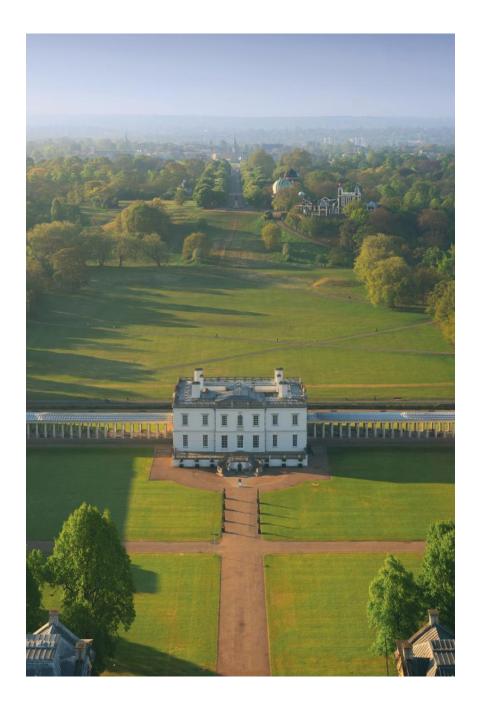# ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH

Royal Museums Greenwich
**Research Action Plan
2023–2025**

Our research vision:

A vibrant, inclusive and collaborative research culture which is responsive to public interests and contemporary societal challenges; builds knowledge and understanding of RMG sites, subjects and collections; provides compelling evidence to inform the development of RMG programmes, plans and policies; and which drives, strengthens and extends RMG's public offer.

Our research areas:

- The guiding concepts from our content strategy *Charting Our Course:* **Adversity, adaptability and habitability; Identity, diversity and community; Creativity, curiosity and ingenuity.**

- Research relating to our practice and engagement with our publics and partners.

- Research relating to our unique location(s) and architectural heritage.

- Research relating to collections documentation, management and conservation.

RMG Research Objectives	Area	Aim	Activities
1. To increase access to, public engagement with and understanding of RMG's sites, subjects and collections through research informed by the guiding concepts from our content strategy *Charting Our Course*	**Adversity, adaptability and habitability**	Use the Contemporary Maritime programme to promote research in this area	• Develop *Our Ocean Our Planet* web content • Use research to inform RMG display content (e.g. the *New Insights* gallery and Ocean Court) and public programmes, especially World Oceans Day
		Facilitate greater public access to maritime archaeology and heritage	• Actively contribute to the development and delivery of AHRC-funded initiative *Unpath'd Waters: Marine and Maritime Collections*
	Identity, diversity and community	Build the knowledge base and partnerships necessary for reinterpreting NMM's Atlantic Worlds gallery	• Develop existing partnership with UCL's The Centre for the Study of Legacies of the British Slave Trade • Develop targeted doctoral studentship / fellowship opportunities
		Increase understanding and awareness of the role of Women in Maritime	• Increase the profile of women in RMG content, including in exhibitions and displays (e.g. *Women of the RNLI*, 2024) • Collaborate with Lloyd's Register Foundation *Rewriting Women into Maritime History* initiative
		Build on learning and partnerships generated through *Exchange: Community-led Collections Research*	• Prepare a compelling application for the AHRC funding call expected in late 2023
		Raise the profile of Black and Asian people whose histories are reflected in RMG's collections	• Contribute to RMG public programmes • Catalogue associated collections assets / clear copyright status • Publish and promote a series of dedicated research guides • Prepare a book manuscript on Black, Indian Ocean and Chinese sailors (Dr Aaron Jaffer)
		Develop and test out new interpretation / research lines to promote public engagement with the *Cutty Sark* and NMM's Maritime London gallery	• Test out new *Cutty Sark* content / storylines with audiences • Research biographies of *Cutty Sark*'s crew members during the ship's British career (1870–1895)
		Direct and support relevant work by PhD students and research fellows	• Develop targeted doctoral studentship / fellowship opportunities

RMG Research Objectives	Area	Aim	Activities
Continued… **1.** To increase access to, public engagement with and understanding of RMG's sites, subjects and collections through research informed by the guiding concepts from our content strategy *Charting Our Course*	**Creativity, curiosity and ingenuity**	Ensure the knowledge base and partnerships necessary for the First Light project	• Consolidate outcomes of the AHRC networks grant (*Observatory Sites and Networks since 1780*) • Build on the success of the ROG350 Sackler Fellowships • Prepare book manuscript on a history of the ROG through its collections (Dr Louise Devoy)
		Ensure that ongoing research helps to maintain and broaden the arts-based audiences for the Queen's House	• Develop partnerships across the arts sector, nationally and internationally, to provide creative and diverse opportunities for display and programming • Undertake planning for a Queen's House publication and associated outputs; including the next 'signature' moment
		Promote the widest possible access to RMG's collections of photographs, negatives and ship plans	• Continue cataloguing and digitisation work • With Collections Services and Engagement colleagues, design analogue and digital mechanisms for engaging publics with digitised collections assets • Prepare book manuscript: Ship Plans
2. Through investment, partnership and collaboration, to build capacity for undertaking research within and beyond the organisation	**Research fellowship scheme**	Redesign RMG fellowship offer to align with organisational priorities and funding environment	• Review scheme aims, objectives, process and outcomes • Identify sources of financial support • Run online survey with previous fellowship holders • Undertake consultation with internal stakeholders • Relaunch refreshed fellowship scheme in autumn 2023, for fellowships beginning in 2024
	Doctoral studentships	Provide a supportive environment for doctoral research	• Administer CPD4 scheme including delivery of EDI Action Plan (evaluate impact thereof) • Lead REACH consortium (with partners: HRP, BFI, NT and NPG), coordinate student cohort development events and training opportunities, provide pastoral support and cultivate development opportunities • Ensure dissemination of doctoral research throughout RMG (via talks, online content, Caird Library display case) • Deliver training and support necessary to solicit strong doctoral project proposals from RMG colleagues • Build relationships with HEI sector providers of Collaborative Doctoral Awards (i.e. Doctoral Training Partnerships)

RMG Research Objectives	Area	Aim	Activities
Continued… **2.** Through investment, partnership and collaboration, to build capacity for undertaking research within and beyond the organisation	**Internal research capacity**	Build internal capacity for undertaking research	• Undertake an audit to identify research skills gaps within the RMG research community (e.g. PhD supervision, digital humanities, proposal-writing, EDI, supervisory, ethics awareness) • Develop, deliver and assess the impact of a Researcher Development Programme to address identified skills gaps • Review research resources available to staff and partners, e.g. publications, library subscriptions
	Research partnerships	Ensure effective partnerships in place to deliver RMG's research ambitions	• Undertake a survey of partnerships currently held by RMG staff with individual academics and HEIs • Identify opportunities for strategic partnerships with specific HEIs; build a road map for developing these • Explore and maximise the opportunities for wider research collaborations with REACH CDP Consortium institutional partners • Review potential partnerships with other IROs/non-IROs within cultural and heritage sector • Host series of exploratory workshops and events to 'seed' future research projects / funding applications
3. To involve a wider range of stakeholders in the development, undertaking and dissemination of research including through co-production as well as other forms of collaboration	**Collections and Research Committee**	Ensure RMG's Collections and Research Committee is best-positioned to support delivery of RMG Research Framework	• With CRC members, review remit and composition of committee; identify and agree new co-opted members
	RMG Research Community	Ensure RMG's research community represents the communities it serves	• Work with Culture& to identify strategies for increasing the diversity of RMG's Curatorial and Research team • Participate in the Culture& New Museum School Advanced Programme • Develop targeted doctoral studentship / fellowship opportunities • Use funding schemes to solicit applications from researchers from marginalised communities / backgrounds

RMG Research Objectives	Area	Aim	Activities
4. To nurture an inclusive, ethical, well-regulated and supportive research environment	**Research governance and safeguarding**	Ensure all policies and processes in place to meet best practice in research governance	Create / update the following RMG policies: • Research Ethics Code of Practice (also review need for a dedicated RMG Research Ethics Committee) • Code of Practice for the Investigation of Research Misconduct • Research Data Management Policy • Researcher Safeguarding Policy
5. To grow RMG's status and credibility as an Independent Research Organisation (IRO) and to generate research income	**Promote RMG research activity**	Provide wide-ranging opportunities for engagement with RMG-supported research	• Review existing web/digital/social media content relating to research; Develop / commission new content • Investigate viability of creating an RMG podcast series • Design and deliver a conference and seminar programme which aligns with RMG priorities • Collect outcomes and stats from RMG-supported research to support monitoring and grant applications • Support publication of research in academic contexts (journals, books, etc.)
6. To foster a shared research culture across the whole organisation	**Shared research culture**	Ensure all RMG colleagues have the opportunity to be research-active	• Build engagement with research across RMG; nominate 'research advocates' • Develop and promote opportunities to share research • Host a quarterly meeting with research advocates and members of SDG to review RMG research outcomes and ambitions