



IHA Annual Conference 2026

Call for proposals to host

Irish Humanities Alliance



Call for proposals

The [Irish Humanities Alliance](#) (IHA) is an alliance of humanities researchers from 14 higher education and research institutions across the island of Ireland. The IHA works to generate public awareness of the importance of humanities teaching and research in higher education and society at large while also informing public policy in Ireland and in the EU.

The IHA remain committed to fostering an **inclusive research culture** that encompasses the **entire range of humanities disciplines** and demonstrates the breadth of Irish expertise across the humanities disciplines through its annual conference. Recent IHA conferences include [New Perspectives on Irish Cultures: Celebrating a Diverse Field](#) (UL, 2024); [Streets Ahead: Post-Pandemic Civic Spaces](#) (TU Dublin, 2022); [Exciting News! Event, Narration and Impact from Past to Present](#) (UCC, 2021); and [Border Heritage](#) (Ulster University, 2019). This year's conference [Feeding the Soul: Transnational Narratives of Food and Belonging](#) will be held at the UCD Humanities Institute (University College Dublin), 4-5 September 2025.

The Alliance is now **inviting proposals** for its 2026 annual conference. The successful applicants will propose an overall conference theme that is inter-and trans-disciplinary and **open to a broad spectrum of humanities fields**.

Eligibility

Academic staff, at all stages of their career, including early career scholars on full-time, part-time, or temporary contracts in HEIs that are **members of the IHA**. We especially welcome proposals by collective projects and proposals that involve early career researchers in the planning process.

Application Process

The successful applicants will have the opportunity to run a conference in **September 2026** under the auspices of the Alliance, **underwritten up to €3,500**. They will nominate individuals to join an IHA Steering Committee to take responsibility for organising the conference through issuing the Call for Papers, organising the programme, technical requirements, venue, and all associated arrangements.

Proposal deadline is **5pm Wednesday, 1 October 2025** and should include:

- Outline of conference theme (250 words)
- Indicative list of humanities disciplines related to the conference theme
- A draft Call for Papers (250 words)
- Names and email addresses of three individuals to serve on the steering committee

Applicants - please consider the values of equality, diversity and inclusion along with sustainable conferencing in your application.

Applications must be submitted before the deadline via [Jotform](#)

Queries may be emailed to s.tiernan@ria.ie

The IHA Executive will make a final decision on the appropriate theme for the 2026 annual conference and the Coordinator, Prof. Sonja Tiernan, will collaborate with the successful applicant on conference arrangements.

*The IHA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held during the conference and a suitable room must be available at the conference host venue to facilitate this. The AGM will be organised by the IHA Coordinator.

Further information

Irish Humanities Alliance – *Promoting the Value of the Humanities*

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Image: Salmon of Knowledge in Justin McCarthy, ed, *Irish Literature*, Vol. 8 (New York: P.F. Collier, c.1904). Public Domain.