

SLSA annual seminar competition (last updated late 2020)

The SLSA invites submissions for its annual seminar competition. The fund is £2,000 and awards will be made to a maximum of £1,000 only. We are happy to fund successful seminar proposals which 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, or a series of events. There are no restrictions concerning the subject matter, provided that applicants can show relevance to the socio-legal community.

Applicants must be members of the SLSA. 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.

Based on our practice over recent years we would advise SLSA members that we are unlikely to fund applications:

- for what are really research projects (eg effectively group interviews) rather than exchange and dissemination events;
- submitted at too early a stage in the planning process;
- for more than one event; given the limits of our funding we think it preferable that only one event be applied for;
- for annual or other recurring events;
- where insufficient attention 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 organizations.

Applicants are advised to visit the list of [previous events](#) go see examples of events that have been funded in the past.

If you have any queries, contact admin@slsa.ac.uk. Closing date: **1700 GMT 21 December 2020**.

Seminar Competition Guidance

The SLSA invites applications for the annual Seminar Competition intended to support the delivery of either an individual or short series of events. The total competition fund will be £2,500 in any one year.

All applications and enquiries should be submitted to: admin@slsa.ac.uk

Applications

- must be received by **1700 GMT, Monday the 21 December 2020.**
- will be acknowledged by email (applicants are requested to provide an email address for this purpose)
- Rules and guidance for applicants are attached.

Rules and Guidance

1. Eligibility

- 1.1. Subject to para 1.2, applications will only be considered from SLSA members.
- 1.2. Where an application is made by a number of individuals, a lead applicant must be identified. All named applicants must be fully paid-up members of the SLSA at the time that the application is submitted.
- 1.3. Members of the SLSA Executive Committee are excluded from applying for the duration of their tenure on the Committee.
- 1.4. Applications will not be considered where the total amount of support sought from the SLSA is less than £500.
- 1.5. Applications for partial or joint funding will be considered (see also para 4.5).
- 1.6 Applications are encouraged from all sections of the socio-legal community, within and outside the UK, including early-career researchers.
- 1.7. Preference will be given to high quality proposals from applicants who have not held an award under this competition in the last three years.
- 1.8. All events funded through this year's competition must be scheduled for completion by the **end of July 2022**.

2. Criteria

The Competition will be judged on the following criteria (in rank order, where '2.1' is the highest). 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.

2.1. *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.

2.2. *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 for staff or students of a single department or institution.

2.3. *Availability of alternative funding*: applicants should explain briefly why alternative funding has not been sought, or considered appropriate.

2.4. *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

Association (eg, internationally, with government, policy-makers, the legal professions, research funders or users of research) or to recruit new members.

2.5. *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 those actually attending; the minimum requirement is detailed in 5.4 (below), but a greater degree of dissemination is encouraged.

3. Eligible costs

3.1. 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, where an appropriate case for support is made out, an element of funding may be used for postgraduate travel bursaries.

3.2. Fees or honoraria will not be met from the award in respect of any speaker or other participant. Salary or salary-related costs of the organiser or of any administrative or secretarial support person cannot be claimed.

3.3. 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.

3.4. Awards will not be made under this scheme to fund activities that are exclusively or primarily postgraduate training events.

3.5. The SLSA will not include in its award any element of overhead or profit for any institution hosting or otherwise supporting the event. The Association is not registered for VAT.

3.6. The Association 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.

3.7. Awards will be made to a maximum of £1,000 only.

4. Applications

4.1. There is no standard application form. Applications may be submitted by post or e-mail. Fax applications will not be accepted.

4.2. Applications must include (a) the title of the proposed event(s), (b) where there is more than one event, the number of events and the timescale of the series, (c) the themes or topics to be addressed, (d) a list of agreed speakers or an indication of those who have been approached and those who have indicated an intention to participate.

4.3. There should be a statement indicating which of the section 2 criteria (above) are met, and how.

4.4. The application must not exceed 1500 words and must be printed in a font size that is not less than 11 pt in a standard font such as Arial, Times New Roman or Verdana. The budget statement (para. 4.5) and letter of institutional support (para. 4.6) are not included within this word limit.

4.5. The application must include a clear budget statement identifying the main heads of eligible expenditure, the amount of funding sought under each head and the overall amount sought. Where any funding for the event has been obtained or applied for from another body, including the applicant's or host institution, this must be disclosed in the application.

4.6. All applications must be accompanied by a letter from an authorised person within the applicant's institution undertaking to administer any award in accordance with that institution's approved financial procedures. 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.

5. Acceptance of an award

5.1. The Association will require that written confirmation of acceptance is received from the applicant(s) within 14 days of receiving notification of the Association's offer of an award.

5.2. 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.

5.3. The Association reserves the right to offer funding subject to the fulfilment of specified conditions. In such a case any acceptance will become binding on the Association only once it is satisfied that such conditions have been or will be met.

5.4. In all cases it will be a condition of acceptance that the applicant(s) will undertake to submit a report of the event/events for publication in the Association's *Newsletter*.