

ICS Strategy for Network Activity

The ICS, like other SAS institutes and SAS itself, benefits enormously through working in partnerships of various kinds.

Our oldest partnership is the cooperation with the Hellenic and Roman Societies in running the Combined Library. We currently run joint lecture programmes with the British Schools at Athens and at Rome; have participated in research projects run by the British Museum; and have just run a public event jointly with the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. SAS is itself part of the LAHP doctoral partnership with KCL and UCL, and runs the Being Human festival in consort with the British Academy, the AHRC and the Wellcome Trust. We anticipate that working in partnerships will continue to be a key means of carrying out our national mission to promote and facilitate research in Classics and related disciplines.

Currently ICS is a member of a large number of networks (between 15 and 20 at the latest count). These vary a good deal in their activity, scale and nature. They also vary in their cost to the ICS and in the value they return. Some activities currently reported as networks are probably better classified as research projects.

The ICS's RPF committee has reviewed our network activity and agreed that with effect from 1st August 2016 all existing networks should cease or seek to be renewed as partnerships. The ICS aims to focus on fewer, but closer and more effective, networks which will contribute to the research strategy of the Institute, ideally by promoting innovative and interdisciplinary research in Classical subjects.

The criteria against which existing networks will be assessed for renewal (or new networks will be considered) are as follows:

1. A network should have clear objectives, with specific goals identified that could be achieved within a timeframe of no more than 5 years. Those goals might be to conduct, facilitate or promote particular programmes of research, and/or to disseminate their results and so increase public understanding of research in the Classics. A network should have the potential to support larger research-grant applications.
2. All parties to a network should make regular contributions to it.
3. Potential network partners might be within or outside the UK, might be large metropolitan institutions such as the British Museum, or smaller organizations within the GLAM sector.
4. The ICS will not enter into any network unless it is able to be an active participant in its work, whether through the contribution of ICS staff or fellows, or through the use of resources provided by the ICS.

Applications should include an account of their planned activities with an indicative budget, and should show how they cohere with the research strategy of the ICS and how their activities might form the basis for longer term external funding.

Successful applicants will be required to provide a brief report each year describing activity in the preceding 12 months, and also a financial statement. The ICS may use these reports for internal reporting and in blog posts and the like. Networks may be terminated early if these reports are not judged satisfactory by the ICS RPF committee.