



BRADFORD 2025
UK City of Culture

Bradford 2025 Evaluation Team in partnership with University of Bradford and University of Leeds

Exciting and unique opportunity!

Callout for students and researchers to work with Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 in partnership with the University of Bradford and the University of Leeds on a wide range of interesting evaluation projects in 2025 and 2026. Projects will contribute to understanding the longer-term impacts of Bradford 2025 City of Culture.

Who?

Interested students (with supervisor or programme lead support); researchers; programme leaders

Are you interested in the impacts of City of Culture? We are looking for projects that align with your existing programme of study, or where there is voluntary interest in taking part in research and evaluation. Students can be at any level, and should speak to supervisors/tutors/programme leads. Academics running programmes are also invited to submit ideas that might contribute to their programme assignments, or to their own research. ***Note this can also feed into planning for the 2025/2026 academic year***

While not essential, we would love to see collaborations between disciplines, with partner organisations, and between the Universities of Bradford and Leeds.

You are also welcome to sign up to be a volunteer for City of Culture – volunteer roles include assisting with evaluation (and include a range of benefits, including access to events and volunteer kits!)

What?

Your project will respond to or align closely with the evaluation priorities of the Bradford 2025 Evaluation Team outlined below. For more context, please have a look at Bradford 2025's [Evaluation Strategy](#). The key evaluation questions can be found on page 28. Please note that this callout is for initial **expressions of interest** only.

When?

We welcome proposals at any time – ideally ASAP!

Expressions of interest (EOI) should be sent to evaluation@bradford2025.co.uk (please cc in k.croucher@bradford.ac.uk for Uni of Bradford staff/students), with the subject line

Student/Research Projects. EOIs will be reviewed on a fortnightly basis.

For informal questions please email evaluation@bradford2025.co.uk / k.croucher@bradford.ac.uk with the subject line Student/Research Projects

Please include in your EOI:

- Name(s) (collaborations welcome)



BRADFORD 2025

UK City of Culture

- Institution
- Email address
- Level of study/research
- Area of study
- Research area of interest
- Brief outline of proposed evaluation / project idea (max 500 words, fewer is fine)
- Supervisor / programme lead / academic support
- Please confirm your period of study and relevant deadlines (e.g. if this is proposed for a student assignment, what is the assignment deadline)

Financial support

Expenses for travel and subsistence will be paid by Bradford 2025.

Priority projects

1. What impact has Bradford 2025 had on use of green spaces and awareness of and responsibility for environmental impact?

Aligned to the above evaluation question, your project will focus on one or more of the outdoor projects in Bradford 2025's programme of events. You may wish to explore how this has affected people's connection to nature, their experiences of or attitudes to accessing and using greenspace, their perceptions of the relationship between art and nature or their awareness of human impacts (positive and negative) on the environment. Depending on your interests you may wish to focus on a particular art form (e.g. film, music), geographical location (e.g. urban parks, moorland) or community group(s).

Projects of interest include:

- Earth and Sky (Penistone Hill Country Park): May - October 2025
- Moomins (Bowling Park): May - June 2025
- Film Outdoor Screenings (Big Screen) in 4 locations: April, August, October
- Bradford on Foot: April - October 2025
- Bradford Progress: May 2025
- Wild Uplands (Penistone Hill Country Park): more details soon

2. Cultural city of sanctuary

Bradford was designated a City of Sanctuary in 2010. This year, Bradford has been awarded the title 'Cultural City of Sanctuary'. Your project will explore the extent to which Sanctuary Seekers feel included in the Bradford 2025 programme. This project is aligned to the following key evaluation questions:

- How effectively did the Bradford 2025 programme reach, reflect and represent Bradford's communities and places?
- To what extent has Bradford 2025 increased cultural engagement and participation amongst diverse communities?
- How 'inclusive' have cultural events and activities felt to participants?



BRADFORD 2025

UK City of Culture

Projects of interest include:

- Moomins installation in Cliffe Castle May - June 2025.

3. Our Patch (community engagement)

Our Patch is a year-long community engagement programme designed to build meaningful relationships with communities across the whole district through socially engaged creative practice. Your project will explore how inclusive the Our Patch programme feels to the diverse communities and areas of Bradford and what impacts it has had on participants. Depending on your interests you may wish to focus on activities where a particular art form is being used by creative practitioners, a particular geographical location(s) or specific community group(s) or communities of interest.

This project is aligned to the following key evaluation questions:

- How effectively did the Bradford 2025 programme reach, reflect and represent Bradford's communities and places?
- To what extent has Bradford 2025 increased cultural engagement and participation amongst diverse communities?
- How 'inclusive' have cultural events and activities felt to participants?

4. What impact has Bradford 2025 had on the creative academic, training and career aspirations of young people?

The Bradford 2025 Evaluation Team includes a Community Engagement and Research Fellow (CERF) who is employed by Faith in Communities and works collaboratively with the Age of Wonder (part of Born in Bradford) Qualitative Research Team as well as other partner organisations. The CERF is using a range of qualitative research methods to explore the above evaluation question and would welcome involvement from students interested in exploring this topic with particular geographic or demographic groups of young people and people from diverse backgrounds and communities.

5. Beacon

Beacon is a sustainable venue that is designed to serve as a dynamic, temporary performance space that brings cultural events into the heart of local communities. It will tour four parks across the district, spending a month at each location. The four locations are Wibsey Park, Bowling Park, Cliffe Castle and Lister Park. Beacon aims to make culture accessible to all, bridging social divides and fostering community engagement. As an exemplar of sustainable design, Beacon will also promote debate of environmental issues, encouraging communities to engage with discussions around climate change and associated challenges, sustainability, and eco-friendly urban development. By utilising various public spaces, Beacon aims to address spatial inequities, ensuring that cultural activities reach all corners of the city, not just its more affluent areas. Beacon is seen as a platform for addressing environmental and socio-cultural issues by facilitating meaningful interactions among diverse communities, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity, and promoting understanding among people from various backgrounds.



BRADFORD 2025

UK City of Culture

Your project will explore the impact of using a mobile venue to bring activities and events into local areas and communities, on cultural engagement and participation levels amongst diverse communities in Bradford. The project will aim to identify and explore localised power structures, underrepresented voices, value systems, and to develop community sensitive responses and interventions to facilitate sustainable urban transitions. Depending on your interests you may wish to focus on a particular geographical location(s) or specific community group(s) or communities of interest.

6. **International impacts** of Cities of Culture / Cultural events, e.g. does Bradford have better international connections/relationships? Has there resulted in changes such as increased capacity, knowledge sharing, partnership activities, increase in confidence in working with international partners?
7. **Audio description:** A deeper dive into the audio description components of events
8. **Analysis of Crime Data:** Supporting with the analysis of crime data for a BD2025/UoB project
9. **Alternative research or evaluation** questions will also be considered. For example: how people with specific health conditions or from different protected characteristics have experienced the City of Culture (note, some of these areas may need more advanced expertise)?; Social prescribing impacts? Deep-dive evaluations of specific projects/events/art forms.