

CLIMAVORE x Jameel at RCA Food Action Awards



Image Credit: Photo by Deniz Sabuncu

[CLIMAVORE x Jameel at RCA](#) is a research initiative that reimagines foodways for drylands and wetlands. A partnership between CLIMAVORE and Community Jameel at the RCA, it advances ecological networks to produce new knowledge and action towards spatial justice. Based in the School of Architecture, the three-year partnership has two focussed research projects, which will be complemented with these two awards to develop CLIMAVORE projects world wide.

Since the Industrial Revolution and especially after WWII, seasons have been shifting at unexpected rates, together with the food produce and harvests that are meant to follow them. Longer dry periods and more extreme monsoon-related events in central India are severely affecting grain harvest. Hotter winters in the east coast of the US deprive trees of the chill hours they require to bear stone fruit. Prolonged dry spells during the rainy season in Ghana and Ivory Coast are threatening cocoa supply in the world's top producing countries. In Europe, the first day of spring has advanced by six to eight days in the past thirty years. Wine harvests in Burgundy, France, now start in mid-August, almost a month earlier than many decades ago. Signs that once allowed us to organise life around seasons are a sign of an imminent collapse.

In the climate crisis new seasons are emerging, defined by droughts, heatwaves, polluted seas, soil infertility, movement of deserts or invasive species.

CLIMAVORE x Jameel at RCA launches the 2024 Food Action Awards inviting proposals to identify [new seasons](#) of the climate crisis and their manifestation in other geographies facing

similar conditions along the broken food chain. Proposals should include research into responses that take into consideration particular geographies, legacies and possible futures to address how we eat as humans change the climate.

This is an opportunity to connect new seasons, grounded ideas, activist networks and geographies in flux to the wider CLIMAVORE platform. Awards will allow the production of independent research to be developed on the corresponding sites; individual support and interaction with the CLIMAVORE x Jameel at RCA team; and meetings to discuss thematic and methodological aspects of the project.

The situated research awards are open to international practitioners, collectives and researchers in the areas of architecture, visual arts, food studies, farming, environmental humanities or any other related discipline. The aim is to support infrastructural prototypes, field trials, landworkers solidarity networks, BIPOC farming initiatives, queer ecologies or microclimatic environments among other strategies towards building alternative diets that benefit human and nonhuman nourishing.

—The first award, **Research Action**, is open to those with at least 5 years of practice. This award of £25,000 includes all fees and production costs.

—The second award, **Emerging Practice**, is open to recent RCA graduates (within the last 6 years). This award of £15,000 includes all fees and production costs.

Applicants are encouraged to submit a proposal that addresses their current investigations, research and explorations. Proposals should clearly identify a CLIMAVORE season, its causes, and a proposed methodology contributing to the transformation of a local or global food system. The aims, and objectives as well as the socio-economic, nature-cultural and political context in which they are based should be clearly articulated. Outputs may vary among the proposals, but strong connection to soil and water systems is highly encouraged.

This first edition of the CLIMAVORE x Jameel at RCA Food Action Awards is open to individuals and collectives from all ages and places of residence. Institutional or academic affiliation is not a requirement. We encourage practices that include multiple backgrounds and perspectives, activate multiple channels for the distribution of research outcomes, and construct a network of collaborators and other institutional contacts. Confirmed collaboration with local partners or organisations on the ground is highly desirable. The start date should be summer 2024, with completion of 12 months from the date start.

All applications will be reviewed based on their engagement with the CLIMAVORE themes and situated contemporary challenges, long-term commitment to a site and the depth of the project's investigation. Proposals that demonstrate critical and forward thinking, specificity, situatedness and a distinctive research theme and methodology are preferred.

Awardees will attend three group meetings (in person or via video calls) to be decided according to the project's location.

Selection process

Deadline for applications is **Sunday 21 April 23.59 (GMT)**

Candidates invited to interview will be informed on **Monday 13 May**

Interviews will take place via zoom on **Friday 17 May**

The members of the jury will have access to all the applications. All applications will be reviewed based on their engagement with the fellowship theme, depth of investigation, originality, connection to CLIMAVORE x Jameel at RCA's scope of work, and potential for exchange across disciplinary boundaries.

Submission requirements

Send your application to: awards@rca.ac.uk

Please send a single pdf (**max 2Mb**) using as the title your name and the research proposal, in the following format: `APPLICANTNAME_PROJECTNAME.pdf`

- 1-min video introducing yourself/yourselves.
- Project proposal including title, introduction of the site/s you are working on/with, research process and how it connects to CLIMAVORE themes, a proposed timeline and working methodology (750 words). A lead image is encouraged.
- Indicative budget for award usage. We understand that this may vary as the project evolves.
- Portfolio (max 10 images or videos with relevant URL links)
- CV (1 page with your everyday or greatest achievements)
- Contact information (full name, place of residence, email address, contact number)

Please note:

- All materials should be submitted as a single PDF including text, graphic materials and images.
- Links to videos and any required passwords should be included in the PDF.
- All applications and supplementary materials should be in English, but the project can happen in non-anglophone places.

We understand that proficiency in English may vary. We also recognise that English may not be the applicants' first or primary language. As such – even though proposals should be submitted in English – all proposals will be considered solely on the criteria specified above, regardless of English-language skills. We accept applications that have been written in other languages and translated into English using translation software. If so, please submit both the original language and English.

- See Q&A below for any further questions

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[CLIMAVORE](#) is a research platform, an agency and a movement that questions how to eat as humans change climates. New human-made “seasons” are blurring the lines between spring, summer, autumn and winter, or yearly monsoon events. Instead, periods of polluted seas, soil exhaustion or fertiliser runoff are more influential on our foodscapes. CLIMAVORE, a term coined by Cooking Sections in 2015, is a call to rethink a truly broken food system, and move beyond a carnivore, omnivore, locavore, vegetarian or vegan diet to tackle these new seasonalities, while addressing the extractive and intensive practices that lead to them. CLIMAVORE collaborates long-term with marine biologists, botanists, farmers, chefs, fisherfolk, anthropologists, geneticists, environmentalists, oenologists, chemists, soil scientists, conservationists, herders, among many others living on the frontiers of the climate emergency. With bases in London, Skye, Palermo, Istanbul and Madrid, CLIMAVORE facilitates the space and necessary action to transform food production, distribution and consumption in order to reimagine new horizons that can grow food while cultivating habitats.

[Community Jameel](#) advances science and learning for communities to thrive. An independent, global organisation, Community Jameel was launched in 2003 to continue the tradition of philanthropy and community service established by the Jameel family of Saudi Arabia in 1945. Community Jameel supports scientists, humanitarians, technologists and creatives to understand and address pressing human challenges in areas such as climate change, health and education. The work enabled and supported by Community Jameel has led to significant breakthroughs and achievements, including the MIT Jameel Clinic’s discovery of the new antibiotic Halicin, critical modelling of the spread of COVID-19 conducted by the Jameel Institute at Imperial College London, and a Nobel Prize-winning experimental approach to alleviating global poverty developed by the co-founders of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT.

[Cooking Sections](#) examine the systems that organise the world through food. Using installation, performance and video, they explore the overlapping boundaries between art, architecture, ecology and geopolitics. Established in London in 2013 by Daniel Fernández Pascual and Alon Schwabe, their practice uses food as a tool to observe landscapes in transformation.

[Royal College of Art](#) founded in 1837 is the world’s leading university of art and design. Specialising in teaching and research, the RCA offers degrees of MA, MPhil, MRes and PhD across the disciplines of architecture, arts & humanities, design and communication. Based in the heart of London, the RCA provides around 2,800 students with unrivalled opportunities to deliver art and design projects that transform the world. Its approach is founded on the premise that art, design, creative thinking, science, engineering and technology must all collaborate to solve today’s global challenges.

Further information and FAQ

If you have questions about the **CLIMAVORE x Jameel at RCA Food Action Awards**, please contact awards@rca.ac.uk alternative email address before Wednesday 17th April. After this date, please see the frequently asked questions below.

Can collaborations and collectives apply to the open call?

Collaborations and collectives are more than welcome to apply to the open call. They should endeavour to clearly outline in the application, who is part of this collaboration and how 'collective work' or 'collaboration' is defined. It is expected to be dependent on the context and situatedness of the research and its research methodology.

How much flexibility is there in terms of where the projects will take place?

Projects can take place anywhere in the world. We are open to various formats of site-specific or remote research for the duration of the award according to the needs of the project. Applicants are expected to have a strong demonstrated connection to the site.

Are applicants expected to outline the format of their research outcomes (such as a publication, exhibition, etc) in the application?

Applicants are advised to focus on the framework of the research and its methodologies and are welcome to suggest possible research outcomes and formats.

Do research projects have to encompass architecture?

Project proposals do not have to depart from a single discipline, they can bridge multiple disciplines, or apply to a wider frame of references.

Are applicants expected to specify the costs of their project proposal?

No, awards are intended to create space and time for research.

How will successful projects be monitored?

Successful awards will engage regular online review meetings that can be conducted online or in person during the award period. Awardees are responsible for arranging their own travel, visa, and accommodation.

How are awards paid?

Awards are made via bank transfer with 80% paid at the start and 20% after a final report is submitted. Tax responsibilities for the award money are the responsibility of the awardee.

