Partnerships in Learning & Teaching (PLanT) Projects Application Form 2024-2025

Reference Number (CQSD use only): 020/2024-2025

Lead student contact details

Name: (student details removed)
School: Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences
Degree programme:MSc Psychology Conversion
Year group:
Email:(student details removed)

Lead staff member contact details

Name: Dan Jones
Job title: Associate Professor
School: School of Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences
Email: dan.jones@reading.ac.uk

How did you hear about the PLanT scheme? (tick all that apply)

I have applied previously		Email from CQSD	
Staff portal		Word of mouth (staff)	x
Student Rep training session		Word of mouth (student)	
PLanT webpage		Other (please specify):	

Project title

“Psychology Film Club: bringing students together outside of the classroom”

Project team

Project team name: Psychology Film Club
Other members of the team (including students and staff) Include name, year group and degree programme of student partners
Dr. Dan Jones, Lecturer in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences Dr Stella Keramida, Associate Lecturer, Department of Film, Theatre and Television (student details removed), MSc Psychology Conversion (student details removed), MSc Psychology Conversion

Project description (maximum 700 words in total)

Please refer to the PLanT scheme criteria and PLanT Projects Funding Scheme: Guidance for Applicants when completing your application.

Describe the proposed project including the following:

Project outline, rationale and strategic alignment (Criterion 1)

What do you plan to do and why? How does your project align with local School/Department and institutional strategic priorities?

This project's aim is to bring people together, and foster community in the School of Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences. Moreover, we aim to continue learning outside of the classroom and to celebrate diversity of people and ideas via the medium of film. Additional we plan to incorporate surveys and questionnaires to understand if screenings could support the University's curriculum decolonisation efforts.

As future graduate psychologists, our interest is to improve and develop our acquired critical thinking skills and psychological knowledge. In contrast with the informational style of textbooks, we believe that film is a fantastic way of engaging narratives to connect, educate, and plant seeds for thought. Furthermore, core psychology textbooks (Personality and Individual Differences and Intelligence, John Maltby; Social Psychology, Michael Hogg, Graham Vaughan) recommend films to reflect on acquired concepts. In addition to some of the films recommended, we plan to diversify these with the addition of world cinema to enable an expansion away from the limited Western worldview. We hope with this range the opportunity for educational enhancement, and good debate, will create a fantastic learning experience for our multicultural cohort.

Storytelling is a universal and accessible teaching tool capable to communicate across physical, financial, cultural, or psychological borders. Films capture the truth of many experiences and the day-to-day aspects of the human condition. They can mirror the array of experiences that bring clients to treatment – trauma and posttraumatic distress, grief and loss, divorce and infidelity, and depression, among others.

Moreover, because the University of Reading is home to UK and international students, a movie club can be an effective way to encourage student engagement, connection, enhance feelings of inclusivity and representation, and introduce material relevant for our multicultural cohort. Both discussion and debate will be encouraged through this scheme.

If funded, we aim to celebrate the launch of this programme with a special external speaker at some point in the programme – we feel that this will increase word-of-mouth and enhance engagement and attendance. It will also act to cement it in the student calendar.

Partnership (Criterion 2)

How will students work in partnership with staff at different stages of the project?

Staff and students will work together to promote and deliver this idea. Students will be in charge of the day-to-day running of the club. Students will shortlist the screening material, introduce the film and psychological concepts, focusing on historical and cultural contexts relevant to our scope, defining list of questions and thinking points for post-screening discussions, organise the screenings (publicity, location, post-screening discussions). Staff will support with room bookings, advertising, promotion of the screenings, suggesting lists of questions for post-screening discussions. Staff with expertise in the area will also give a short talk about the topic of the film, beforehand/afterwards the screening; this may be a live talk or a recorded screening.

Impact and evaluation (Criterion 3)

What is the anticipated impact of your project on teaching and learning and/or the student learning experience and how will you measure this?
We anticipate a stronger school community. The diversity of proposed films may raise awareness of diverse perspectives, and of cultural similarities. Post screening discussions are the ideal space for active listening, sharing perspectives, and building stronger bonding between members of the community. To encourage participation, enjoyment of screenings, and collect feedback about the project value for our community we will use a sticky wall and invite attendees to voice their perspective and takeaways after each screening via written feedback forms. The forms will have questions, such as “What are you taking away from the today?” and “What did you learn today?”. Participants will answer questions via open text boxes. Attendees will be informed that their feedback (anonymous if they choose), will be used to draw lessons learned about the usefulness of the project. Enhancement of weekly psychology teaching may lead to a deeper understanding of concepts, theories, practices. After the viewing, the audience can analyse and evaluate the presentation. Bringing psychology students together through film-viewing activities, combining education with enjoyment, is a highly meaningful endeavour. Participants will be invited to share feedback about this aspect of the event. Lessons learned collected during the project will be submitted to the University, and could support future reviews of the Psychology curriculum, or University inclusion and diversity or decolonisation strategy. These aims will be assessed via surveys/questionnaires.
Word count: 675

Project start date: February 2025
Project end date: Sept 2025

Budget details

Brief outline of project activities	Activity start date and end date	Approximate costs associated with the activity. (**Note**: All claims and/or expenses need to be arranged before 30th June 2025)
Six screenings (approval depending) February to July 2025. Stage 1. Selecting films from proposed list to complete the psychology curriculum, and curriculum decolonisation strategy. Agreeing screening date. Stage 2. Publicity - Inviting students to participate. Stage 3. Screening followed-up by discussion. After each screening,	Stage 1. Select six films for screening of the proposed list. Prepare advertising and promotion plan. Prepare sticky wall. Secure space. By 30th January 2025. Stage 2. Screenings First Screening: 28th February 2025	Index cards - £6 Cork boards - £30 3 x advertising posters = £56.00 Designer roll-up eco banner (850 x 2150mm 3kg) to be presented at each event = £135.00 External speaker cost for social event (expense covers) = £100.00

participants are invited to add their anonymous views to the sticky wall. Stage 4. Final thoughts. Prepare lessons learned to share with the University.	Second Screening March 2025 Third Screening April 2025 Fourth Screening: May Fifth Screening: June Sixth Screening: July Stage 3. End of project report.	

Total funding applied for £327.00

Signature of lead student	**Signature of lead staff member**
(student details removed)	**(Dan Jones)**
Date 11.11.2024	**Date: 11/11/2024**

Applicants must convert the completed application into one pdf file and submit this electronically to Martin Wise (**m.wise@reading.ac.uk**) by 17:00 on the day of the submission deadline.