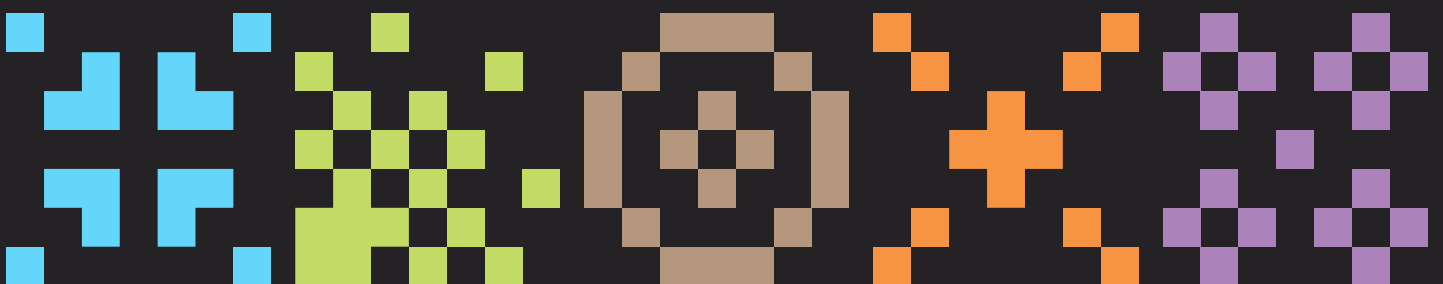




Design Fellowships Call.

Accelerating sustainable ideas
into practical applications -
balancing human needs with
environmental stewardship.

Be part of designing
the **Green** transition.



Design Fellowships.

Create design-led answers for the green transition. Engage with Future Island-Island co-investigators and partners to support purpose-led innovation in product development, sustainable tourism, education, and policymaking.

What is a Design Fellowship?

Design Fellowships are small-scale projects designed to support Future Island-Island's research, and accelerate its many pathways to impact. These are competitive awards that support a substantive design outcome.

They are opportunities to bridge the gap between research and application – bringing practical experience and innovative ideas to the table.

Who Can Apply?

We welcome Expressions of Interest from industry practitioners, academic researchers, independent consultants, and professionals working in the public sector or non-profit organisations with relevant skills and experience in our Priority Themes.

Apply [here](#)

Award Range

Awards are either £5,000 or £10,000 per Fellowship depending on scope of the assigned project.

Timeline

December 2024 - September 2025

Fellowship Framework

1. Submission of Expression of interest

2. Co-Investigator Partnering

Successful applicants will be matched with co-investigators from Future Island-Island to develop project proposals for collaboration.

3. Project Delivery

Applicants receive funding to implement their co-defined projects.

What is Future Island-Island?

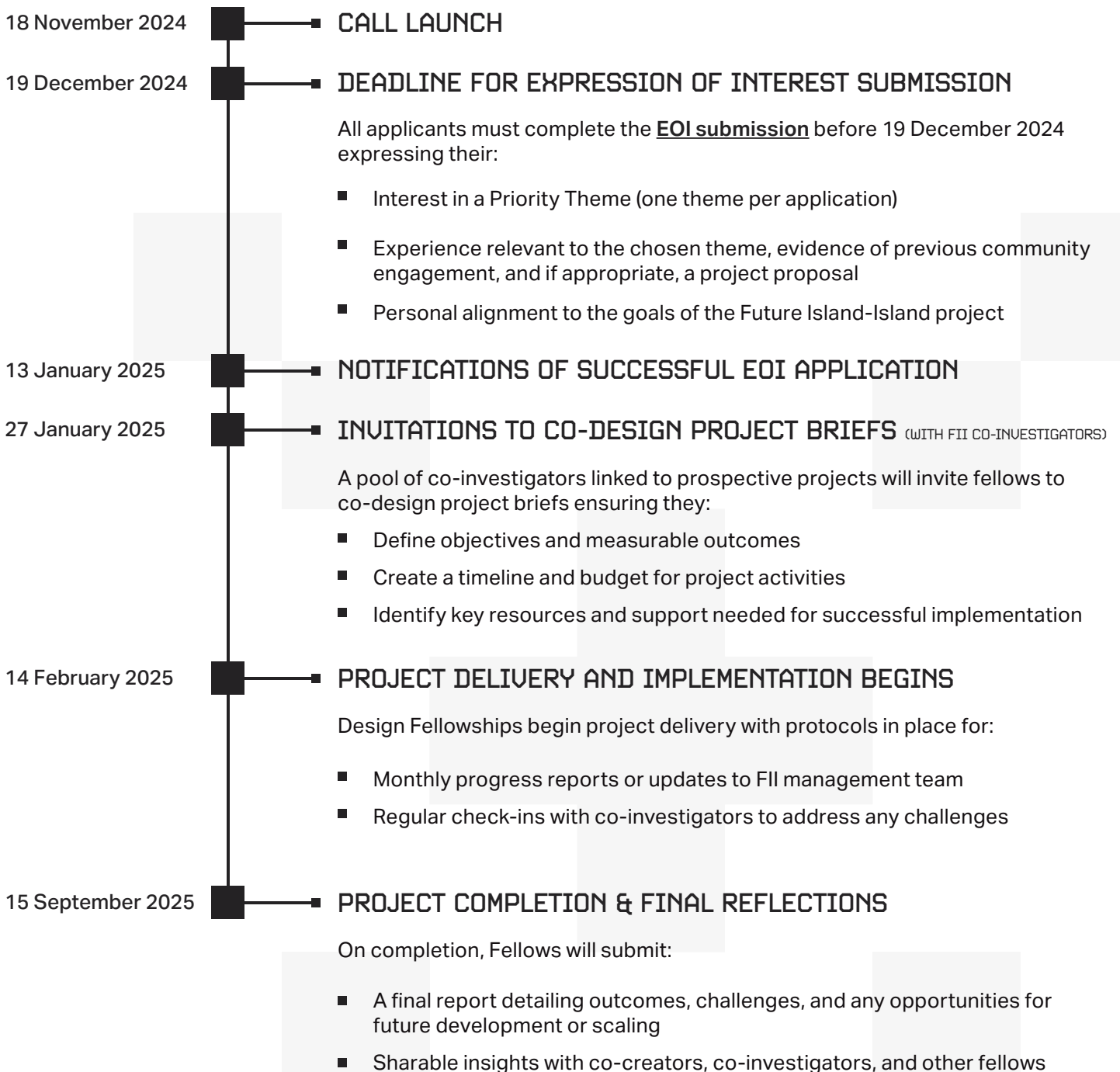
Future Island-Island is an Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project. Working with Rathlin – Northern Ireland's only populated offshore island – it explores innovative design and digital technologies to valorise waste, develop sustainable tourism, and envision new possibilities for education and green policymaking. You can find out more about this design research on the [Future Island-Island website](#) or check out our activities on [LinkedIn](#).

Priority Themes.

Work alongside Future Island-Island co-investigators and partners to develop responses to the following priority themes:

Priority Themes	Example Outcomes (though not limited to)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Circular Economy & Sustainable Product Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Valorising plastic and e-waste through innovative product and ecosystem design ■ Design processes that minimise resource consumption ■ Circular models for responsible use of recycled materials in 3D printing & manufacturing ■ Tackling marine plastic pollution through innovative design and community participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Digital Innovation for Sustainable Culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greater public engagement with sustainability issues through immersive experiences ■ Lower carbon footprints in virtual production and media industries ■ Enhanced interpretation and preservation of ecosystems and cultural heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sustainable Tourism & Recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Balanced growth in the tourism sector that preserves or regenerates local ecosystems ■ Adoption of low-impact alternatives and slow tourism practices ■ Increasing circular resource management in tourism operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community Co-Design & Civic Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community-driven sustainability responses that address local needs ■ Increased public awareness and adoption of eco-friendly behaviours ■ More equitable and inclusive sustainability efforts that benefit community members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature-Based Solutions & Ecological Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Effective use of natural processes to mitigate climate change impacts ■ Reduction of organic waste through upcycling and / or repurposing ■ Promoting pro-environmental behaviour change that benefits fragile environments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Education & Policy for Sustainable Futures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enhancing youth participation in democratic life, supporting young people to be active citizens in shaping their future, and amplifying their voices ■ Policy frameworks that support circular economies and sustainable product development or other aspects of the green transition

Design Fellowships Timeline.



Additional Information.

Green Transition Ecosystem projects are the flagship investments of Future Observatory: Design the Green Transition.

This is a £25 million collaborative programme funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and delivered in partnership with the Design Museum.

More information on the Green Transition Ecosystem programme can be found [here](#).

Future Island-Island project grant reference: AH/Y003780/1

For questions relating to the Design Fellowships Call Framework, contact: g.colhoun@ulster.ac.uk.

Expression of Interest Form

[Apply here](#)



BIGsmall

BIGMOTIVE

THE BIG IDEA

Malcolm Beattie

card

NNN NATIONAL MUSEUMS NI



PLASWIRE

TODD

YellowDesign

Evaluation Panel



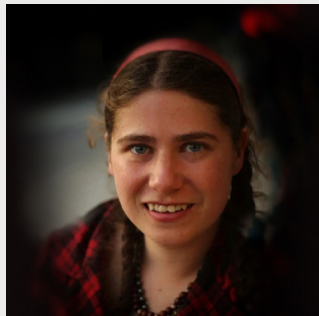
Prof Justin Magee
Principal Investigator



Dr Susann Power
Work Package 1 Co-Lead



Prof Greg Keeffe
Work Package 3 Co-Lead



Cali Plahe
Project Delivery Manager



Gillian Colhoun
Business Development Manager



Hazel Watson
Project Co-ordinator

Terms & Conditions

Competitive Expressions of Interest (EOI)

The EOI phase is competitive, and submission does not guarantee selection. EOIs are reviewed based on the fellowship's priority themes, relevant skills, and the potential to contribute meaningfully to the project's overarching goals. Only top ranked submissions will advance. During the competition, all participants are permitted to ask questions which help them better understand the challenge, themes, eligibility and/or any other aspect of the competition.

Invitation to the Fellowship Framework

Successful applicants will be invited to work with a co-investigator and explore potential projects for development; however, this does not guarantee funding or a confirmed project.

Project Development Process

Selected Fellows will collaborate with a designated co-investigator to refine potential project ideas. These will be subject to additional approval before advancing to implementation. Final approval will depend on feasibility, alignment with Future Island-Island objectives, and available resources.

Eligible Costs Covered by the Grant Award

Eligible costs include your time, consumables or materials, travel, accommodation and subsistence. Equipment costs are ineligible.

Fellowship Commitment

Fellows are expected to engage actively in the project delivery process, including regular check-ins with the co-investigator and Future Island-Island project management team.

Fellowship Participation

Fellows will receive payment on the successful delivery of the agreed project. In cases of partial delivery, Future Island-Island may issue a pro-rated payment or reimburse incurred costs.

Intellectual Property

Future Island-Island operates on an open innovation principle, where background knowledge is freely shared and any impacts that emerge are channelled to benefit the collaborating community or organisation. In all cases before the Fellowship commences, existing intellectual property required to deliver the project, known as background IP, should be clearly stated. Where no background IP exists, the open innovation principle will be fully in action. Where background IP exists, the limitations on its use must be disclosed before the start of the project and a collaboration agreement put in place to protect it and manage its use. This may involve keeping some material confidential or making users aware of its limitations. If new IP is created as part of a Fellowship, this will reside with Ulster University as a gatekeeper. This will not affect the moral rights of the creators or the use of their work for non-commercial purposes.