



UK-German Funding Initiative in the Humanities Call for proposals 2020

CALL TEXT

I. Introduction and aims of the Call

AHRC and DFG are launching a call for proposals for outstanding joint UK-German research projects in the Humanities. Proposals should strengthen co-operation in the fields of arts and humanities, law and linguistics between Germany and the UK. For a full specification of the AHRC and DFG subject remits, please see the AHRC Research Funding Guide (<https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/researchfundingguide/>) - DFG http://www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/statutory_bodies/review_boards/subject_areas/index.jsp

Both funding agencies want to strengthen international cooperation in these fields, to fund academic research of the highest quality within their own countries, and are aware that some of the best research can only be achieved by working with the best researchers internationally. The scheme will provide funding for integrated UK-German projects. The partner agencies will organise a coordinated peer review and a single joint selection process. Funding will be distributed among the research partners according to researchers' place of work and, more generally, according to the funding rules of each individual agency.

Proposals may be submitted in any area of the Humanities, as defined in the research funding guides. Only proposals whose primary aim is to make fundamental advances in human knowledge in the relevant fields may be submitted in response to the call for proposals. Applicants who are uncertain whether their proposal would be eligible should contact the relevant agencies for clarification.

Projects must have well-defined joint working programmes, clearly demonstrating the added value of UK-German collaboration. We expect that each partner substantially contributes to the common project; this also includes taking on organisational responsibilities. This division of responsibilities should also be reflected in the amount of funds requested by each partner.

II. Eligibility

Proposals must involve collaboration between UK and German researchers.

Both single-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary applications can be considered provided that the UK component falls within the remit of the AHRC and the German component within the remit of the DFG. Applications may also overlap with other disciplines provided that they fall primarily within the remit of the AHRC and DFG. Cross-disciplinary applications must demonstrate how their project team fulfils the eligibility requirements. If you are in doubt about the remit eligibility, please contact the respective organisation.

Joint UK-German research projects will normally be funded for, and will in any case not exceed, a period of **up to 36 months**. The projects must focus on substantive research and feature an integrated work programme. Academic infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus. As stand-alone projects, infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible.

All budget items must conform to the national rules applicable to each applicant. Applicants must note that AHRC and DFG retain the right to reject proposals where they fail to comply with the procedures set out in the guidelines of the respective agency. If a proposal is ineligible with one national agency, the whole project will be rejected by both agencies. German researchers from non-university research institutions must comply with their duty to cooperate (Kooperationspflicht). This duty to cooperate is not met if one only cooperates with a UK partner.

If this application has been submitted to any other call or funding stream of any other funding agency, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Please also check the respective national agency's rules regarding submission of a project to more than one funder or scheme.

Immediate resubmission of unsuccessful proposals from one call under the AHRC-DFG MOU to the next call is not permitted but is acceptable for future calls.

First AHRC-DFG Call (2018/2019) - Unsuccessful Applicants:

Applicants unsuccessful under the first call may submit a reworked proposal under this call.

Second AHRC-DFG Call (2019/2020) - Unsuccessful Applicants:

Applicants involved in unsuccessful applications under the second call may submit, or be involved in, different or new proposals for this third call. Applicants unsuccessful under the second call may submit a reworked proposal under 2021/2022 call to be launched in November 2021.

All applications must be submitted in English. Where appropriate for the research topic, applicants may also submit their proposals in both German and English, although they are not required to do so.

III. Applicants

Each joint research project must consist of two (UK and German) national teams. Each team must be led by one Principal Investigator (PI). The UK team must be led by an arts

and humanities researcher who falls within the remit of the AHRC and is based at a research organisation eligible to apply to the AHRC. The German team must be led by a humanities, including law and linguistics, researcher eligible to apply to the DFG. German scholars from other disciplines should contact the DFG head office.

DFG regulations concerning First Time Applicants will not be taken into account for this call.

AHRC's provision to include (where relevant) international co-investigators will apply to the UK component of projects. However, we would not expect international co-investigators based in Germany to be included within the UK component as we would expect investigators in Germany to be included within the German team and DFG supported component of the collaboration. Please refer to the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#) for further information on AHRC's International Co-I policy and which costs are eligible within a UK budget.

Costs for project PhD students cannot be included within UK budgets for this call.

IV. Budget and eligible costs

All costs must be eligible according to applicants' national eligibility requirements. A detailed justification of the requested budget will be required. UK costs should be included in the mandatory Justification of Resources document, whilst German costs should be included in the Project Description (7 Requested modules/funds for the German project part).

For more information please see the *Information for Applicants*.

V. Project scale and duration

The duration of the project must not exceed 36 months. Awards will not exceed, on the UK side, £350,000 (at 100% FEC of which the AHRC will fund 80%) per project.

Projects do not have to be symmetrical, in the sense that neither the sums requested nor the items requested have to be identical on the UK and German sides, but we would expect the work packages to be delivered reasonably equally.

VI. Submission of proposals

The DFG is leading the administration of this third call and should therefore be the first point of contact for general enquiries relating to the call.

A single integrated proposal with separate financial sections for each national agency must be submitted via DFG's submission system "elan" no later than **Wednesday, February 24th 2021 at midnight (German time)**.

Proposals received after the deadline will not be eligible. For details on the format of the proposal and on the required documents please refer to the "Information for Applicants".

UK applications will be required to submit their costings on the finance form provided as an attachment to the integrated proposal submitted to DFG.

UK applicants should consult with their organisation's Research or Finance offices in the finalisation of the costings for the UK component prior to submission, and ensure that relevant approvals for the submission of the application, including the research organisation contribution to the full economic costs, are obtained from the UK research organisations involved. Costs for the UK element must be compiled according to AHRC's standard rules, as outlined in section 3 of the AHRC Research Funding Guide.

In the event of a successful award, the UK partners in any successful consortium will be required to submit a Je-S application after funding decisions are communicated, with details of the successful award which will be used to publish information on awards on UKRI Gateway to Research and to allow for full financial reporting and grant monitoring. The AHRC will not be able to issue an award for the UK component without submission of this form. There will not be any additional assessment of this application. Further details will be communicated to successful applicants following the joint panel meeting. Successful UK applicants will then be expected to report on outputs through the UKRI outputs system (Researchfish) in line with standard UKRI grant conditions.

VII. Assessment Procedure

- The applicants' and projects' eligibility will be checked by both AHRC and DFG for the UK and German sides respectively. As this call is being led by the DFG, the assessment process will follow that used by the DFG and will have two key stages:
- In the first stage each proposal will be assessed by external expert peer reviewers including at least one nominated by the AHRC and one nominated by the DFG. There will be no PI response (as per the DFG assessment process).
- In the second review stage, each proposal will be assessed by a joint expert panel in the light of the reviews obtained in stage 1. The panel will consist of recognised researchers from various fields of the Humanities, Law and Linguistics, from both the UK and Germany, who are familiar with the relevant decision-making systems at the national level.
- The funding recommendations of the joint expert panel will be subject to approval by the AHRC and DFG, including by the relevant DFG decision making board, taking into account the availability of funds.

It is expected that in the region of 15 awards will be made under this call (subject to proposals meeting the criteria and quality standards detailed below).

VIII. Criteria

All project proposals will be assessed against three sets of criteria:

- 1) expertise of the research team members,
- 2) academic quality of the research project,
- 3) feasibility of the project

1) *Expertise of the research team members*

- Research portfolio of the research team
- Relevant preliminary work

2) *Academic quality of the research project*

- Innovative nature of the project
- Appropriateness of research design
- Contribution of the research project to advances in the relevant academic discipline or disciplines and international cooperation
- Scholarly merit of objectives and work programme
- Integrated approach of the project, maximizing the added value of UK-German research collaboration
- Contribution of the project to deepening UK-German academic collaboration

3) *Feasibility of the project (budget, research facilities and management arrangements)*

- Feasibility of the project,
- Appropriateness of the project's budget and overall value for money
- Access to research facilities and infrastructure required for the research
- Appropriateness of support for early career researchers, where applicable
- Appropriateness of management arrangements of the project

IX. Call Timeline

19th November 2020 – Call opens

24th February 2021 – Call closes at midnight (German time) for elan submission

March to June 2021 – Peer Review

September 2021 – Assessment panel

November 2021 – Decisions expected to be released

UK-projects will be required to start within 3 months of the acceptance of the awards.

German projects are expected to follow a similar schedule.

X. Call Documents

- Call Text
- Information for Applicants
- Project Description Template
- Justification for Resources Form (only UK budget)

XI. Further information

DFG's data protection notice

Please note the DFG's data protection notice on research funding, which can be viewed and downloaded at www.dfg.de/privacy_policy. If necessary, please also forward this information to those persons whose data the DFG processes because they are involved in your project.

XII. Contact Information

DFG

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