

# Arts & Humanities Alliance

13 June 2026

Professor Jane Norman, Vice Chancellor  
Professor Sam Kingman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Members of the University Council  
Professor Jeremy Gregory, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Arts  
University of Nottingham

Dear Professors Norman, Kingman and Gregory and Members of the University Council

We write further to our letter of 17 November 2025 on behalf of the Arts and Humanities Alliance, in which we expressed concern regarding the suspension of recruitment in Modern Languages and Music and emphasised the wider importance of Arts and Humanities provision at the University of Nottingham.

We are deeply concerned to learn of the significant escalation of the situation since that time, including the scale of proposed redundancies, the planned closure of departments such as Modern Languages, Music, and American and Canadian Studies, and the broader contraction of Arts and Humanities provision across the University. The proposed loss of over 600 FTE posts represents not only a profound impact on colleagues but also a transformation of the University's intellectual profile and civic role.

We recognise, as we did previously, the severe structural challenges facing the sector. However, the scale and concentration of these measures in Arts and Humanities disciplines raise serious questions about the long-term implications for the University's mission, its students, and the communities it serves. The cumulative effect risks creating further regional and national gaps in provision, diminishing opportunities for students and weakening the interdisciplinary capacity that is widely acknowledged to be essential to addressing contemporary global challenges.

We are also concerned by reports regarding the conditions under which staff are currently being asked to work, and the difficulties in sustaining constructive dialogue. In our earlier letter, we urged engagement with affected disciplines to explore sustainable solutions. We reiterate that call now and encourage the University to reopen meaningful negotiations with staff and their representatives in order to mitigate the depth of the proposed cuts and to consider alternative approaches.

The Arts and Humanities Alliance stands ready to support constructive efforts to address these challenges. We would welcome the opportunity to contribute to discussions about viable, forward-looking models for sustaining arts and humanities provision at Nottingham.

We urge the University to reflect carefully on the long-term academic, social and cultural consequences of the current course of action, and to work with colleagues to find a more balanced and sustainable way forward.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'Emma Cayley' and the signature on the right is 'Thea Pitman'.

Professors Emma Cayley and Thea Pitman  
Co-chairs, Arts and Humanities Alliance  
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**On behalf of the affiliates of the Arts and Humanities Alliance:**

African Studies Association of the UK  
African Theatre Association  
Anglo-Catalan Society  
Architectural Humanities Research Association  
Association of Adaptation Studies  
Association for Art History  
Association for German Studies  
Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland  
Association of University Professors and Heads of French  
British Association for American Studies  
British Association for Applied Linguistics  
British Association for Canadian Studies  
British Association for Chinese Studies  
British and Irish Association for Jewish Studies  
British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies  
British Association for the Study of Religions  
British Society for Middle Eastern Studies  
British Philosophical Association  
Council for British Archaeology

Council of University Classics Departments  
Drama HE  
Economic History Society  
English Association  
Henry Sweet Society for the History of Linguistic Ideas  
History UK  
Linguistics Association of Great Britain  
Media, Communication, and Cultural Studies Association  
Music Mark – the UK Association for Music Education  
National Association of Writers in Education  
Oral History Society  
Political Studies Association  
Royal Geographical Society  
Royal Historical Society  
Royal Photographic Society  
Royal Musical Association  
Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies  
Society for French Studies  
Society for Italian Studies  
Society for Latin American Studies  
Society for Neo-Latin Studies  
Society for Old Testament Study  
Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies  
Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies  
The Folklore Society  
Theology and Religious Studies UK  
TROPO UK: The Association of Teachers and Researchers of Portuguese Language in the UK  
UK Association for Language Testing and Assessment  
UK Council of Area Studies Associations  
University Archaeology UK  
University Council For Languages  
University English  
Women in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies

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