

Specific guidance for NSF-led Projects submitted to **US NSF/SBE–UKRI Lead Agency Opportunity**

Note: this guidance applies only to applications where **NSF/SBE is the lead agency**. There is a separate guidance document where AHRC is the lead agency.

Transnational teams of UK and US-based researchers are invited to apply directly to the [National Science Foundation - Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences](#) division under the existing research grants schemes. An expression of interest (EOI) must always be submitted and approved by all agencies involved before full proposal submission. We expect that full proposals will be submitted within 12-months of EOI approval. If greater time is needed for proposal preparation, an additional EOI may be required. Please see website for more details regarding the EOI submission process.

Once confirmation has been received that the project is appropriate for submission under the agreement and that NSF/SBE is the appropriate lead agency, (details [Guidelines for submitting collaborative proposals](#)), the proposal must be submitted by the US proposing organization through [NSF's FastLane system](#) at or the [Grants.gov system](#) to the relevant standing program within SBE.

Eligibility Requirements

Investigators

USA: Please note, US Principal investigators must be eligible for funding from the National Science Foundation

UK: The UK Principal Investigator must meet the AHRC's current eligibility criteria for standard and early career AHRC Research Grant proposals. Please consult the AHRC's [Research Funding Guide](#) (RFG) for further information on eligibility.

International Co-Investigators may be charged to the UK element of the proposal in-line with the eligibility and costing guidance in the AHRC Research Funding Guide (section 2). However, for the purposes of the SBE-UKRI Funding Opportunity it is expected that any researchers based at US institutions will be funded by the NSF.

Research Assistants

Research Assistants employed by the UK organisation need to meet the AHRC's threshold of being of postdoctoral standing (either having a PhD or equivalent research experience).

Note on research involving human subjects

The National Science Foundation supports research involving human subjects when the project has been certified by a responsible body (an Institutional Review Board or IRB) to be in compliance with the US government's 'Common Rule for Protection of Human Subjects'. While a proposal can be reviewed without receipt of the IRB approval, projects involving human subjects cannot be funded until this certification or its equivalent is submitted to NSF (please see the [NSF Human Subjects Policy \(NSF website opens in new window\)](#)). If the research conducted by the UK partner involves human subjects, the UK partner must adhere to UKRI's [Policy and Guidance on the Governance of Good Research Conduct](#) and provide details of where the UK Research Organization's ethical policy can be accessed. This approval should be submitted to both the AHRC and the NSF.

Costing

The costs of the US and UK partners must be clearly differentiated in the proposal.

USA: All costs relating to the US side of the project must be in accordance with the NSF's normal funding rules within the [NSF Grant Proposal Guide](#). Requested US costs must be commensurate with the scheme limits of the appropriate funding call

UK: AHRC will fund 80% of Full Economic Costs (FEC), up to a limit of £350,000 FEC for any single project and lasting up to 60 months. The UK partner must submit a full breakdown of the UK costs associated with the project, and a justification of UK resources.

Applying via *Fastlane*

The proposal must be submitted by the US proposing organization through [NSF's FastLane system](#) or the [Grants.gov system](#) to the relevant standing program within SBE. **The proposal should be clearly identified as a collaborative project under the NSF/AHRC Memorandum of Understanding by inclusion of the text 'NSF-AHRC MOU:' prior to the project title.**

Applicants do not need to apply additionally to UKRI.

Supplementary application documents

The UK partner must submit a full breakdown of the UK costs associated with the project, and a justification of UK resources. UK Costs must be submitted on the standard [AHRC summary of resources form](#) indicating the financial costs associated with the UK component of the project.

The AHRC summary of resources form, and justification of resources, should be forwarded to the US partner in advance of the US submission. The US partner must include this AHRC form as one of the supplementary documents submitted with the NSF proposal. The US partner also must explain how the two budgets are coordinated in the Budget Justification section of the NSF proposal.

In all other respects, the information provided in the proposal should relate to the entire project (both US and UK components).

Submission of the application

The proposal should be submitted to the relevant SBE standing program at NSF by the US deadline or, if the program has a target date, by the date agreed upon in consultation with the relevant program officer. Once the proposal has been received by NSF, the US PI must provide a PDF copy of the proposal to the UK partner.

The UK partner must forward this PDF copy directly to the portfolio manager overseeing the arrangement at enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org within 48 hours of submission to NSF.

Peer Review

Proposals will be reviewed at NSF according to the procedures of the standing program to which the application was submitted (i.e. panel and/or mail review). AHRC will provide NSF with UK peer reviewer recommendations. The proposals will be taken to the relevant NSF panel for consideration along with other proposals submitted to that program.

Any financial limitations established for the US component of the proposal are not impacted by the amount of funding sought by the UK partner.

If recommended for funding, the US component of the project, and the UK component of the project, will be separately supported by NSF and AHRC respectively. Grantees from the US and UK will be subject to their respective agency's conditions of awards and the parameters agreed in the NSF/AHRC Memorandum of Understanding. Each agency will handle the administration and monitoring of awards in accordance with the respective agency's standard policies and procedures.

For enquiries concerning the AHRC implementation of this agreement please contact:

sbeleadagency@ukri.org

enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org