaching public engagement collections-based research.

**Pilot Grants**

Pilot grants are available to academic and Library staff at The University of Manchester who wish to conduct initial and exploratory research into the Special Collections at The University of Manchester Library in preparation for a larger, externally funded grant bid that would be held at the University of Manchester.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to cover any activities directly linked to the type of research and grant preparation described above. Possible uses of pilot grants include employing a research assistant and supporting teaching buyouts. Applications for pilot grants can be made by individuals or groups.

Please ask the JRRI office if you are unsure about the eligibility of other forms of expense. If you require any help calculating costings, please contact your own research or administrative office **by Tuesday 20 March**. Applicants working with the Research Office are required to complete a costings and research approval form **by Wednesday 18 April**.

All applications are assessed by the Institute Directors in consultation with curators. The successful applicant will receive support from the Institute/School Grant Writer to apply for the follow-on funding based on the research supported by the pilot grant, which must be submitted to a grant awarding body by an agreed date.

Pre-application advice is available from:

* The Manager of the JRRI, Sarah May: sarah.may@manchester.ac.uk
* The Director of the JRRI, Hannah Barker: hannah.barker@manchester.ac.uk
* The JRRI grant writer, Chloe Jeffries: chloe.jeffries@manchester.ac.uk

Advice on the UML Special Collections can also be directed to either of the Joint Heads of Special Collections:

* Stella Halkyard: stella.halkyard@manchester.ac.uk
* John Hodgson: john.hodgson@manchester.ac.uk

**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 (maximum 500 words).
* 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 each).
* Applications and queries should be e-mailed to: jrri@manchester.ac.uk

**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?**

* All awarded Pilot Grant funding must be spent before **31 July 2019** and claim forms must also be submitted to the grant holder’s research or administrative office by this date.
* All grant holders must produce a report at the end of their project.
* All grant holders must submit an application for follow-on funding based on the research supported by the pilot grant to an external grant awarding body by an agreed date.