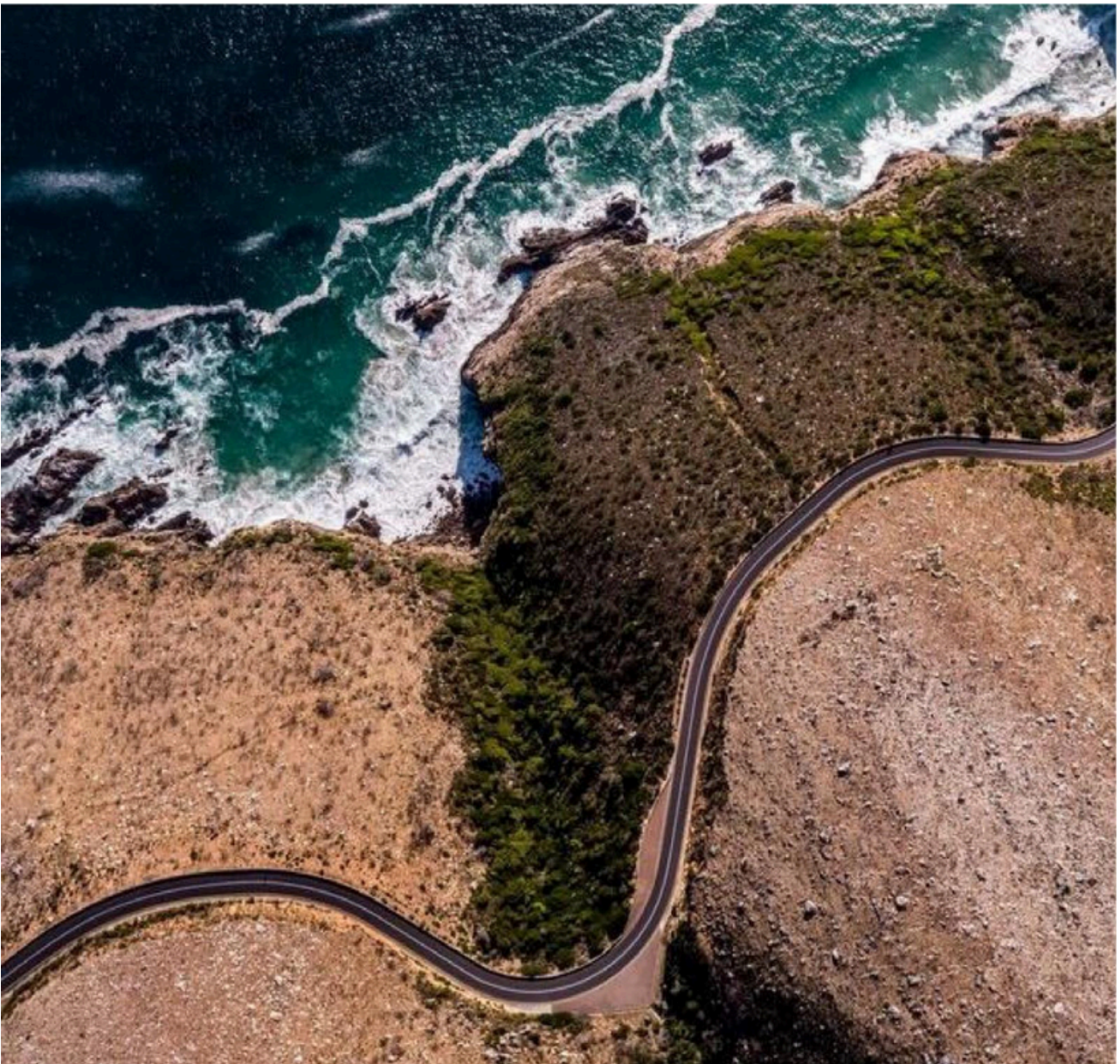


*Atlantic Fellows*

FOR SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC EQUITY

# The Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ)





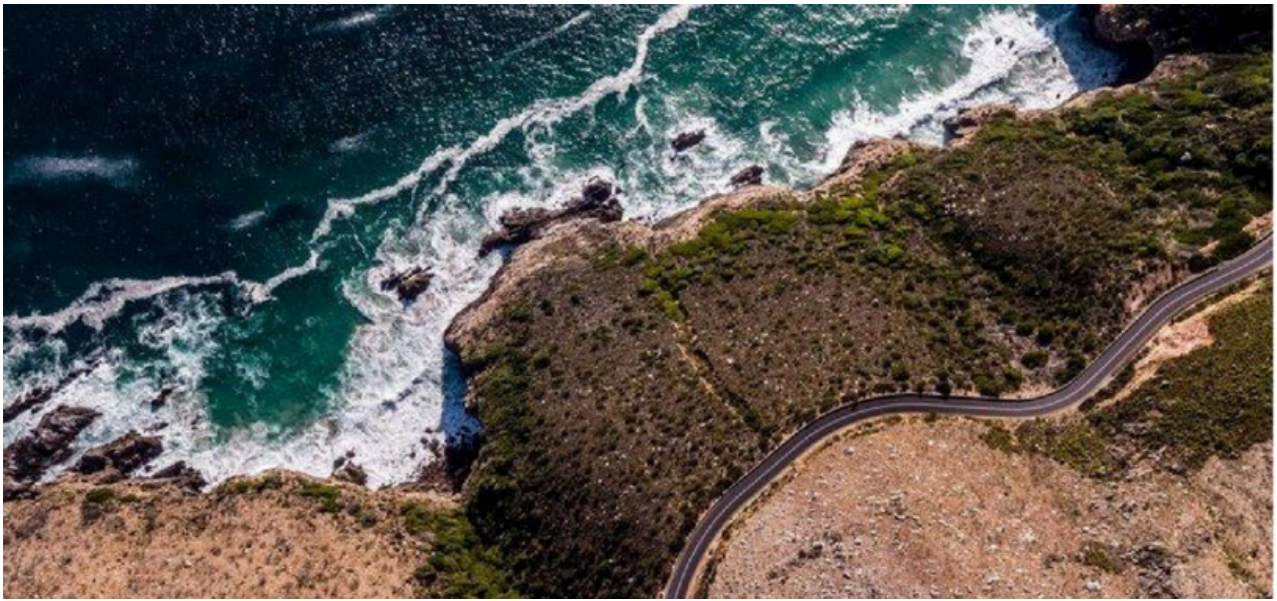
## Introduction

Established in 2017, the **Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE)** programme is based at the International Inequalities Institute (III) at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The AFSEE programme is building a catalytic values-led global community of Fellows who are committed to working towards social and economic justice for all. By drawing on the insights of academic research, innovative social change strategies, and the Fellows' own experience and expertise, the AFSEE programme is empowering a new generation of change-makers, including policymakers, activists, researchers, practitioners, and campaigners to work together across disciplines, backgrounds, and borders. Thus far, there are 152 AFSEE Fellows, drawn from over 60 countries. You can find out more about AFSEE Fellows, including their nationality and area of work on [this webpage](#).



## **The Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ)**



The **Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ)** is a research grant developed and funded by the AFSEE programme, and it is directly aligned with [LSE's 2030 Strategy Priority 2 Research for the World](#).

Since its launch in 2021, the Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ) has funded nine projects. Focused on locations in Bangladesh, Colombia, India, Lebanon, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, UK, Chile, Mexico and the Caribbean, these projects have brought researchers and practitioners together to conduct innovative, solutions-oriented, collaborative research on different aspects of inequalities. They have addressed fundamental questions related to global inequalities, exploring topics such as:

- grassroots accountability and labour migrants' rights;
- urban inequality and social media;
- ethnographic approaches to inequalities in Southern Asia;
- disability rights, art and inequality;
- and higher education in Latin America.

You can find the full list of AEQ projects on the [AEQ project page](#).

## **The Atlantic Equity Challenge 2026**

The AEQ research grant offers researchers and practitioners an opportunity to undertake innovative, solutions-oriented, collaborative research and thinking directed at tackling social and economic inequalities. In this third round of the AEQ research grant, the AFSEE programme again seeks to promote research collaborations between LSE academics and AFSEE Fellows, as well as other partners where relevant, for projects addressing fundamental questions related to socio-economic inequalities.

In the third round of the AEQ, to be awarded in 2026, the AFSEE programme can support up to six collaborative projects lasting up to 24 months with up to £100,000 funding per project. The projects funded under the AEQ will need to:

- offer paradigm-shifting insights into alternatives and solutions to inequality,
- draw on multiple forms of knowledge and experience from across disciplines and sectors,
- incubate new models, policies, and approaches that have the potential to disrupt the systems and structures driving inequality.

## **Applying for the Atlantic Equity Challenge 2026**

The AEQ is envisioned as more than a funding opportunity: it is the beginning of a long-term partnership between the project teams, the AFSEE programme, and the International Inequalities Institute (III). The AFSEE programme is looking to support teams of researchers and practitioners who will embed their projects within the III/AFSEE and build substantive relationships with AFSEE Senior Fellows and their change-making work.

Dr George Kunnath, Associate Professor (Education) and AFSEE Academic Lead, will work with LSE researchers and AFSEE Fellows to provide introductions and foster potential collaborations. Please note that:

- Applications will only be accepted from research teams. Individual submissions will not be considered.
- Each team must include at least one LSE academic or research staff member and one AFSEE Senior Fellow, both serving as Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs).
- LSE academic or research staff eligible to apply include faculty members, LSE Fellows, Teaching Fellows, Policy Fellows, Research Fellows, Research Officers or Assistant/Associate/Professorial Research Fellows.<sup>1</sup> The LSE Co-PI's employment contract with LSE must last longer than the proposed length of the AEQ project as a research grant will be allocated/dispensed to the LSE Co-PI's academic department/institute (at LSE).
- Visiting Fellows at the International Inequalities Institute are also welcome to apply.



- In addition to the LSE researcher and the AFSEE Senior Fellow serving as the Co-PIs, the research teams can also include other researchers, other AFSEE Fellows (including the 2025-26 Cohort), and practitioners.

It is expected that AEQ projects will commence in October 2026 and no later than 1 December 2026. All projects should conclude in October 2028 and no later than 1 December 2028. A one-time no-cost project extension of up to 3 months may be considered on a case-by-case basis, if required, due to extenuating circumstances.

## **Further information on the Atlantic Equity Challenge 2026**

### Core funding:

- Eligible costs include:
  - Directly incurred staff costs (for the core team, research assistance, and project management support).
  - Travel, accommodation and expenses for project-related activities.
  - Consultancy services in the UK and overseas, including applicable taxes and fees.
  - Costs associated with hosting project-related events and dissemination activities.
  - Proofreading and copy-editing of written outputs.
  - Publishing costs for written outputs or experimental publishing outputs.
  - Hire of equipment necessary to deliver the project activities.
  - Participant payments and incentives for formal surveys, community groups, and research beneficiaries.
- The following costs are not eligible:
  - LSE Co-PI salary costs and all directly allocated salaried staff costs.
  - Organisational overheads.
  - Purchase of equipment.
- The funding cannot be used for advocacy work or political campaigning.
- Where the project involves external partners, collaboration agreements will need to be set up and approved by the LSE legal department to ensure compliance with the LSE policies.

### Family Care Support:

- Limited funds are available to support project team members who have (family) caring responsibilities. These funds are given in addition to the project funding, however these costs should be included within projected costings at the point of application.

### Accessibility Support

- Limited funding may be provided to ensure that project outputs are accessible (both for researchers and stakeholders). Examples include video subtitles, sign-language interpretation, braille versions of printed materials, etc. This funding will be provided in addition to the core project budget and should not exceed 7% of the core project budget.

### Required Project Outputs:

- All project teams are expected to produce a written research output that is widely accessible in its language and style. Alongside research publications, teams are invited and encouraged to produce policy briefs, reports and other outputs to disseminate their findings to various audiences (academic and non-academic).
- All published outputs resulting from the AEQ 2026 funding must be made available via open access.
- All project teams are also welcome and encouraged to produce multimedia outputs such as films, podcasts, exhibitions, etc.
- Project teams are strongly encouraged to produce materials for the AFSEE curriculum.

### Knowledge Exchange and Impact:

- AEQ project teams will be supported during their research and also in the conceptualisation and implementation of knowledge exchange and impact work through activities such as public events, workshops, conferences, blogs, and other public-facing written materials.
- Where possible, teams are encouraged to identify additional sources of funding or co-funding of these activities.

## **Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

Applications should explicitly outline how the proposed research project aims to confront the issue of social and economic inequalities, demonstrating a clear alignment with the following priorities:

### 1. Research approach:

Projects will address a significant question or questions related to socio-economic inequalities. They are expected to demonstrate academic rigour, particularly in their research approach and methods. Successful applicants will be required to comply with the LSE's Research Ethics Policy. Submitting a copy of the self-certification or ethical approval to the Ill is required prior to the disbursement of any funds. Information on the [LSE's Research Ethics Policy](#) is available online.

## 2. Impact:

Projects should demonstrate how the research will achieve impact such as shifting narratives, informing or contributing to policy shaping, or expanding participation in decision-making.

## 3. Engagement:

Successful applicants will identify target audiences/constituents, with a clear idea and plan for engaging such groups in the research and dissemination process. Project proposals should include plans to build and sustain engagement with the AFSEE programme.

## 4. Commitment to collaboration and equitable ways of working:

Team members should be able to demonstrate prior experience and/or a strong commitment to working in a collaborative context that builds synergies across research and practice and across diverse perspectives. Teams are encouraged to be creative and dynamic in their thinking and approach.

## 5. Reflexivity:

Successful project proposals will demonstrate a commitment to a way of working that authentically engages with questions of inequality within research practice. Project teams will acknowledge the full, human impact of inequalities, emphasising the lived experience with inequality as fundamental to how inequalities are understood and challenged.

## 6. Value for money:

Successful project proposals should demonstrate cost-effectiveness, efficient resource utilisation, and clear alignment between budget allocation and anticipated project outcomes.

## **Next steps**

If you are interested in applying to the AEQ and would like to be introduced to/paired with an AFSEE Fellow or an LSE researcher, or if you have any queries about AEQ, please contact Anastasia Nazaryan, AFSEE Projects Manager, at [a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk](mailto:a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk), or George Kunnath, Associate Professor (Education) and AFSEE Academic Lead, at [g.kunnath@lse.ac.uk](mailto:g.kunnath@lse.ac.uk). We will facilitate introductions on an ongoing/rolling basis and would also encourage you to contact us sooner rather than later.

When getting in touch, please provide:

1. Name
2. Department (not required for AFSEE Fellows)
3. Areas of research interest and your vision for a potential academic–practitioner collaborative project.

## **Submitting an Application**

Applicants for the Atlantic Equity Challenge 2026 will have to fill in an [application form](#) and provide supporting documents. Applicants should note that:

- Applications should address the selection criteria laid out on pages 6-7.
- Applications should be accompanied by a budget. A budget template document can be accessed [here](#).
- The LSE Co-Pis will need to ensure that they have received a letter of approval from their Head of Department/Institute/Research Centre before applying.
- Co-Pis and named researchers will also need to submit CVs (max 2 pages each) as part of the application.

The application, budget form, letter of approval, and CVs should be submitted no later than 23:59 BST on 15 May 2026 to Anastasia Nazaryan at [a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk](mailto:a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk).

### **Atlantic Equity Challenge 2026: Key Dates**

15 May 2026	<b>Application deadline</b>
15 May- 15 June 2026	<b>Project selection</b>
30 June 2026	<b>Award notification</b>
1 October 2026	<b>Project start</b>