

Seminar Competition

Application Package 2025–26

If you require this document or the form in an alternative, accessible format, then please contact the [SLSA Administrator](#).

Guidance Notes

The Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) invites submissions for its annual Seminar Competition. Awards will be made to a maximum of £4000. We are happy to fund successful seminar proposals that can realistically draw other sources of funding in addition to an SLSA award. The money can be used to support the delivery of either an individual seminar or a short conference. There are no restrictions concerning the subject matter, provided that applicants can show relevance to the socio-legal community.

Applications will not be considered where the amount of support required from the SLSA is less than £500, or where the event is targeted at staff or students of a single institution. Preference will be given to high-quality proposals from applicants who have not held an award under this competition in the last three years. The deadline for applications is **31 October 2025**.

Based on our practice over recent years, we are unlikely to fund applications:

- which are really research projects (e.g. group interviews) rather than exchange and dissemination events;
- which are submitted at too early a stage in the planning process;
- which are for more than one event;
- which are for annual or other recurring events;
- where insufficient attention has been paid to alternative or complementary sources of funding, especially from non-academic stakeholders.

As well as academic seminars and workshops, we welcome applications regarding events which have a wider significance in terms of the local or regional community in which an institution is based. This includes outreach events and engagements with non-academic organisations.

See the list of previous events on the SLSA [website](#) to see examples of events that have been funded in the past.

Terms and Conditions

- Applications will be considered only from those who are fully paid-up members (or registered as free student members) of the SLSA. Fees are payable through the members' area of the website. Contact the [SLSA Administrator](#) for queries about membership fees.
- If an applicant's fees are due during the period of the funding scheme (between November and end of February) then they will be asked to pay their future fees prior to acceptance of the application.
- Applications are encouraged from all sections of the socio-legal community, within and outside the UK, including early-career researchers.
- Joint applications are welcome and are particularly encouraged where permanent members of academic staff are partnering with precarious/unaffiliated researchers. Any such application must specify the institution to which payment should be made.
- Preference will be given to high quality proposals from applicants who have not held an award under this competition in the last three years.
- No award may be made to a member of the Board of Trustees of the SLSA.
- Grants of between £500 and £4000 will be awarded.
- Applications for partial or joint funding will be considered.
- Decisions will be communicated in early February 2026.
- All events funded through this year's competition must be scheduled for completion by the end of July 2027.
- The application must be costed in, and any award will be made in, GBP (£).
- Written confirmation of acceptance of the award must be received from the applicant(s) within 14 days of receiving notification of the offer of an award. If such confirmation is not received within 14 days, the offer will be deemed to have lapsed and the Association may thereafter offer funding to an alternative bid.
- The SLSA reserves the right to offer funding subject to the fulfilment of specified conditions. In such a case, any acceptance will become binding on the SLSA only once it is satisfied that such conditions have been or will be met.
- In all cases, it will be a condition of acceptance that the applicant(s) will undertake to provide details of their event for inclusion in the Socio-Legal Newsletter and circulation via the SLSA ebulletin. In addition applicants must submit a final report (max 350 words) of the event(s) once completed for publication in the Socio-Legal Newsletter; OR contribute a blog to the SLSA Blog (max 1000 words); OR submit a video for the SLSA YouTube channel. Applicants should liaise with the Seminar Subcommittee Chair and the Newsletter Editor about their reporting choice.
- If the above condition is not fulfilled (i.e. the applicant does not provide a final report on the event) then the SLSA will approach the applicant's institution to seek a refund of the award. Furthermore, the applicant(s) will be barred from applying for future grants until the report is provided.
- Recipients of funding will be required to acknowledge the fact of the award in any publication which stems from the event(s) funded by the award.

- Seminar Competition Committee will make an annual report to the Board about the number and quality of applications for awards and the awards actually made.

Organisation of Awards

Awards will be made by the SLSA Board. If there is any conflict of interest such that a member of the Board feels that they are unable to reach an unbiased decision about an application, they shall withdraw whilst the decision is made about that application. If, in the opinion of the SLSA Board, there are insufficient appropriate applications to justify allocating the full sum available in the fund then the Board will make only such awards as it considers appropriate.

Criteria

The Competition will be judged on the following criteria. It should not be assumed that successful applications will necessarily meet all the criteria, nor that any standardised weighting will be applied in respect of these criteria.

- **Relevance and innovation:** Applicants should identify the particular relevance of their event(s) to the socio-legal community. For this purpose, the socio-legal community may include funders and users of socio-legal research. Events which support capacity building within socio-legal research and scholarship will be particularly welcomed. This includes applications from within and outside the UK. 'Capacity building' includes activities designed to introduce socio-legal research and scholarship to new audiences, to increase awareness of new theoretical or methodological approaches within the target community, and otherwise to enhance the capacity to use, undertake or deliver socio-legal research. Applicants are encouraged to be innovative in their design and/or approach to content.
- **Access and inclusivity:** The event should be as inclusive as possible. Invitation-only events are not encouraged. Events must not be restricted exclusively to SLSA members, nor will the SLSA fund seminars, workshops or training programmes delivered to staff or students of a single department or institution.
- **Bursaries:** Applicants are encouraged to include in their budget some funds to cover travel/attendance bursaries for precarious and/or unaffiliated researchers.
- **Availability of alternative funding:** Applicants should explain briefly why alternative funding has not been sought, or considered appropriate.
- **Raising the profile of the SLSA:** Please indicate how you intend to publicise the event, and also detail how your bid incorporates opportunities to raise the profile of the SLSA (e.g., internationally, with government, policymakers, the legal professions, research funders or users of research) or to recruit new members.
- **Dissemination:** It is desirable that that the event results in or supports the publication of some paper or electronic (including multimedia) output, or other appropriate form of dissemination beyond the seminar itself.

- Equality, diversity and inclusion: When considering applications, the Committee will take EDI (equality, diversity and inclusivity) aims into account. In particular, the Committee will consider the extent to which projects represent the full diversity of the socio-legal community (e.g. in terms of applicants, invited speakers and issues the seminar will cover).

Eligible Costs

- Funds may be sought to meet travel, accommodation and reasonable per diem costs for speakers and discussants. Accommodation costs should not normally exceed £100 per night (£120 in London). Where any papers are co-authored, normally the costs of only one author will be considered eligible for support. Costs and expenses of any other attendees, including session chairs or convenors will not be considered, except that funding may be used for bursaries to support the participation of precarious and unaffiliated academics including postgraduate researchers.
- Fees or honoraria in respect of any speaker or participant, and salary or salary-related costs of the organiser or of any administrative or secretarial support person cannot be claimed.
- Other reasonable costs of the event which may be included are: catering, room hire, copying and prior circulation of papers, publicity and advertising, including postage costs. Any other items will only be considered where they are expressly identified and the applicant can make a case that such items are essential to the event.
- Awards will not be made under this scheme to fund activities that are exclusively or primarily postgraduate training events.
- The award will not fund costs for teaching buy-out, institutional overheads or profit for any institution hosting or otherwise supporting the event. The SLSA is not registered for VAT.
- The SLSA in its discretion may exclude any specific items of expenditure from the award to a successful applicant. Any such exclusion(s) will be expressly notified to the applicant at the time the award is made.

Privacy

The data supplied to the SLSA in the application process will be used solely for the purposes of processing your grant application, informing you of the outcome, and making any relevant payments. The name, institutional affiliation, amount awarded, and project title of successful applicants will be recorded on our [website](#) and in the *Socio-Legal Newsletter*. We will check the SLSA membership database for your current membership status. Our legitimate basis for processing your data under Article 6 of GDPR is the performance of a contract. Any queries or data access requests should be addressed to the [SLSA Administrator](#) in the first instance.

How to Apply

- All applications must be submitted online using the appropriate [online forms](#). These forms are available via the [SLSA Funding Schemes Page](#) and in the dropdown menu within the members' section. Applications can only be submitted by members with a registered account and who have an [active membership subscription](#).

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- The strictly enforced deadline for applications is **31 October 2025**.
- In the case of joint applications, the person applying through the online form will be treated as the lead applicant. If applicants are employed in different institutions, payment will be made to the lead applicant's institution.
- An authorised person must complete the [institutional endorsement form](#), undertaking to administer any award in accordance with that institution's approved financial procedures. The form must be uploaded as part of the application. Where an application is made by a number of individuals or a consortium, the administering institution should normally be the lead applicant's home institution.
- A voluntary statement disclosing that one or more of the applicants is employed on a precarious (non-permanent) basis or is not currently employed by an HEI may also be included. Including this voluntary disclosure will not impact your chances of being awarded funding but will help us to target extra funding to precariously employed members.

Enquiries

Any enquiries about the scheme and application process should be addressed to the [SLSA Administrator](#).