



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

Research & Knowledge Exchange



Inspiring innovative
directions for art forms and
developing relationships
with the world.

[rcs.ac.uk/
research](https://rcs.ac.uk/research)

Key:

-  Staff
-  Undergraduate Students
-  Postgraduate Students
-  Alumni
-  General Public



Researcher, Dr Bethany Whiteside dances with participants of Dance for Parkinson's at Scottish Ballet.



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Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

Research & Knowledge Exchange at the Conservatoire is about inspiring innovative directions for our art forms and making a difference in the world.

The Conservatoire is a developing research environment, and the Research and Knowledge Exchange team takes special care to nurture excellent research and knowledge exchange projects (KE) at all stages of development. We mentor colleagues who are taking their first steps in research and knowledge exchange, while also supporting the world-leading work of our senior researchers.



A Scottish Ballet dancer with a dancer as part of the Dance for Parkinson's study led by Dr Bethany Whiteside.

The excellent students in our two doctoral programmes are central to the life of the department, but we also offer a range of other services and support to students and colleagues, and work with external partners to deliver a range of outcomes: these activities are the focus of this short guide.

We work to support staff, students, and alumni, helping to drive innovation in the creative sector. In this short guide we explain some of the ways we can support your next steps. Use the key on page 2 to find out how the Research and Knowledge Exchange team can help you.



Athenaeum Awards

The Athenaeum Awards are a funding and mentoring scheme, designed to enable the ground-breaking research and knowledge exchange being undertaken by staff at the Royal Conservatoire.



Awards up to £3,000 are available to fund or part-fund new projects led by RCS staff members. This can include funding for:

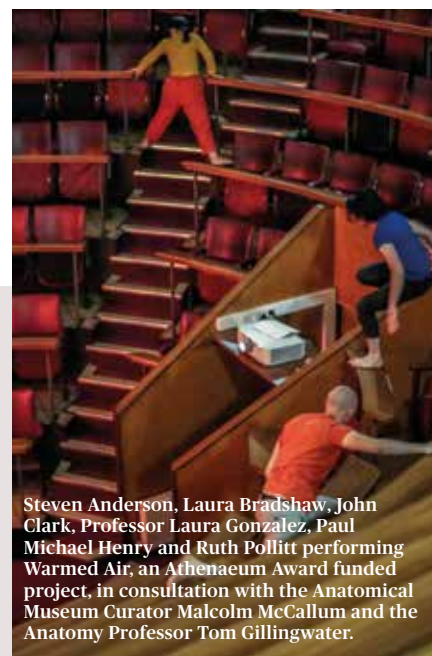
- Kick-starting projects with new partners (including individuals, micro businesses, corporate, arts and community organisations)
- Write-up time to complete an on-going piece of research for publication or dissemination
- Participation, travel and subsistence costs towards conferences and performances

Proposals are considered by the Research & Knowledge committee. There are Athenaeum Awards made every term.

Application deadlines are as follows:

- Wednesday 25 September 2019
- Wednesday 15 January 2020
- Wednesday 15 April 2020
- Wednesday 24 June 2020

For more information about eligibility, criteria, and all other matters relating to the awards visit the Athenaeum Award Webpage at www.rcs.ac.uk/research/athenaeum-awards



Steven Anderson, Laura Bradshaw, John Clark, Professor Laura Gonzalez, Paul Michael Henry and Ruth Pollitt performing *Warmed Air*, an Athenaeum Award funded project, in consultation with the Anatomical Museum Curator Malcolm McCallum and the Anatomy Professor Tom Gillingwater.

An Athenaeum Award funded pilot project led by Dr Marc Silberschatz and BSL interpreter and PhD candidate, Catherine King. The research explored the dramaturgy of embedded BSL interpretation within *Henry V* by William Shakespeare.





Exchange Talks

The Exchange Talks are our series of public seminars in which members of our staff, academia and the professions share their insights on art, society and the issues that impact our communities.



David Greig, playwright and Artistic Director of the Royal Lyceum, in discussion with Professor Hugh Hodgart at an Exchange Keynote.



Past Exchange Talks include:

- *Ecologies of Pain* - **Dr Sarah Hopfinger**
- *Becoming-Botanicals: an eco-erotic perspective on post-modern choreography* - **Josh Armstrong**
- *Teachers' conceptual tools in teaching free improvisation in Higher Specialist Music Education* - **Una MacGlone**
- *The Art of Education: Interdisciplinarity, Historically Informed Performance and a castrato pedagogue* - **Dr Brianna Robertson-Kirkland**

Exchange Talks are free and open to anyone who has an interest in the performing arts and wants to hear new ideas.

The Exchange Talks Plus series incorporates a live performance alongside the discussion. Most Exchange Talks take place during term time in the Fyfe Lecture Theatre on Monday evening at 6pm and the full schedule of the season's Exchange Talks can be found in the What's On Guide.

Please note that although these events are free, a ticket is required and you can book through our Box Office www.rcs.ac.uk/boxoffice

Make It Happen

Shonagh Murray (MA MT 2017) and Lydia Davidson (MA MT 2017), were chosen for a Make It Happen Fund award, to record and produce an EP for an original musical produced by their theatre company, Fearless Players.

Make It Happen is about encouraging new creative enterprise projects and supporting existing ones. With three distinct strands supporting staff, students, and alumni, we can help you develop your entrepreneurial skills, access funding, set up as a freelancer and launch a creative project or business.



Make It Happen Month

Make It Happen Month takes place annually at the Royal Conservatoire in the month of November. It's a jam-packed series of events to help you get your ideas, projects, companies, and collaborations off the ground and out into the world.

The programme includes sessions on:

- Raising money and crowd-funding
- Developing your brand and online community
- Writing funding proposals
- Pitching and selling ideas

Make It Happen Month is open and welcoming to everyone: students, staff, alumni and the general public. For updates on this year's Make It Happen Month, follow us on Twitter @RCS_TheExchange



Will Stringer (BA CPP 2018), a Make It Happen Fund Award winner, is developing a performance piece using film, interviews/soundscapes, poetic text and movement scores.

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Make It Happen Fund

Make It Happen Fund is a micro-funding initiative that gives our recent graduates access to a competitive pot of funding to help launch their ideas and bring their projects to life. We support a wide range of projects annually from all of the disciplines at the Conservatoire.

Recognizing that sourcing funding will be a major factor in all of our graduates' careers, applicants to the Make It Happen Fund receive personalised feedback at every stage of the application process. We also offer additional mentoring sessions to ensure that everyone can grow and develop throughout the process.

Applications for the Make It Happen Fund typically open on Monday 4 November 2019 and close on Wednesday 18 December 2019.

For more information visit the webpage:
www.rcs.ac.uk/make-it-happen

Emily Dias-Geoffroy (BA DFT 2017), Director of Photography, on site for Spaceship, a short film written and directed by Make It Happen Fund Award Winner, Conor McMahon (BA DFT 2017).



David Greig, playwright and Artistic Director of the Royal Lyceum, delivering an Exchange Keynote during Make It Happen Month in 2018.



Dr Oliver Searle, working with Drake Music Scotland, a microbusiness, on an Athenaeum Award Funded Project called Microscopic Dances.

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Make It Work

Make It Work is a new company engagement programme delivered in collaboration with Interface. Through the programme, we will support several projects that are led by Royal Conservatoire staff working with micro businesses across Scotland.

Its aim is to support innovative ideas and projects by connecting Royal Conservatoire staff with the micro business community in Scotland.

At its heart, Make It Work delivers on the ethos that the expertise of our staff should have an impact not only within the institution but across all of Scotland.

The programme is currently in pilot phase. To learn more visit the webpage:
www.rcs.ac.uk/research/exchange/make-it-work



BRUCE MILLAR
Graduate Fellowship



The Bruce Millar Graduate Fellowship is a memorial fund providing a unique chance for new graduates from the School of Drama, Dance, Production and Film, to receive a year of funding and support.

Scottish folk duo, Aves o' May, made up of graduates Rebecca Amphlett (MA Mus 2018) and Lucie Hendry (BMUS 2018) recorded and mastered an EP and music video with funding from the Make It Happen Fund.

A fellowship that provides more than just prize money.

The Fellowship provides a significant funding pot (up to £10,000) for exceptional graduates to develop innovative single arts, creative industries or research and development projects over a 15-month period after graduation.

All applicants will receive personalised support and feedback throughout the application process. Shortlisted applicants will receive training, take part in workshops, and have personal consultations throughout their final year of study.

The application process for the inaugural year of the Bruce Millar Graduate Fellowship will begin in December 2019, and first-round applications are due on Friday 31 January. For more information please visit the webpage: www.rcs.ac.uk/brucemillar



SHIFT

SHIFT is a partnership between the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the Glasgow School of Art and Queen Margaret University Edinburgh.



A space to consider your next steps as a professional performer and maker

SHIFT is a programme of events and vital resources available to all budding artists and performers, helping them to hone key professional and entrepreneurial skills. Primarily targeted at graduating students and recently graduated alumni, SHIFT will help ease the transition to professional life.

SHIFT Summer School is open to all RCS students and recent alumni (graduated within the last 12 months) and is an intensive development week, including workshops, project workings and creative activities.

Occasional SHIFT events will take place throughout the academic year.

For more information on SHIFT visit the webpage: www.rcs.ac.uk/research/exchange/shift



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**THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART**



Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH

SHIFT is funded by the Universities Innovation Fund.



Charlotte McKechnie (MMus 2019), delivering a pitch on her company, Opera Eos, as a Kickstart Converge Challenge Finalist 2019.



How can we help?

Stephen Roe, Production Manager at the RCS, was awarded £45,000 by the Royal Society of Edinburgh to continue developing his company, Stageport.



Business Support

Research & Knowledge Exchange can support the growth of your project or your business.

We encourage creative enterprise activity at the Royal Conservatoire by facilitating year round access to specialist business support.

This includes:

- **Intellectual property enquiries**
- **External funding**
- **Advice on business development**
- **Coaching**
- **Introductions to external partners and experts**

There are dozens of funding opportunities available for our staff, students and graduates. Our team can assist you in navigating the applications, proposals, budgets and eligibility requirements.

We also work collaboratively with several specific organisations such as:

- **Converge**
- **Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE)**
- **Cultural Enterprise Office (CEO)**
- **Interface**
- **Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE)**

If you are looking for advice and support for your project or business, get in touch with the Knowledge Exchange team to see how we can help. For enquiries please email: keadmin@rcs.ac.uk



Research Clinics

Professor Laura Gonzalez hosts quarterly Research Clinics in the Café. No appointment is required. Research Clinics are open, informal and supportive: you just bring your questions, your ideas (and perhaps some of your work) and Laura will help you to take your research to the next level.

Research Clinics normally take place monthly (during term time) from 14:30 until 16:30. Email l.gonzalez@rcs.ac.uk for more information.



Athenaeum Clinics

The Research and Knowledge Exchange team hosts Athenaeum Clinics in the Café before every Athenaeum Awards deadline. This is a chance for you to talk through your proposal and application and receive guidance. We will mentor you through the entire application process and provide feedback after the applications are complete.

Athenaeum Clinics take place one month before every Award deadline. from 14:00 until 16:00. Email exchange@rcs.ac.uk for more information.



Journal Club

Dr Emily Doolittle hosts a regular Journal Club for all doctoral students and research staff; other colleagues are warmly welcomed. Every club session is centred on a journal article and provides an opportunity for discussion with colleagues. The journal article can come from a range of disciplines and sources - it can be something you've written, or something interesting or important in your field, or anything you'd find useful to discuss with colleagues.

Journal Club normally takes place monthly (during term time).

Email e.doolittle@rcs.ac.uk for more information.

Creative Arts Knowledge Exchange (CAKE)

These sessions are a low-key way to meet colleagues and to learn about their research, their practice and their teaching. Every session is led by a staff member and focused on a particular strand of research. We recognize that often the most fruitful partnerships and research relationships in the Conservatoire are born out of unexpected encounters and the CAKE sessions are designed to help those happen.

If you are interested in attending or finding out more, please contact exchange@rcs.ac.uk

CAKE sessions will take place on the following dates:

- Thursday 7 November 2019 at 16:00 in the Boardroom
- Thursday 26 March 2020 at 16:00 in the Boardroom
- Thursday 18 June 2020 at 16:00 in the Boardroom





Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee is responsible for reviewing the research of staff and students to safeguard the dignity, rights, and well-being of research participants, and advise on other matters of ethics, including the ethics of performance. Ethical approval is required before research involving participants can take place. Convened by Professor Stephen Broad, the committee is made up of staff with relevant expertise and is a vital part of our commitment to research integrity, ensuring that high ethical standards underpin all our research. Applicants receive feedback from the committee to assist them in developing research that meets high ethical standards.

For any questions relating to ethics, or to submit an application for ethical approval, please email ethics@rcs.ac.uk



Sciences, Humanities and Arts Research Exchange (SHARE)

SHARE is an initiative to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration between staff at the Conservatoire and the University of St Andrews. SHARE supports staff by helping to identify cross-institutional partnership opportunities, to develop the relationship and outcomes and to seek external funding. SHARE can help to facilitate co-supervised PhDs, collaborative concerts, seminars and research projects.

If you are interested in collaborating with colleagues at the University of St. Andrews or learning more about SHARE please contact Dr Emily Doolittle at e.doolittle@rcs.ac.uk



University of
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Alex South, a PhD candidate studying humpback whale song, co-supervised by RCS and the University of St Andrews, performing at The Bell Pettigrew Museum, in St Andrews.





Consultancy and Research Partnerships

Staff at the Conservatoire represent a wide range of expertise from across all creative arts and industries. We are always looking for ways to engage with our local, national, and international communities and share our expertise. Working with staff at the Conservatoire is an opportunity for external partners from all sectors to access new perspectives and utilise the academic expertise available.

There are a number of mutual benefits garnered by a long-term or short-term collaboration between the Conservatoire and external partners. Collaboration and consultancy allows the partner to access research skills and expertise not readily available in their organisation, while also providing a unique environment and unprecedented access for the academic expert to contribute to new areas of research and development.

Any enquiries about consultancy and partnerships should be sent to keadmin@rcs.ac.uk

SCOTTISH BALLET

Scottish Ballet Research Partnership

Since 2015, Dr Bethany Whiteside has partnered with Scottish Ballet to evaluate and research a diverse series of engagement projects and programmes.

These include:

- **Dancers' Education Group** (working directly with company dancers who aspire to be dance educators)
- **The Close** (working with vulnerable at-risk young people)
- **Dance for Parkinson's Scotland** (run in conjunction with Dance Base, Edinburgh)
- **Time to Dance** (Dance for Dementia)
- **Elevate** (Dance for Multiple Sclerosis)

The partnership began as one singular and short-term project but grew and developed as both partners realised the value of building on the researcher's familiarity and understanding of the company and shared values of collaboration, creativity, and dignity within research and engagement. This has led to additional benefits and outputs for both partners.



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



What's Going On Now? Report

What's Going On Now? is a major examination of music education and youth music making in Scotland. The research was commissioned by Creative Scotland on behalf of the Music Education Partnership Group, a consortium that includes wide representation from across Scotland's music education sector. The Conservatoire team worked with colleagues at Strathclyde to deliver a detailed study that builds on the Conservatoire's 2003 report What's Going On? - the research that initiated the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative.

What's Going On Now? explores the issues in detail, identifying key issues and making recommendations that aim to:

- **Tackle the inequalities in music education**
- **Change perceptions of music and its purpose**
- **Nurture music in schools**
- **Facilitate new experiences and opportunities**

The report was widely disseminated and reported, and will influence future policy for music education in Scotland.



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research](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/research)



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“Lab work and thesis may be the research of science, but art practice is the research of culture.”

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, speaking at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on 26 June 2019.



 RCS Research & Knowledge Exchange

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