



**Arts and
Humanities
Research Council**

Research Funding Guide

Version Control

The latest changes made to this guide will be recorded here. Please ensure you have the latest version of the Funding Guide.

Version	Date	Changes
6.1	18/05/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated AHRC responsive mode announcement (page 2-7)• Added information on the new Curiosity and Catalyst awards (Section 1)• Added announcement information on Eligibility (section 2)
6.2	11/07/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removed Attachments (section 4)• Updated TFS information (throughout guide)• Added new role names (Section 2)• Updated weblinks (throughout guide)• Removed information on Research Networking (Section 1)
6.3	13/02/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated Changes to AHRC Responsive mode (beginning of guide)• Updated Research involving animals• Updated the Technician statement• Updated New role names (throughout guide)• Removed PhD project students (section 1)• Clarified FoF AHRC eligibility (section 1)• Clarified International researchers (section 1)• Updated Open access (section 3)• Added new panel grading scale (section 5)• Updated travel claims and Visa fees (Section 3)• Updated broken links (throughout guide)• Added Use of Links and References (Section 4)
6.3 version 2	06/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated Sifting of proposals 'stage 2' (Section 5)

Should you find any typos or broken hyperlinks please notify enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org

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Changes to AHRC Responsive Mode Funding Opportunities

Update 2024

Throughout 2023 the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) implemented changes to our responsive mode funding opportunities.

AHRC's responsive mode opportunities are now:

- Research Grants
- Curiosity Awards
- Catalyst Awards
- Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement

Further details about these schemes are available on the [UKRI funding finder](#).

Why we are making these changes

The changes that are being implemented are a direct result of our analysis of these schemes. Feedback from engagement with diverse voices from our community has underlined:

- the value of responsive mode opportunities
- the need for such funds to be more flexible and better aligned to the needs of all our researchers and their research ambitions, and we are responding to their challenges

Improvement for our community

The new offering will be better than before, by providing for a wider range of formats of research and provide greater flexibility for research ideas. It will also offer provision for larger and more ambitious projects, which acknowledge the increasing cost of research.

Supporting talent

The changes will help support emerging arts and humanities talent, by offering new and expanded provision for start of career and early career researchers.

The changes will embed the principles of the [**Researcher Development Concordat**](#) and [**UKRI Technician Commitment**](#).

The new offering will enable greater support for the development of researchers at all career points and throughout their careers, providing a clear pathway of support for research ideas as they develop and expand. It will also offer more experienced researchers greater scope to meet their ambitions.

Improving reach of our funding recipients

These changes will help to increase the breadth of the researchers supported by our funding, such as more career stages, more career paths and more researchers, as well as the types of research organisations in receipt of our funding.

The focus of this change is the mechanism of our grant funding, rather than a fundamental shift in how we operate or in our vision and strategy.

As set out within the commitments in our **strategic delivery plan**, our funding must:

- support diversity within the research community
- enable career development
- fund the best ideas wherever they are found

We will continue to:

- fund outstanding research
- support world-class researchers in the arts and humanities
- remove barriers to accessing our funding
- support and provision for research connectivity within the UK and internationally, and to the principles of robust and independent application assessment

Changes to responsive mode opportunities in 2023

There are two new opportunities, launched alongside a revised opportunity, that will meet the needs of the research community in a clearer pathway.

New and refreshed opportunities

Curiosity awards

In July, AHRC launched a new flexible award to fund fundamental research, networking activity and idea generation, which enables the development of further research opportunities and new research agendas. These awards will support teams, networks and solo researchers.

The scheme is intentionally flexible, indicative examples of the activities we will fund include: idea generation, seed corn funding, high risk / high potential concepts, novel research, networking activity, partnership building, knowledge exchange, public engagement, international collaboration, scoping and piloting, e.g., early-stage proof of concept for ideas or change of direction, pivots in research focus at any career stage.

Project co-Lead (International) are supported.

Funding available will be for projects with a total cost up to £100,000 and a duration of up to five years.

For further details see the [**UKRI funding finder**](#).

Catalyst awards

In July, AHRC launched awards to fund researchers without prior experience of leading a significant research project to accelerate their trajectory as independent researchers to unlock their potential and build leadership and convenor experience.

The awards will provide applicants with an opportunity to support their own skill development and the skill development of research staff employed on the award.

Specific eligibility criteria apply to Project Leads as outlined on the UKRI funding finder.

Funding available will be for projects with a total cost between £100,000 and £300,000 and a duration of up to five years.

For further details see the [**UKRI funding finder**](#).

Research grants (standard route)

AHRC have increased the upper funding limit from £1 million to £1.5 million (100% full economic cost) to support more ambitious projects and enhanced team development, as well as accommodate the increased costs of research.

Funding available will be for projects between £300,000 and £1.5 million. The lower funding limit has been increased from £50,000 to £300,000, as the new catalyst and curiosity opportunities offer support to projects below £300,000.

The three new pathways are designed to meet the changing needs of our researchers in a clear and coherent suite of responsive mode opportunities, which means that we will close some of our current opportunities.

For further details see the [**UKRI funding finder**](#).

Follow-on funding for impact and engagement

At this time this opportunity will remain unchanged, though the work achieved by the new opportunities may lead to a future review.

For further details see the [**UKRI funding finder**](#).

Opportunities closed

Research grants (early career route)

The core aims and objectives of the existing targeted early career route will transfer to and be incorporated within the new curiosity and catalyst awards opportunities, offering more flexibility for sole-scholar and collaborative research.

The early career route closed on 29 March 2023.

Research development and engagement fellowships

The aims and objectives of this scheme have been incorporated within the new curiosity and catalyst awards opportunities.

This opportunity closed on 29 March 2023.

Research networking

The aims and objectives of this opportunity have been incorporated within the new curiosity awards opportunity, and closed to applications on 29 June 2023.

Transition from Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system to the new Funding Service

Throughout 2023 and 2024 AHRC will transition from Je-S to the new UKRI grants system, the Funding Service.

Read more about the new system and [how we will transition to the Funding Service](#).

Details of the transition will be published as and when they are available in this guide and on the relevant funding opportunity pages of the [UKRI funding finder](#).

This transition is part of UKRI's [Simpler and Better Funding programme](#), which is creating a single, consistent user-centred Funding Service.

Making changes to 'always open' funding opportunities

'Always open' funding opportunities now have a more consistent set of application questions and assessment criteria across and within councils, as part of a harmonised responsive mode. This harmonisation will result in applicants having a new and simplified experience when writing and submitting proposals to UKRI's funding opportunities.

The introduction of a new grants system presents us with an opportunity to implement changes to funding opportunities at the same time as the transition. This will reduce the number of points at which change is applied and therefore make it easier for our research community to manage.

During this transition to a new system AHRC will run responsive mode funding opportunities as consecutive rounds, however they are still essentially 'always open' and applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year. AHRC will not be able to provide our usual levels of service if applications and associated questions are only submitted at or close to a round closing date, therefore applicants are strongly encouraged not to wait until the end of a round for the submission of their application. Further details on the rounds can be found in the timeline section below and also on the relevant funding opportunity pages of the [UKRI funding finder](#).

Timeline

The dates of the rounds are as follows, these are subject to change:

Research Grants and Follow-On Funding

Round one opened on 29 June and closed on 14 September 2023

Round two opened on 25 September and closed on 7 December 2023

Round three will open on 8 December and close on 26 March 2024

Round four will open on 27 March and close w/c 24 June 2024

Round five will open w/c 1 July and close w/c 23 September 2024

Round six will open w/c 23 September and close w/c 9 December 2024

Curiosity and Catalyst Awards

Round one opened on 17 July and closed on 19 October 2023

Round two opened on 30 October and closed on 30 January 2024

Round three will open on 31 January and close on 30 April 2024

Round four will open on 1 May and close w/c 29 July 2024

Round five will open w/c 29 July and close w/c 28 October 2024

Round six will open w/c 28 October and close w/c 27 January 2025

Dates of further rounds for all four opportunities will be added here throughout 2024.

Webinars

The launch of the Curiosity and Catalyst Awards schemes were supported by a webinar for prospective applicants and professional research support staff that presented an overview of the

schemes, followed by an opportunity to ask questions. The webinars were recorded, and a copy can be found below.

[Watch webinar recording from 8 September 2023 \(YouTube\)](#)

[View a transcript of the webinar from 8 September 2023](#)

Note that this webinar is British Sign Language interpreted.

[Watch webinar recording for Peer Review College members from 6 September 2023 \(YouTube\)](#)

Introduction

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) seeks to promote and support high quality arts and humanities research through a variety of funding opportunities across its schemes from postgraduate studentships to large scale collaborative research grants, specialist training schemes to strategic programmes.

Research funding is available through the AHRC's responsive mode schemes (funding for high quality research in any subject area within the AHRC's remit) and through research programmes and other specific initiatives (funding for high quality research in specific areas of intellectual urgency and wider resonance).

This funding guide contains details of the postdoctoral funding schemes that are operated in responsive mode.

You should note that the schemes we operate offer very different types of support. It is important to think carefully about the most appropriate scheme for the research project you propose to undertake.

This guide is split into separate sections providing information on the different elements of the application process and it addresses subjects such as eligibility, how to apply, and any important dates to note.

Case studies of research previously funded by the AHRC are available on our website at [AHRC research outcomes and impact – UKRI](#)

The guide is updated throughout the year and you should ensure that you are reading the most recent version by checking [our website](#) for any recent updates (see lower right-hand corner of the title page for the latest version number).

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) is committed to promoting the values of equality of opportunity, diversity and inclusivity.

It is our view that arts and humanities disciplines depend on a diverse range of methods, viewpoints, subjects and approaches in order to continue to thrive and develop. As the Bonn Declaration puts it, freedom of scientific research is inseparable from a plurality of voices. One important way to achieve this is through continuing to fund a diverse range of people and projects. We will work closely with UKRI colleagues to ensure EDI is embedded both at all levels of our organisation and in the portfolio of research that we fund and support. In doing so, we support our vision and contribute and benefit the R&I ecosystem.

When we talk about diversity, we do so with a holistic approach, as outlined in UKRI's strategy 2022-2027 principles of change, which state that UKRI will 'champion a creative and dynamic R&I system by supporting diversity of ideas, people, activities, skills and infrastructures'¹.

¹ UKRI strategy 2022 – 2027, p.8

As a UK public sector organisation, we are fully committed to our legal obligations under the [Equality Act 2010](#) legislation and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

We encourage everyone who applies for AHRC funding to consider the importance of EDI within the research they are delivering, the research teams they are working within and the people who engage with their research.

For more information, please look at UKRI's Good Research resource hub EDI guidance here - [Guidance for equality, diversity and inclusion – UKRI](#)

EPSRC have developed an 'expectations for EDI guide' with useful principles and resources to help applicants consider EDI within their research - [Expectations for equality, diversity and inclusion – UKRI](#)

For more information about AHRC's EDI vision, objectives and ambitions please visit our updated EDI Action Plan - [AHRC equality, diversity and inclusion action plan – UKRI](#).

UKRI's EDI strategy serves as a unifying framework for all Council's EDI Action Plans - [EDI strategy and action plans – UKRI](#)

Concordat to Support Research Integrity

The national Concordat to Support Research Integrity outlines the obligations on researchers, institutions and funders regarding the need to ensure the highest levels of integrity in all aspects of research, including peer review and the publication or dissemination of research outcomes. The document which sets out the national framework for good research conduct and its governance can be found using the following link:

[Supporting research integrity – UKRI](#)

The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers

The national Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, also known as the Researcher Development Concordat, outlines the key responsibilities of researchers, managers of researchers, institutions and funders with the aim of facilitating 'the very best culture for our researchers to thrive' and 'increase the sustainability of researcher careers in the UK'². UKRI became a signatory to the Concordat in 2019 and subsequently issued its Funder Action Plan. AHRC has issued a Statement of Commitment to the Concordat. You can find these documents here:

<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/concordat>

<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UKRI-071020-ConcordatToSupportTheCareerDevelopmentOfResearchersFunderActionPlan.pdf>

[AHRC commitment to support the career development of researchers – UKRI](#)

You are strongly advised to familiarise yourself with this Concordat and its expectations before you apply for an AHRC grant. We also recommend that you refer to the Concordat throughout the

² Please see the introduction to the Researcher Development Concordat. Link above.

lifetime of your grant to ensure that researcher development is built into your project and that you adopt the principles, standards and good practice for the management of research staff set out in the Concordat.

Researchers, project teams and Research Organisations funded by AHRC should refer to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers for expectations of the training and development opportunities that should be made available to researchers.

We particularly encourage Research Organisations upon receipt of AHRC funding to provide research staff with a statement setting out the provisions for career management and development, including personal skills training, and ensure that they have access to appropriate training opportunities.

We also encourage Research Organisations upon receipt of AHRC funding to follow [AHRC Guidance on Training and Developing Early Career Researchers in the Arts and Humanities](#). The guidance includes sections for managers and for early career researchers too. It is inspired by the Concordat and AHRC's ambition is for the Guidance to be used in supporting all people who identify as early career researchers (ECR) in the arts and humanities community to grow their careers within and beyond academia

The Technician Commitment

The Technician Commitment UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is a signatory of the Technician Commitment, a university and research institution initiative. It aims to ensure visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability for technicians. It is intended for technicians working in higher education and research. The vision of UKRI is to recognise, celebrate and value the essential contribution that the diversity of technically skilled people make across the UK research and innovation system.

This is outlined in UKRI's People and Teams Action Plan <https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-people-and-teams-action-plan/>

Research Involving Animals

There are occasions where AHRC may fund research that involves animals. As such, AHRC are signed up to the UKRI position statement on research involving animals.

As a public funder of research and innovation, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has a responsibility to ensure that our activities and those we fund are aligned with UK legislation and other guiding principles on research and innovation involving animals.

For more information see [UKRI's position on animals in research and innovation](#).

COVID- 19 Guidance for Applicants:

Accounting for the unknown impacts of COVID-19 in any new application

UKRI acknowledges that it is a challenge for applicants to determine the future impacts of COVID-19 while the pandemic continues to evolve. Applications should be based on the information available at the point of submission and, if applicable, the known application specific impacts of COVID-19 should be accounted for. Where known impacts have occurred, these should be highlighted in the application, including the assumptions/information at the point of submission. There is no need to include contingency plans for the potential impacts of COVID-19. Requests for travel both domestically and internationally can be included in accordance to the relevant scheme guidelines, noting the above advice. Reviewers will receive instructions to assume that changes that arise from the COVID-19 pandemic, post-submission, will be resolved and complications related to COVID-19 should not affect their scores.

Where an application is successful, any changes in circumstances that affect the proposal will be managed as a post-award issue. Mitigating against how COVID-19 has impacted applicants and the risk of projects needing to be abandoned for grants that were already awarded/ongoing before the COVID-19 pandemic, UKRI recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities and are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career(s) such as breaks and delays, disruptive working patterns and conditions, the loss of on-going work, and role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic. Reviewers and panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts of the impact that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the track record and career development of those individuals included in the proposal and will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant and their wider team to deliver the research they are proposing. Where disruptions have occurred, applicants can highlight this within their application, if they wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

Definition of research

For all schemes except Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement (FoF), the AHRC's definition of research is as follows: research activities should primarily be concerned with research processes, rather than outputs. This definition is built around three key features and your proposal must fully address all of these in order to be considered eligible for support:

It must define a series of research questions, issues or problems that will be addressed in the course of the research. It must also define its aims and objectives in terms of seeking to enhance knowledge and understanding relating to the questions, issues or problems to be addressed.

It must specify a research context for the questions, issues or problems to be addressed. You must specify why it is important that these particular questions, issues or problems should be addressed; what other research is being or has been conducted in this area; and what particular contribution this project will make to the advancement of creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding in this area.

It must specify the research methods for addressing and answering the research questions, issues or problems. You must state how, in the course of the research project, you will seek to answer the questions, address the issues or solve the problems. You should also explain the rationale for your chosen research methods and why you think they provide the most appropriate means by which to address the research questions, issues or problems.

Our primary concern is to ensure that the research we fund addresses clearly-articulated research questions, issues or problems, set in a clear context of other research in that area, and using appropriate research methods and/or approaches.

The precise nature of the research questions, issues or problems, approaches to the research and outputs of the work may vary considerably, embracing basic, strategic and applied research. The research questions, issues, problems, methods and/or approaches may range from intellectual questions that require critical, historical or theoretical investigation, to practical issues or problems that require other approaches such as practice-based approaches, testing, prototyping, experimental development and evaluation. The outputs of the research may include, for example, monographs, editions or articles; software; electronic data, including sound or images; performances, films or broadcasts; or exhibitions. Teaching materials may also be an appropriate outcome from a research project provided that it fulfils the definition above.

The research should be conceived as broadly as possible and so consideration should also be given to the outcomes of, and audiences for, the research. The outcomes of the research may only benefit other researchers and influence future research, but consideration must be given to potential opportunities for the transfer of knowledge into new contexts where the research could have an impact. AHRC encourages its award holders to widely share their project outputs.

The Council will support research creativity that values knowing through doing and involves an articulation of the internal knowledge in an external format. Creative output can be produced, or practice undertaken, as an integral part of a research process defined above. The Council would expect, however, this practice to be accompanied by some form of documentation of the research process, as well as some form of textual analysis or explanation to support its position and as a record of your critical reflection. Equally, creativity or practice may involve no such process at all, in which case it would be ineligible for funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Definitions

Practice based research is the generation of knowledge through practical means. It's a form of research that values knowing through doing and it also involves an articulation of that internal knowledge in an external format. There is an iterative cycle involved, where the research informs knowledge and the knowledge informs doing. Picking up, testing and contesting theoretical ideas along the way. Often artistic concerns lead the research rather than questions around impact.

Knowledge by means of practice and the outcomes of that practice. Positioning the researcher as a creator engaged in an exploratory process to explore the research question. Understanding through application, the study of a researchers own creative process.

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The AHRC offers several modes of funding for postdoctoral academics, including Research Grants, Curiosity Awards, Catalyst Awards and Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement. Other, more targeted funding opportunities are also announced throughout the year on the UKRI website: [Funding finder](#)

International Opportunities

AHRC attaches major importance to the position of UK arts and humanities research in the international and global arena and positively encourages active collaboration between UK researchers and those in other countries. The AHRC offers a number of international collaborative research opportunities which are available throughout the year through a number of collaboration agreements with overseas funders as below –

[State of São Paulo Research Foundation \(FAPESP\)](#) , Brazil

[National Science Foundation – Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences \(NSF/SBE\)](#), USA

[Research Council of Norway](#) (RCN)

[Collaborate with researchers in Luxembourg – UKRI](#) , Luxembourg

[DFG, German Research Foundation - UK-German Funding Initiative in the Humanities](#), Germany

The AHRC allows international researchers to act as Project co-lead (international) on Research Grants and some other funding opportunities. Further information on this policy can be found in the [Individual eligibility criteria](#) area.

1.1 Research Grants

Important changes to this scheme

Please note the announcement at the top of this document outlining changes to the Research Grants standard route effective for proposals submitted to us from June 2023 onwards, notably –

- Funding limits changing from £50K - £1.0m to be £300K to £1.5m (at full economic cost)
- Applications should be submitted through the new grants system, the Funding Service, rather than Je-S.
- As an interim measure we will launch AHRC responsive mode funding opportunities as consecutive submission rounds with defined closing dates whilst the Funding Service continues to develop during the first year or more of its operation.

Please refer to the Research Grants page [UKRI funding finder](#) for full details of the application form format in the Funding Service.

The Research Grants scheme is intended to support well-defined research projects enabling individual researchers to collaborate with, and bring benefits to, other individuals and organisations

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through the development of high quality research. Research Grants are not intended to support individual scholarship; however, projects may include elements of individual research if it can be shown that there will be added value from bringing these elements together within a jointly developed research framework.

Proposals must clearly demonstrate throughout how the potential impacts of the research within and beyond academia (as outlined in the Summary) will be realised.

Taking into account what is reasonable and appropriate given the nature of the research you propose to conduct, you should consider (and address if appropriate) methods for communications, engagement and collaboration to increase the likelihood of achieving impacts. You should outline how the proposed research will be managed to engage any users and beneficiaries that have been identified, or to identify potential users and beneficiaries as the research progresses. Innovative and creative approaches are strongly encouraged.

You should also consider the longer-term sustainability of the proposed activities and the likely transformative effects of any outputs on the target audiences and user groups, or within an organisational or policy context. What do you envisage will happen after the end of the funding period?

Aims

- to assist researchers in all areas of the arts and humanities to improve the breadth and depth of our knowledge of human culture both past and present
- to support well-defined research projects of the highest quality and standards that will lead to significant advances in creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding, of interest and value both in the research community and in wider contexts where they can make a difference
- to enable arts and humanities researchers to pursue, and to bring to completion in due time, collaborative research projects of the highest quality that require leadership from more than a single scholar. You are required to include a Project Lead and at least one Project co-Lead (UK) jointly involved in the development of the research proposal, its leadership and management and leading to significant jointly authored research outputs
- to enable arts and humanities researchers to establish or enhance effective working relationships with fellow researchers - both within and beyond the arts and humanities and within and beyond the UK - practitioners and the wide range of individuals and organisations who may benefit from their research
- to provide opportunities for less experienced researchers to develop their expertise and their careers by working collaboratively with senior researchers on well-defined projects and by leading projects themselves. This should be undertaken in line with the principles of the Researcher Development Concordat (for more information see [Concordat](#) and the [AHRC Guidance on Training and Developing Early Career Researchers in the Arts and Humanities](#)).
- to maximise the value of research outcomes by promoting their communication and dissemination with individuals and organisations outside academia and, where appropriate, to facilitate the knowledge transfer of those outcomes to both the research community and other contexts where they will make a difference.

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Scheme limit, duration and level of commitment

The Research Grants scheme accepts proposals with a total full economic cost of between £300K to £1.5m and lasting up to a maximum of 60 months (5 years).

The AHRC expects the Project Lead and any Project co-Lead (UK) to devote an average of at least 4 hours per week to the project. Where the commitment will be less than this it should be explained and justified in the proposal.

If it is considered necessary for a Project Lead or Project co-Lead (UK) to devote an intensive period of time at specific points of the project's funding lifetime, then this should be included in the application as the total number of hours to be devoted to the project and will therefore be reflected in the average number of hours devoted per week. You are reminded, however, that the time leaders contribute to the project needs to be justified and will be considered as part of the peer review process.

Deadlines

The start date entered on the proposal should be no earlier than 9 months after submission to AHRC and should be no later than 18 months after submission.

Individual eligibility

Recipients of Research Council Fellowships, who are initially supported as Research and Innovation Associates on Research Grants, are eligible to apply for new research grants in their own right. However, it is not possible to start any award until the duties on the original grant have been completed.

Collaboration

Collaboration in proposals may involve a single institution or a combination of institutions and may involve people from the same or from different research areas, including collaboration between disciplines within the arts and humanities, or between an arts and humanities discipline and another subject area. In such collaborations, the arts and/or humanities element of the project should lead the research questions, methods, etc. It may involve researchers collaborating with researchers overseas or with colleagues within other sectors, including research technical professionals such as research software engineers. The collaboration proposed should be appropriate and necessary to the specific needs of the research project.

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1.2. Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement Scheme

Important changes to this scheme

- Please note the announcement at the top of this document outlining changes to our responsive mode schemes – and that at this time the scope of this scheme will remain unchanged.
- Applications should be submitted through the new grants system, the Funding Service, rather than Je-S.
- As an interim measure we will launch AHRC responsive mode funding opportunities as consecutive submission rounds with defined closing dates whilst the Funding Service continues to develop during the first year or more of its operation.

Please refer to the Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement page [UKRI funding finder](#) for full details of the application form format in the Funding Service.

The AHRC Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement Scheme (FoF) provides funds to support innovative and creative engagements with new audiences and user communities which stimulate pathways to impact. Funds will be awarded for knowledge exchange, public engagement, dissemination and commercialisation activities that arise unforeseeably during the lifespan of or following an AHRC-funded project. The scheme does not support supplementary funding for continuation of research activities.

Proposals must clearly demonstrate both a well-defined non-academic need for the work and engagement with potential users and stakeholders in developing their project. Proposed activities must enhance the value and wider benefit of the original AHRC-funded research project, and clearly demonstrate how they will deliver significant economic, social, cultural and/or policy impacts.

Aims

- to explore unforeseen impact either within the lifespan of an AHRC research project or resulting from a completed research project
- to enhance the value and benefits of AHRC-funded research beyond academia
- to encourage and facilitate a range of interactions and creative engagements between arts and humanities research and a variety of user communities to include business and commercial, third sector and heritage sector, public policy, voluntary and community groups and/or the general public.

Scheme limit and duration

The FoF Scheme offers awards of up to £100,000 (fEC) for a maximum of 12 months either full- or part-time to support emergent or supplementary knowledge exchange, public engagement, active dissemination or commercialisation/proof of concept activities. Smaller awards of up to £30,000 (fEC) are encouraged for shorter, higher risk activities, for example testing the feasibility of an idea,

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exploring new partnerships for knowledge exchange, testing the market or investigating a new business model. Decision making times are reduced for these smaller awards.

Deadlines

There are no restrictions on how long ago the original project was funded, but the case must be made as to how the new proposal is appropriate and relevant if a significant amount of time has elapsed.

Applications over £30,000 fEC

We aim, where possible, to complete the assessment process within 14-16 weeks and the earliest start date for a project should be no earlier than five and no later than nine months after submission. If the start date is not as adhered to as above if the proposal is successful you may be asked to change the start date.

Applications under £30,000 fEC

We aim, where possible, to complete the assessment process within six weeks and the earliest start date should be no earlier than three and no later than nine months after submission. If the start date is not as adhered to as above if the proposal is successful you may be asked to change the start date.

Eligible activities

The focus of the FoF scheme is on impact generating activities and engagement with new user communities and non-academic audiences.

Types of activity supported by this scheme include:

- knowledge exchange, interactive public engagement or active dissemination activities. These must engage new user communities and audiences.
- commercialisation or proof of concept
- activities that build upon knowledge exchange and impact already undertaken but which take those activities in a new direction and to new audiences
- conferences and seminars for a policy/practice audience
- pursuit and development of new user contacts
- feasibility studies to test the potential application of ideas emerging from the research in different business, policy or practice contexts

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Ineligible activities

The Follow-on Funding scheme:

- Cannot be used to support impact activities that have already been taken into account in the original proposal.
- Cannot be used to extend an existing grant or award or to continue similar or existing activities or conduct further research.
- Cannot be used to support resource enhancement activities or to develop or extend an existing website or resource.
- Does not cover research leave type activities or primarily fund staff time.
- Cannot be used to support principally academic outputs (such as an academic paper, conference or a publication).

If any of the above appears to be the case, the proposal will be deemed ineligible.

Definitions

Knowledge Exchange is the processes, mechanisms, networks and relationships that enable research activity to move between people, organisations and sectors.

Eligibility criteria

The AHRC FoF scheme has been developed to support innovative and creative engagements with new non-academic audiences and user communities, which stimulate impact. This is the primary criterion for funding support. Proposals must:

- be based upon either previous or current research directly funded by the AHRC (with the exception of research conducted under Masters, Doctoral or Collaborative Doctoral (CDA) and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)).
- be based upon research that has been co-funded with another UK Research Council, funded entirely by another UK Research Council, or funded under UKRI supported schemes such as the HERA Joint Research Programme, but only where the FoF proposal genuinely falls within the AHRC's remit. In such cases strong justification is required for why the FoF project is directed to the AHRC, together with supporting evidence and previous proposal. But note that the leaders and host research organisation must meet the standard eligibility criteria outlined in Section 2 of this guide.
- support innovative impact opportunities that could not have been foreseen at the original proposal stage and/or that have not already been taken account of in the original award. Proposals need to demonstrate clearly how it will add significant value to impact activities that were already identified within the original award.
- exploit creative and innovative ideas rather than repeating, continuing or extending existing activities or conducting substantively new research projects.
- be focused towards non-academic audiences and relevant user communities. You should demonstrate engagement with potential users and stakeholders throughout the project's definition and development processes

SECTION 1: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- be led by the original PL from which the project derives. However, where it is more appropriate to the nature of the proposed activity, another member of the original research team may lead the FoF project. In such cases the original PL would be expected to be named as PcL at least in an advisory capacity. This would need to be justified in the application.

Project Co-Leads must meet the standard AHRC eligibility criteria regardless of the eligibility criteria that applied to the previous grant that this new one is following-on from.

If a research group within an RO wishes to exploit a piece of research in the absence of the original PL then permission should be sought from them (and where possible they should be involved in an advisory role) and the RO must ensure any continuity issues including IP or copyright are addressed.

The AHRC allows international researchers to act as Project co-lead (international) on Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement proposals. Detailed information about eligibility, costs and application guidance can be found within the relevant sections of this guide.

Non-Academic partners

In addition to the guidance under Non Academic partners, the following also applies:

- Universities, colleges, further education institutions, related departments or spin-out companies may not participate as non-academic partners.
- University museums, galleries, libraries and archives, however, may participate as project partners provided that they are working with a Research Organisation other than or in addition to the Research Organisation with which they are formally linked.

Where appropriate, non-academic partners are required to commit to a financial or in-kind contribution (this will not constitute part of the FEC of the project). There is no minimum contribution; however, value for money will be considered in the assessment of proposals.

Non-academic partners that are providing a significant contribution should be listed in the proposal as 'Project Partners' and should therefore submit a 'Project Partner Letter of Support' with the application. This project partner letter of support should detail the reasons, motivations and commitment to participating in the project.

Assessment and Peer Review

Proposals over £30,000 fEC will be subject to two specialist peer reviews by members of the AHRC's Peer Review College followed by a PL Response stage. The proposal, reviews and the PL Response will be moderated by a review panel who will make funding recommendations to the AHRC. Applications under £30,000 (fEC) will be reviewed directly by the panel and will not be offered a PL response.

Project Lead response

The PL Response process applies for proposals over £30K.

1.3. Curiosity Awards

Scope

Curiosity awards support early-stage ambitious and novel fundamental research which has the potential to act as a springboard towards new and exciting research agendas.

The scheme celebrates the full diversity of the arts and humanities. It is flexible in order to accommodate applications from teams, networks and solo researchers.

Projects can be single discipline, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary. The majority of the disciplinary focus of the project must fall within the AHRC's subject remit; see section 7 of this guide for our remit coverage. Practice-based and practice-led research is supported by this scheme.

Partnerships and collaboration are supported. Where partnerships are already established, you should outline how this funding supports novelty in your collaboration. Applications should articulate how collaborative activity will be conducted, considering good practice in creating equitable partnerships. Further guidance is available in the [UKRI Good research resource hub](#).

Duration

The duration of these awards is up to five years.

The project start date must be at least six months from the point of the application submission to AHRC.

Funding available

The full economic cost of your project can be up to £100,000. AHRC will fund 80% of the full economic cost.

What we will fund

The scheme is intentionally flexible. An indicative list of examples of the activities we will fund are provided below. You are encouraged to request and justify costs for activities that best meet the aims of your project. This may include:

- idea generation
- seed corn funding
- high risk / high potential concepts
- novel research
- networking activity
- partnership building
- knowledge exchange
- public engagement
- international collaboration
- scoping and piloting, e.g., early-stage proof of concept for ideas or change of direction

SECTION 1: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- pivots in research focus at any career stage
- mentoring for members of the research team

NB: this is not a prescriptive or exhaustive list.

Who is eligible to apply

The Project Lead and any Project co-Lead (UK) must be employed and supported by an eligible organisation for at least the duration of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) support; there is no requirement for a contract be in place at the point of application submission. There is no requirement for a permanent employment contract to apply for funding.

You must have the appropriate skills to lead the project in line with UKRI's terms & conditions. There are no specific qualification requirements, and the individual does not necessarily need a qualification such as a PhD. During your project, you must be primarily based and permitted to work in the UK.

You do not need to hold an academic research or teaching post to apply; applications are welcomed from leaders working as archivists, curators, librarians, technicians, practitioners, etc.

International researchers

We also encourage international researchers to participate as project co-leads. See sections two and three of this guide for full details on eligibility of researchers, organisations, and costs.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

Find out more about [equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI](#) and [AHRC's equality, diversity and inclusion policy](#).

Assessment process

There is no written peer review stage for the Curiosity awards scheme. Proposals will be assessed by an expert panel against the criteria and each will be graded and ranked alongside other applications after which the panel will make a funding recommendation.

Written feedback will not be provided on individual applications. AHRC may publish separate collated panel feedback, ensuring that individual applicants or their applications cannot be identified.

SECTION 1: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

How to apply

Further details about this scheme are available on the [UKRI funding finder](#) .

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UKRI Funding Service. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

During the initial phases of the Funding Service, the system will continue to develop in response to internal and external user needs. As an interim measure we will launch AHRC responsive mode funding opportunities as consecutive rounds with defined opening and closing dates. Opening in rounds means we will be able to accommodate system developments and assess applications in a batch submitted under the same conditions.

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1.4. Catalyst Awards

Scope

Catalyst awards support researchers without prior experience of leading a significant research project to accelerate their trajectory as independent researchers, unlocking their potential and building leadership and convenor experience through the delivery of ambitious and/or complex projects.

The scheme takes a people-centred approach with funding available to support the development of researchers and their research ideas. It is flexible, and applications are welcomed from teams, networks and solo researchers.

Development is at the core of this scheme; projects must clearly articulate how the funding will contribute to the development of all those involved through the way that the project has been designed and will be managed, with appropriate support structures in place.

Projects can be single discipline, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary. The majority of the disciplinary focus of the project must fall within the AHRC's subject remit, see section 7 of this guide for our remit coverage. Practice-based and practice-led research is supported by this scheme.

Partnerships and collaboration are supported, and you should outline how this collaboration contributes to your career development and the development of any project team members. Applications should articulate how collaborative activity will be conducted, considering good practice in creating equitable partnerships. Further guidance is available in the [UKRI Good research resource hub](#).

Duration

The duration of these awards is up to five years.

The project start date must be at least nine months from the point of the application submission to AHRC.

Funding available

The full economic cost of your project should be between £100,000 and £300,000. AHRC will fund 80% of the full economic cost.

Where mentoring is included for the leaders or Research and Innovation Associates, salary costs to cover the mentor's time can be claimed from the grant.

SECTION 1: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Costs associated with Project co-lead (international) can be claimed subject to AHRC's standard policy as stated in section 3 of [this guide](#).

Costs associated with or incurred by international co-leads will be funded at 100% FEC but must not exceed 30% of the total project costs. See sections two and three of this guide for details on eligibility of such costs.

What we will fund

You are encouraged to request and justify costs for activities that best meet the aims of your project.

Who is eligible to apply

Before applying for funding, check the following:

- [your proposal is suitable for AHRC funding](#) if you are unsure whether your proposed research falls within the remit of AHRC)
- [the eligibility of your organisation](#)

You are required to self-define your eligibility based on the below criteria and include a justification in your application. AHRC will not provide specific advice on eligibility for this scheme, beyond the standard UKRI eligibility rules. Peer reviewers will consider eligibility as part of their assessment of fit to scheme and you have the right to reply to any commentary in your Project Lead response.

Previous awards:

The Project Lead cannot be a current or former Project Lead on AHRC or other UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) research grants or fellowship grants, except:

- doctoral training awards (any)
- early career fellowships (any)
- AHRC Research Networking (or equivalent)
- AHRC curiosity awards
- AHRC Small Grants in the creative and performing arts
- AHRC Research Grants Practice Led and Applied
- institutional lead on a UKRI Impact Accelerator Award (IAA)

The Project Lead cannot be a current or former Project Lead on research grants or fellowship grants from any other funder, with the exception of awards that reasonably meet the aims of the above list.

The Project Lead may hold a current or previous award from AHRC, UKRI or any other funder that falls outside the scope of a research grant or fellowship grant, e.g., travel grant, public engagement grant, skills training grant, etc.

Please note this eligibility criteria does not apply for Co-Leads or Mentors in the Catalyst Award.

Years of active research experience:

We do not consider years post-PhD or job title to be a marker of career progression. Eligibility is determined on the basis of funding history.

Project co-Lead (UK):

Project co-Lead (UK) are permitted and encouraged for interdisciplinary applications or where a Project co-Lead (UK) would provide specific technical expertise that is essential to the project. This

SECTION 1: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

can include international co-leads as per the guidance below. However, it must be clear that the Project Lead is responsible for leading the project.

Employment:

The Project Lead and any Project co-Lead (UK) must be employed and supported by an eligible organisation for at least the duration of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) support; it is not a requirement that a contract be in place at the point of application submission. It is also not a requirement to have a permanent employment contract to apply for funding.

Skills and qualifications:

You must have the appropriate skills to lead the project in line with UKRI's terms & conditions. There are no specific qualification requirements, and the individual does not necessarily need a qualification such as a PhD. During your project, you must be primarily based and permitted to work in the UK.

You do not need to hold an academic research or teaching post to apply; applications are welcomed from leaders working as archivists, curators, librarians, technicians, practitioners, etc.

International researchers

We also encourage international researchers to participate as project co-leads. See sections two and three of this guide for full details on eligibility of researchers, organisations and costs.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

Find out more about [equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI](#) and [AHRC's equality, diversity and inclusion policy](#).

Assessment process

We will invite three peers to review your application independently, against the specified criteria for this opportunity.

Applicants will be provided with a right to reply/ Project Lead response opportunity.

The peer reviews and Project Lead response will be moderated by an expert panel who will then assign a final grade to the proposal and rank it alongside other applications after which the panel will make a funding recommendation.

Written feedback will only be provided in the form of the anonymised peer reviews and the final grade from the panel.

SECTION 1: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

How to apply

Further details about this scheme are available on the [UKRI funding finder](#) .

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UKRI Funding Service. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

During the initial phases of the Funding Service, the system will continue to develop in response to internal and external user needs. As an interim measure we will launch AHRC responsive mode funding opportunities as consecutive rounds with defined opening and closing dates. Opening in rounds means we will be able to accommodate system developments and assess applications in a batch submitted under the same conditions.

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SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

Institutional

All UK Higher Education Institutions that receive grant funding from one of the UK higher education funding bodies are eligible to receive funds for research, postgraduate training and associated activities.

These bodies consist of [Research England](#) , [Higher Education Funding Council for Wales](#) , [Scottish Funding Council](#) and Northern Ireland's [Department for the Economy](#).

Research institutes for which the Research Councils have established a long-term involvement as major funder are also eligible to receive research funding, from any Council. A list of these institutes can be found at: <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligible-research-institutes/#chapter-list>

Other independent research organisations (IROs) and Public Sector Research Organisation (PSREs) may also be eligible if they possess an existing in-house capacity to carry out research that materially extends and enhances the national research base and are able to demonstrate an independent capability to undertake and lead research programmes. They must also satisfy other criteria related to their financial and legal status: these are set out in full in the Research Councils' joint statement on eligibility. The statement itself can be found at:

<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKRI-310121-Eligibility-for-UKRI-Research-Council-Funding-V2.pdf>

The current list of eligible IROs can be found at:

<https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligible-independent-research-organisations/#contents-list>

The current list of eligible PSREs can be found at:

<https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligible-public-sector-research-establishments/#contents-list>

Further information on eligibility can be found on the [UKRI website](#).

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

UKRI has introduced new role names for opportunities being run on the new Funding Service from 22 May 2023.

These are the role types AHRC uses.

New Role name (TFS)	Previous Role Name (J-es)
Project Lead (PL)	Principal Investigator (PI)
Project co-Lead UK (PcL)	Co-Investigator (CO-I)
Project Co-Lead (International) (PcL (I))	International Co-Investigator
Fellow	Fellow
Research and Innovation Associate	Researcher/PDRA
Specialist	Technician
Technician	Technician
Professional enabling Staff	Other Staff

For full details please visit [Eligibility as an individual – UKRI](#)

Project Lead (PL)

The Project Lead takes responsibility for the intellectual leadership of the research project and for the overall management of the research or other activities. The PL will be the person to whom we shall address all correspondence and must be based at the organisation at which the grant will be held.

Academic standing

To be eligible, you must be actively engaged in postdoctoral research and be of postdoctoral standing. This means that you either have a doctorate or can demonstrate in the application that you have equivalent research experience and/or training.

You must have a level of skills, knowledge and experience appropriate to the nature of the proposed project

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

Contractual eligibility for Project Lead and Project co-Lead (UK)

Contractual arrangement – nature

You must either:

- a) be employed by the Research Organisation submitting the proposal;
- Or
- b) if not employed by the submitting organisation³, have an existing written formal arrangement with the organisation confirming that the research will be conducted as if you were an employee, that is, enables you to carry out research there and receive from the organisation all necessary management and infrastructural support and that commits the organisation to take full responsibility for the research and its proper governance;
- Or
- c) be scheduled to move to the submitting organisation before the proposed start date of the grant, whether or not the proposal is successful, in such a way that would ensure that criterion a) or b) is met by the time the grant starts⁴.

It is no longer a requirement to provide evidence of contractual arrangements within the application. However we do require that such an arrangement is in place at the point that the grant begins and we may ask for evidence of it during the assessment process.

Contractual arrangement – duration

The Research Organisation must confirm that you have:

- a) an existing contract of employment that extends to beyond the duration of the proposed grant (or, if not employed by the submitting organisation, a formal arrangement as described under 'contractual arrangement – nature above);
- Or
- b) an assurance from the submitting organisation that, if the proposal is successful, the existing contract of employment, or formal commitment to provide support if not employed at the organisation, will extend to beyond the end date of the grant.

For Project co-Lead (UK), where there is mention of "submitting organisation", this should be replaced by "an eligible organisation".

³ That is, employed elsewhere and seconded to the submitting organisation; or not employed at all (for example, retired leaders, honorary or visiting fellow (see section on additional individual eligibility criteria)).

⁴ In this case, the affiliation shown for the leader should be the organisation that would hold the grant.

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Individual eligibility criteria

- The Project Lead must be resident in the UK (AHRC follows the government definition of a resident in the UK)
- It is not permissible for someone to be both a Project Lead or Project co-Lead (UK) and a Research and Innovation Associate on the same project.
- Unless otherwise stated in the relevant scheme or call guidance Professors Emeriti are eligible to apply to AHRC schemes, as long as the contractual conditions outlined above are met. If you are a holder of any other senior non-stipendiary post you may also be eligible to apply for funding if you meet the requirement outlined under 'contractual arrangement – nature' above. It is possible for the RO to propose that any contract put in place if the proposal was successful would be stipendiary even if the current arrangement is not.

Project co-leads

The role of Project co-Lead (UK)

A Project co-Lead (UK) assists the Project Lead in the management and leadership of the research project. The Project co-Lead (UK) can also undertake research activity, although this is not a requirement. For Research Grants, the AHRC expects any leaders to devote an average of at least 4 hours per week to the project and that time commitment should allow enough time for management and leadership duties on the project. For the Curiosity and Catalyst Awards, it would be up to the applicant to determine their time commitment on the project, thinking about what would be appropriate and feasible for their project and justifying this in a way that would be clear to reviewers and proportionate to the project's aims.

There is no maximum number of Project co-Lead (UK) that can be included on a Research Grant or Follow-on Funding application. However, the inclusion of each Project co-Lead (UK) needs to be fully justified in the proposal.

Eligibility of Project co-Lead (UK)

The same eligibility criteria apply to Project co-Lead (UK) as Project Leads.

Project co-lead (international)

The AHRC has a policy to allow international researchers to act as Project co-lead (international) on some of its schemes.

In order to be considered eligible, a Project co-Lead (international) needs to have suitable academic experience and be based at a non-UK established research organisation with significant research capacity. This organisation should be of comparable status and standing to a UK organisation which is eligible for UK Research Council funding, for example, a publicly funded university or a 'not-for-profit' research institution with a track record and distinctive research capacity and capability in areas relevant to the proposed research.

From June 2023 it is no longer a requirement to provide a head of department statement.

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

International research organisations must have the necessary research capacity and capability to support the conduct of the specified research. It is the PL's responsibility to articulate in the proposal the added value that an Project co-Lead (international) will bring to the overall leadership of the research and their role in the management of the project, as well as the relevant research experience and expertise that they will bring to the project team. It is the responsibility of the UK RO to check that the Project co-lead's (international) organisation is an appropriate organisation to receive and has systems in place to manage the funding provided. The RO will also need assurance that appropriate agreements are put in place for the delivery of the overseas activities funded under the grant. The AHRC will not be able to provide any additional assurance to ROs regarding overseas partners but may, by exception, undertake additional checks or seek further information from ROs.

Project Co-Lead (International) will not be permitted to take over as lead researcher (i.e. Project Lead) should the Project lead step down for any reason.

PhD project students

Please note that PhD study cannot be funded through our four responsive mode schemes or through any other funding opportunity unless otherwise specified.

Eligibility of Research Council institute staff

A list of eligible Research Council Institutes can be found on UKRI website at:

[Eligible research institutes – UKRI](#)

Research Council Institute staff need to ensure that they meet the relevant criteria for each particular scheme in relation to their academic experience and to the nature of their contract.

Institutes that are considering submitting a proposal to a Council to which they will be newly eligible are encouraged to discuss the proposal with the relevant Council staff in the first instance.

Research and Innovation associate

Research and Innovation Associates must be of postdoctoral standing. This means that they should possess either a PhD or have the equivalent research experience.

The responsibilities of the post requested on the project should be commensurate with the level of experience and skills of the proposed Research and Innovation associate (whether named or unnamed).

The AHRC does not fund the employment of researchers who are registered for higher degrees unless the researcher is already of postdoctoral standing and:

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

- The work of the higher degree is not an integral part of, does not arise directly from, or feed directly into, the work of the project.
- The salary costs sought are appropriate and directly related to the actual time the postdoctoral researcher will spend working on the project.

It is expected that the Research and Innovation Associate will be based at the same institution as a leader on the research project and a thorough justification as to how the Research and Innovation Associate will be supported must be provided where this is not to be the case.

It is also expected that the Research and Innovation Associate will be managed and supported in line with the principles of the Researcher Development Concordat and the AHRC Guidance on Training and Developing Early Career Researchers in the Arts and Humanities.

Project Partners, Collaborating Organisations and Sub-Contractors

In Research Council proposals, the terms Project Partner, Collaborators and Sub-Contractors have specific meanings and cannot be used interchangeably and for all organisations with whom you are collaborating.

Project Partners

A third party person who is not employed on the grant, or a third party organisation, who provides specific contributions either in cash or in kind, to the project. These contributions should be clearly identified within the 'Project Partner' section of the proposal; in-kind contributions should be included, even if a rough estimate. Entitlement to the outputs of the project and/or Intellectual Property will be determined between the parties involved, however any access to project outputs and/or IP must be in line with any relevant Subsidy Control regulation. As a rule Project Partners are expected to provide contributions to the delivery of the project and should not therefore be seeking to claim funds from UKRI. However, where there are specific circumstances where Project Partners do require funding for minor costs such as travel and subsistence, this will be paid at 80% FEC unless otherwise stated by us; note that any applicable Subsidy Control regulation and HMRC guidance will also be taken into account which may affect the percentage of these costs that we will fund. These costs should be outlined and fully justified in the proposal and will be subject to peer review.

UKRI Head Office Staff acting in their capacity as a UKRI employee are not eligible to be Project Partners.

Independent Research Organisations (IROs) and Public Sector Research Establishments (PSREs) may participate as project partners provided that they are not an organisation at which the Project Lead, Fellow or Project co-Lead (UK) are based.

University museums, galleries, libraries and presses may participate as project partners provided that they are not formally linked to an organisation at which the Project Lead, Fellow or Project co-Lead (UK) are based.

Where IROs, PSREs, university museums, galleries, libraries and presses are the organisation at which the Project Lead, Fellow or Project co-Lead (UK) are based they may still participate in the

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

project but must be fully costed to the project according to fEC rules, so cannot make contributions in-kind to the project.

Except for the circumstances outlined above UK Higher Education Institutions that receive grant funding from one of the UK higher education funding bodies cannot be project partners, i.e. they cannot make contributions in-kind to the project.

Minor Directly Incurred costs may be requested to facilitate collaboration and these should be costed in line with the fEC of the project. If costs are being charged to the project, then they must relate solely to the activities on the project, and not be part of everyday business for the organisation. For example, travel and subsistence costs should not be charged to the grant, unless it is clearly justified in the proposal that the partner organisation would be unable to contribute to the project without having these costs covered. If all or a substantial amount of the collaborating organisation's involvement is being charged to the project as part of the fEC, then this organisation is **not** a 'Project Partner' and their role as a '**Subcontractor**' should be outlined in the application.

Each Project Partner must provide a Project Partner letter or email of support to provide assurance that the project partner has authorised the proposed contribution or commitment. The letter or email should be a maximum of 2 sides of A4 per partner. These also must be in English or Welsh and be signed by the named contact, stating the capacity in which they are providing the sign off.

Subcontractor

A third party individual who is not employed as staff on the grant, or a third party organisation, who is subcontracted by the host organisation to deliver a specific piece of work. This will be subject to the procurement rules of the host organisation. All costs that support the delivery of the subcontract are eligible and will be paid at 80% fEC unless otherwise stated, these should be outlined and fully justified in the proposal and will be subject to peer review. Entitlement to the outputs of the project and/or Intellectual Property will be determined between the parties involved, however any access to project outputs and/or IP must be in line with any relevant Subsidy Control regulation.

University museums, galleries and libraries may participate as subcontractors provided that they are not formally linked to an organisation at which the Project Lead, Fellow or Project co-Lead (UK) are based.

Collaborator

Do not have an official role/descriptor of "Collaborator" as this is a word often generically used in relation to a project, therefore this could lead to confusion. Instead, the term "collaboration" should be used in the generic sense to explain that there is a project relationship or interaction, accompanied with an official project role descriptor of Project Partner, Sub-contractor, PL, PcL etc to explain the nature of the collaboration.

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

Dual Roles

An organisation or individual can act as both a Project Partner and Subcontractor, however this must be fully justified and will be subject to peer review. Project partner related costs are expected to be minor. Where the project needs work to be undertaken that is more significant and includes costs other than travel and subsistence, then the organisation/individual may need to be included as both a Project Partner and a Subcontractor.

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SECTION 3: COSTS

All proposals to all AHRC funding opportunities and schemes should be costed on the basis of the full economic costs (fEC) of the research and all costs that contribute to the full economic costs of the proposal should be included. Proposals should be costed using TRAC

<https://www.trac.ac.uk/about/> (Transparent Approach to Costing) methodology and should only include the costs required to support the research related to the proposal (that is, costs which fall outside the scope of the grant should not be included). Therefore as per fEC rules in-kind support is not permitted from any of the UK organisations hosting the Project Lead or Project co-Lead (UK), this includes salaries for Project Lead or Project co-Lead (UK).

If the proposal is successful, the AHRC will contribute 80 per cent of these costs.

All travel claims should evidence value for money alongside environmental impact, welfare and business need. Consequently, these should only include travel by standard class by train and economy class by air. Exceptions to this would be permitted where there is a justifiable health and wellbeing need and approved by the Research Organisation prior to purchase and evidence of this should be available.

Please note that patent and other IPR costs, such as those relating to licensing agreements and the establishment of spin out companies, are not eligible.

Open Access

UKRI provides research organisations with block funding for publication costs and as such the Arts and Humanities Research Council does not provide funding in research grants for any publication costs associated with peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, monographs, book chapters and edited collections.

Publication costs associated with research outputs other than those listed above such as critical editions, catalogues etc. may, however, continue to be included in grants as a Directly Incurred Other Cost. Any request for such costs will of course need to be fully justified.

NOTE - the revised UKRI Open Access Policy of August 2021 requires that monographs, book chapters and edited collections published from 1 January 2024 to be made open access within 12 months of publication. Costs for these publication types cannot be included in individual funding applications

Details of the UKRI Open Access Policy are available on the UKRI website here <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/your-responsibilities-if-you-get-funding/making-research-open/>

SECTION 3: COSTS

Proposals with an international element

For some of our schemes, the AHRC allows costs to be included to support international elements as part of the proposed research. Details of allowable costs are listed in this section where they are further broken down into two parts; Project co-lead (international) and other international elements to proposals. For details of the eligibility required for Project co-lead (international) please see section 2.

Project co-lead (international)

The AHRC has a policy to allow international researchers to act as Project co-lead (international) on some of its schemes.

All costs incurred by the Project co-lead (international), including salary costs will need to be listed as 'Exceptions'.

The reason for requesting costs should be articulated in the Resources and cost justification section. We would not normally expect to see salary costs for Project co-lead (international) applied for; however, we would allow it in some circumstances, for example:

- Where a co-lead is paid term-time only and is expected to supplement their income for the rest of the year
- Where a co-lead is required to secure external funding in order to conduct research
- Where the co-lead's university agrees to free up teaching time for them, provided they can secure funding for replacement teaching

Infrastructure costs (estates, indirect costs, etc.) for the Project co-lead (international) organisation are not eligible; however, you may apply for all costs associated with supporting the Project co-lead (international) in conducting the research.

Research and Innovation Associates can be employed and supervised by the Project co-Lead (international) if this is deemed necessary to the success of the research project; however, justification for why this is necessary should be articulated in the Justification of Resources attachment. Research and Innovation Associates who are employed by the overseas organisation and who are supporting the work of the Project co-lead (international) will be funded at 100% fEC.

Other international elements to proposals

If you are applying to a scheme in which Project co-lead (international) are not eligible or if it is not appropriate for you to have an Project co-Lead (international) on your project, you can still involve international elements within your grant application. These will be paid at the usual 80% fEC (as

SECTION 3: COSTS

opposed to the 100% fEC for Project co-lead (international)– only elements associated with the Project co-lead (international) costs can be paid at 100% fEC). There is no limit to how much of the proposal can be spent on other international elements but the requested funds should be appropriate to the needs of the proposal:

- Project Leads and Project co-Leads (UK) can request funding for travel and subsistence to visit and/or research in other countries where this is essential to the conduct of the research proposed.
- Non-UK based academics can be part of certain activities associated with a grant where their input is justified and essential to the delivery of grant objectives, for example through being members of an advisory group. Costs such as travel and subsistence associated with this can be included if fully justified.
- Funds can be paid to a non-UK based researcher or expert on a 'consultancy' basis if their expertise is seen to be vital to the success of the project. This would need special justification in the proposal. For example, applicants would need to consider:
 - o Is the expertise available within the UK?
 - o Proportion of the overall costs that the consultancy constitutes (i.e. the majority of the research must still be undertaken by UK based researchers)
 - o Access to research data and IPR: PLs collaborating with overseas organisations in any capacity are required to have assurances in place before the start of the research project regarding access to research data, outputs, resource material, etc. as well as have an understanding of the expectations of the overseas organisation regarding ownership of material Non-UK based consultancy costs would need to be listed under 'Other Directly Incurred Costs' on the proposal form and applicants must demonstrate clear value for money and justification.

Non-UK organisations who are contributing their own resources (in cash or in kind) can be 'project partners' on grant proposals. This contribution could include supporting the time of researchers to be involved in the grant. A letter of support from the project partner would need to accompany the proposal. For further information please see section [Project Partners, Collaborating Organisations and Sub-Contractors](#).

Archaeology: Radiocarbon Dating

AHRC provides funding to the National Environment Isotope Facility (NEIF) to allow our research communities to make use of their radiocarbon dating function. If your project requires radiocarbon dates you must, in the first instance, request these from the NEIF. Only in cases where the NEIF confirms they are unable to provide the service required will use of other facilities be considered. All applicants must discuss their requirements with the Director of the Radiocarbon Facility, Dr Rachel Wood rachel.wood@arch.ox.ac.uk, prior to submitting their proposal to AHRC. Further details on the facility and how to apply for dates if your project is successful can be found at <http://www.isotopesuk.org/index.html>

SECTION 3: COSTS

Requesting less than 100 radiocarbon dates

If you require less than 100 radiocarbon dates and the NEIF has confirmed they are able to provide the type of service required, you must **not** include the costs for these in your application. However, you must state within your application that you have discussed this with the NEIF, and they are able to provide the service required.

If your proposal is successful you will still need to complete an application to the NEIF panel for confirmation of the dates.

Requesting more than 100 radiocarbon dates

If you require more than 100 radiocarbon dates and the NEIF has confirmed they are able to provide the type of service required, you **must** include the costs for these in your application as part of the proposed budget. As with all proposed costs, you should also include justification for the cost of the radiocarbon dating as part of the Justification of Resources. You must also state within your application that you have discussed this with the NEIF, and they are able to provide the service required. If your proposal is successful you will still need to complete an application to the NEIF panel for confirmation of the dates.

Cases where the NEIF is unable to provide the type of service required

If the NEIF confirm they are unable to provide the type of service required for the proposed project then costs for the dating must be included in the application and justified as normal.

Which calls and schemes does this apply to?

This guidance applies to all the funding opportunities run by AHRC.

We do note, however, that outside of our standard schemes (Research Grants, Curiosity Awards, Catalyst Awards and Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement), some funding opportunities may emphasise skills development or capacity building within the call document. In cases such as these we will consider requests to use other facilities on a case by case basis. We would advise applicants to discuss these cases with the AHRC prior to submitting the application. If use of alternative facilities is proposed, then the costs should be included in the proposal and justified as normal.

Cost headings

All costs should fall under one of the following headings:

Directly Incurred

These are costs that are explicitly identifiable as arising from the conduct of a project, are charged as the cash value actually spent and are supported by an audit record. They include:

SECTION 3: COSTS

Staff

Payroll costs requested for staff, full or part-time, who will work on the project and whose time can be supported by a full audit trail during the life of the project.

Travel and Subsistence

Funds for travel and subsistence, for use by staff who work on the project, where these are required by the nature of the work.

Equipment

Individual items of equipment up to £10,000 (including VAT) are permissible to be included in the FEC of the proposal and should be included in the 'Directly Incurred – Other' fund heading. Items should not be added under the 'Equipment' heading.

AHRC cannot support the funding of individual items of equipment costing more than £10,000 (including VAT). Therefore, if your project requires the use of equipment at this value, this will need to be provided from other sources.

Other Directly Incurred Costs

Costs of other items dedicated to the project, including consumables, books, survey fees, purchase/hire of vehicles, publication costs or recruitment and advertising costs for staff directly employed on the project. Items of equipment costing less than £10,000 should also be included under this heading.

Visas, Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) and Certificate of Sponsorship:

AHRC currently allow visa fees to be charged to the grant for all Directly Incurred staff directly employed on the grant for at least 50% of their time. All visa costs, including IHS and Certificates of Sponsorship, incurred must be a direct result of the person being employed on the grant for at least 50% of their contracted time and is not extended to family members. All costs must be met within the original grant funding limit.

Directly Allocated

These are the costs of resources used by a project that are shared by other activities. They are charged to projects on the basis of estimates rather than actual costs and do not represent actual costs on a project-by-project basis. They include:

Investigators

Proposals will need to show the costs of the Project Lead and any Project co-Lead (UK) even if their time charged to the project is based on estimates rather than actual costs. It is not permitted

SECTION 3: COSTS

for Project Leads and Project co-Lead (UK) to provide their time in-kind, i.e. their salary costs must be charged to the grant

Estates

These costs may include building and premises costs, basic services and utilities, and any clerical staff and equipment maintenance or operational costs not already included under other cost headings. Project co-Lead (International) are not eligible for Estate Costs.

Other Directly Allocated

These costs may include, for example, the costs of other research staff, technical, administrative and other support staff, or access to institutional research facilities such as equipment and IT systems.

Technical staff often provide essential support to research projects and should be recognised and costed accordingly. This group of staff include, for example, research software engineers, and other staff supporting data and digital aspects of a project.

Indirect Costs

These include non-specific costs charged across all projects based on estimates that are not otherwise included as Directly Allocated costs. They include the costs of the Research Organisation's administration, such as personnel, finance, library and some departmental services. Project co-Lead (International) are not eligible for Indirect Costs.

Exceptions

These are Directly Incurred costs that Research Councils will fund in full (that is at 100 per cent), subject to actual expenditure incurred, or items that are outside FEC e.g. costs incurred by the Project co-lead (international), including salary, where applicable.

Indexation

All costings should be at current prices, inclusive of VAT and other taxes where applicable, with no allowance for inflation. The AHRC will add extra funding to account for inflation at the point a grant is awarded.

SECTION 3: COSTS

Justification of costs

All costs associated with the research project must be justified in Resources and Cost Justification section, with the following exceptions:

- Estates costs
- Indirect costs
- Investigator salary costs (excluding Project co-Lead (international) costs)
- Other directly allocated
- Shared lab equipment

Although leaders' precise salary level need not be justified, the balance of staffing - between leaders and Research and Innovation Associates of different levels of experience and seniority - and the amount of time that leaders will devote to the project, must be justified fully within the Applicant and Team section of the application form. If your proposal includes Project co-lead (international) and you are applying to cover their salary or replacement teaching costs, you must state the reasons why you are applying for those costs as well as the amount of time the Project co-Lead (UK) is committed to the project (although you are not required to justify the level of salary the Project co-Lead (UK) is being paid).

If you wish to include costs associated with dissemination and knowledge exchange activities within your research proposal, you should ensure that the end-date for your project is timed to accommodate these activities. Any such costs must be directly related to the research. Costs may only be claimed for activities undertaken during the period of an AHRC award.

Items expected to be found in a department

The AHRC will not fund items that would ordinarily be found in a department, such as non-specialist computers or laptops. Any proposals requesting these items should include justification both for why they are required for the project and why they cannot be provided from the Research Organisation's own resources (including funding from indirect costs from grants).

SECTION 3: COSTS

Scheme limits

Some schemes have overall limits within which costs must fall, based on what is considered appropriate given the aims of the scheme. These are detailed in the table below:

Name of Scheme	Minimum scheme limit (£) (FEC)	Maximum scheme limit (£) (FEC)
Research Grants	300,000	1,500,000
Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement	None	100,000
Curiosity Award	None	100,000
Catalyst Award	100,000	300,000

The application should demonstrate the full economic cost of the proposed project. Applications should not be under-costed in order to meet a scheme limit. Rather, the scope of the project should be altered so that the project's fEC meets the scheme's limit.

If Project co-lead (international) are eligible in the scheme and you include a Project co-lead (international) in your proposal, you may request up to 30% fEC of the overall project budget (up to the scheme maximum) to include costs incurred by the Project co-Lead (UK). Salary costs for the Project co-Lead (international) will be eligible in certain circumstances (see [‘Proposals with an international element’](#) for more information). These costs will be paid at 100% fEC directly to the PL's institution and it is the institution's responsibility to transfer these costs to the international organisation.

Within any particular scheme, with the exception of FoF (See Assessment and Peer Review for the FoF Scheme above), there is no differentiation in the assessment procedures between shorter projects and those of longer duration. Thorough consideration is always given to lower value bids. You should be aware that value for money is an important criterion in the assessment of applications and that, as the level of funding sought increases, so too does the challenge of meeting this criterion. Reviewers will particularly scrutinise the balance of staffing and the amount of time devoted by leaders to the project.

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SECTION 4: APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Deadlines

From June 2023 and as an interim measure the responsive mode schemes listed in this guide will operate with consecutive submission rounds with defined closing dates, rather than 'always open'. Applications may be submitted at any time whilst a round is open; you do not need to wait until the closing date. AHRC will begin to process applications as soon as we receive them so, if an application is submitted early in a round, we may be able to provide you with an earlier decision.

Completing the proposal

The Funding Service (TFS), new grants system

Throughout 2024 AHRC will offer the majority of its funding opportunities on the new grants system, TFS, rather than on Je-S. In such cases it will be made clear in the applicant guidance which system should be used. Further information about TFS is available on the UKRI website here <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/improving-your-funding-experience/>

Contact the TFS helpdesk for information and support using the new Funding Service,
Email: support@funding-service.ukri.org Telephone: 01793 265810

Guidance for applicants using the Funding Service is available on the [UKRI website here](#)

Guidance for peer reviewers using the Funding Service is available on the [UKRI website here](#)

Guidance for research organisation staff using the Funding Service is available on the [UKRI website here](#)

Creating a proposal

Check the relevant [UKRI Funding Finder](#) page to identify which grants system should be used, Je-S or TFS.

In both systems once you have completed and submitted your proposal it will first be directed to your Research Organisation for review and approval, they will then in turn submit your proposal to AHRC. You must therefore, ensure you allow sufficient time prior to AHRC deadlines for your Research Organisation to be able to do this (note that some Research Organisations will have their own internal deadlines). The published scheme deadline is for submission of the completed application to the AHRC by the Research Organisation and late proposals will not be considered. Applicants must ensure that they have obtained the permission of any other person named on the proposal form (for example any Project co-Lead (UK) or Project Partners) for the provision of their personal information to UKRI and the processing of their data by UKRI for the purpose of assessing the application and management of any funding awarded.

SECTION 4: APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Submission Rules

If a proposal breaks any of the scheme submission rules (listed either in this guide or [Funding Finder](#) page) in any way it may be rejected.

Late proposals will not be accepted.

. If a proposal has been rejected following initial checks but before it has been to reviewers, it will be eligible for resubmission; please see Resubmission Policy section for full details. If there are any restricted eligibility criteria for the scheme to which you are applying, at the point of resubmission you must still be eligible to apply to this scheme.

Use of links and References

References can be included within the core question answers.

- Applications should be self-contained, and hyperlinks can only be used to provide links directly to references. Assessors are not required to access links to carry out assessment or recommend a funding decision.
- Hyperlinks can be provided to relevant publications or online resources. To ensure the information's integrity is maintained include, where possible, persistent identifiers such as digital object identifiers should be used.
- References should be included in the appropriate question section of the application and be easily identifiable by the assessors.
 - Assessors usually require the name and date to be able to easily identify a reference. This is dependent on research discipline.

Subjects

For all schemes you are asked to classify your proposal in terms of subject area and keywords. This information will be used to assist in selecting peer reviewers. Further details can be found in AHRC subject remit and proposal classification, AHRC disciplines section.

You are advised to keep in mind that while your proposal will be considered by panellists who have a broad knowledge and understanding of the subject areas and disciplines with which their panel is concerned, they might not necessarily have detailed knowledge of your particular specialism. Specialist advice is made available to the peer review panel via the reviews provided by Peer Review College members (See Assessment Criteria and Peer Review, Section 5 below).

You are therefore encouraged to address your proposal to a group of peers conceived as broadly as is consistent with the specialist nature of your project. The Council is committed to the principle that the work it funds should be disseminated to as wide an audience as possible, both within the UK and internationally. In framing proposals for peer review, therefore, Project Leads are advised to address as wide a group of peers as possible.

SECTION 4: APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Summary

Describe the proposed research in simple terms in a way that could be publicised to a general audience. Note that this summary will be published on the [UKRI Gateway to Research](#) website in the event that a grant is awarded. You should also summarise how the research will be beneficial to users who are within and beyond the academic research community, and how you intend on engaging with them.

Non-Academic partners

If appropriate, the project may be delivered in collaboration with one or more non-academic partner organisations. Both UK and International organisations are eligible and must be existing organisations, although there is no minimum period stipulated for which they must have been operating. When collaborating with international partners you must demonstrate that the UK research is at the international leading edge.

Technicians

Carefully consider and recognise the role of technical staff when submitting your grant application. AHRC's working definition of a Research Technical Professional (RTP) i.e. a Technician, is anyone who brings indispensable specialist technical skills, at an advanced level, to a research project, i.e. professional skills that are necessary for the development, delivery and completion of the project. Depending on the project, Academic/ Research/ Library professionals, Animators, Archivists, Conservators, Curators, Graphic designers, Illustrators, Sound engineers, staff who have expertise in digital, software and data areas such as Digital Technicians, Information Systems Specialists and Research Software Engineers, and others may qualify for inclusion. AHRC encourages a holistic approach to the research ecosystem.

Technical staff often provide essential support to research projects and should be recognised and costed accordingly. An important way of acknowledging the contributions of technical staff is by entering their details in the Core Team and the Applicant and Team sections of the application form; it should be noted that these sections can be completed even if you have not yet identified a specific person to perform these duties. UKRI is committed to ensuring that all the people whose work contributes to research and innovation are recognised and valued. This is outlined in UKRI's Technician Commitment Action Plan: [UKRI-040221-TechnicianCommitmentActionPlan.pdf](#)

SECTION 4: APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Submitting more than one application to the same scheme

The AHRC considers that you should be responsible for determining your own research priorities, and you should normally only submit one proposal at any one time to the same scheme. If you choose nevertheless to submit more than one proposal, then you must demonstrate that you will be able to carry out all of the projects that are successful. You should describe fully the scope and extent of your involvement in each of the projects, as our reviewers will evaluate the extent to which you, any leaders and members of the research team (as appropriate), are able actively to conduct and manage the research set out in your proposals.

Joint proposals

Proposals with leaders from more than one Research Organisation should be submitted on one proposal form. If successful, payment of the grant will be made to the institution in which the Project Lead is based and which submitted the proposal.

Confidentiality and use of the information supplied

By submitting a proposal you are giving your permission to the AHRC to process and disclose the data you provide, including processing of personal data.

The AHRC will publish on publicly available websites the details of funded projects such as the project title, project summary, names of all leaders, project dates, amount awarded, names of project partner organisations etc.

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SECTION 5: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PEER REVIEW

This guidance applies only to applications submitted through Je-S, detailed guidance on the assessment criteria that is used in the new grants system is published on the relevant UKRI funding finder page for each scheme.

Unless otherwise stated in the scheme specific guidance in [Funding Opportunities](#) Section, the following criteria will be taken into account by the peer reviewers in assessing your proposal.

Quality and importance

- the extent to which the proposal meets the specific aims of the scheme to which you are applying
- the significance and importance of the project, and of the contribution it will make, if successful, to enhancing or developing creativity, insights, knowledge or understanding of the area to be studied in a national or international context
- the extent to which the research questions, issues or problems that will be addressed in the course of the research are defined and their importance and appropriateness specified
- the appropriateness of the research context and specification of why it is important that these particular questions, issues or problems are addressed. The extent to which other current research conducted in this area has been considered, and the range of audiences that might be targeted
- the appropriateness, effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed research methods and/or approach.

People

- the quality and importance of your work to date
- your ability to monitor the project and bring it to completion as demonstrated in the application
- the appropriateness of the level and balance (in terms of time and seniority) of the proposed staffing on the project, and the extent to which opportunities will be made available for less experienced researchers
- whether the **other named participants** have the appropriate experience and expertise to deliver the project
- the suitability of the opportunities which the project will make available to support the development of the research staff on the project.

Management of the project

- whether the lines of responsibility and accountability are clearly articulated.
- whether a realistic timetable, incorporating milestones, is presented which will achieve the project's aims and objectives within the proposed timescale
- the extent to which you have understood the amount of work to be involved, allocated sufficient time and resources to achieving each aspect.

Value for money

- the extent to which the likely outcome of the research will represent value for money, and in particular the relationship between the funds that are sought and the significance and quality of the projected outcomes of the research
- whether the resources requested are reasonable in the context of the proposed research.

Outputs, dissemination and impact

- the appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed dissemination methods
- the extent to which the research process is documented or recorded in a way to enable dissemination of research outcomes to the widest possible audience
- the likelihood that the outputs and outcomes of the project will be highly valued and widely exploited, both in the research community and in wider contexts where they can make a difference
- whether the plans to increase impact are appropriate and justified, given the nature of the proposed research
- whether sufficient attention has been given to who the beneficiaries of the research might be and appropriate ways to engage with them throughout the project.

You are encouraged to disseminate your research and its outcomes to as wide an audience as possible, and where appropriate to engage in communication, dissemination and exploitation activities throughout the period of the project. You should therefore specify the audiences to whom your research could be of interest, and how you propose to engage with those audiences about your research.

Although nothing debars an AHRC-supported project from aiming to charge for access to its results whether in electronic or other format peer reviewers are encouraged to scrutinise dissemination and access strategies and to consider the extent to which the outputs that are produced by AHRC-funded projects will be utilised by the arts and humanities research community and other interested parties.

Public engagement with research

- The appropriateness, relevance, effectiveness, reach and/or quality of proposed public engagement methods
- Whether your proposed public engagement activity responds to the needs and interests of a clearly defined group of people
- Your proposed public engagement activity has the potential to make a positive impact upon a clearly defined group of people
- Whether your proposal includes an appropriate safeguarding and/or ethics statement, if you are engaging young or otherwise vulnerable people
- The degree that proposed engagement activity is equitable, accessible and inclusive
- The degree to which your proposed public engagement activity is logically planned and achievable, given budget, resourcing and timeframe
- The degree to which your proposal involves public engagement within the research process itself, such as co-production, collaboration, crowd-sourcing of information, and so on
- Whether the proposed public engagement activity is justified, given the nature of the proposed research.

You are encouraged where possible to engage the public with your research.

Public engagement can result in research that is more beneficial, relevant and useful to non-researchers. This in turn makes the research that we fund higher quality, better informed, and more useful.

Publication Metrics

As part of our commitment to support the recommendations and principles set out by the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA; <https://sfdora.org/read/>), AHRC reviewers and panel members are advised not to use journal-based metrics, such as journal impact factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess a leader's contributions, or to make funding decisions.

The content of a paper is more important than publication metrics, or the identity of the journal, in which it was published, especially for early-stage researchers. Peer review and panel members are encouraged to consider the value and impact of all research outputs (including datasets, software, other digital outputs, inventions, patents, preprints, other commercial activities, etc.) in addition to research publications. We advise our peer reviewers and panel members to consider a broad range of impact measures including qualitative indicators of research impact, such as influence on policy and practice.

SECTION 5: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PEER REVIEW

Assessment process

The AHRC is committed to assessment by process of peer review.

- At the point of submission, each proposal will be assessed on the following criteria
- All applicants and named staff must be eligible under the scheme requirements
- The proposal must meet the aims and criteria of the scheme to which it has been submitted.
- All application documents must be eligible under the scheme requirements.

Proposals which do not meet these criteria will be rejected with feedback on why it could not proceed.

UKRI Principles of Assessment and Decision Making

Assessment is the process undertaken on submitted applications to determine whether an application is fundable, and which applications should be funded. Assessments in all its different forms, including Independent Review Assessment (Review) or Collective Panel Assessment (Panel), is fundamental to our business. An assessor (reviewer or panellist) can be an expert or a peer from business, academia or other sectors, such as the public and charities. Assessment in our Councils and opportunities usually involves a two-stage process, where applications are considered by reviewers (by correspondence) and then by a Council Panel (at a meeting).

Review involves the assessment of an application independently of other applications. A Review is based on the Reviewer's judgement of the assessment criteria alone, and it does not normally benchmark the assessment against other applications of the funding opportunity.

At a Panel meeting, the assessment of an application is carried out collectively against other applications and with other Panellists. As such, judgement and/or scoring of an application is based on panellists' consensus of the criteria and by benchmarking against other applications of the opportunity.

To facilitate collaborative trans-national funding, the Global Research Council set out a Statement of Principles on Peer/Merit Review (2018). These principles reflect current principles in assessment and decision making in our Councils as set out below.

We are committed to the following principles in our assessment and decision making: expert assessment, transparency, impartiality, appropriateness, confidentiality, integrity and ethics, equality, diversity and inclusion, separation of duties.

For a full description of UKRI's guiding principles, please refer to [UKRI principles of assessment and decision making – UKRI](#)

SECTION 5: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PEER REVIEW

The Peer Review College

All proposals will be considered where possible, by a minimum of two members of the AHRC's Peer Review College. A complete list of Peer Review College members is available on [our website](#). The Peer Review College members will provide the AHRC with graded reviews.

The AHRC reserves the right to seek reviews from specialists who are not current members of the Peer Review College if suitable College members are not available, or where such peer review input is required as part of agreements with other funding bodies. Reviews may be sought from specialists within the UK or abroad.

All peer reviews are subject to a quality check. Reviews deemed by the AHRC to be of insufficient quality will be rejected from the assessment process.

Confidentiality

The Research Councils operate an open peer review process, while at the same time preserving reviewer anonymity. Reviewers are required to treat proposals in confidence and keep any personally retained documentation (paper or electronic) secure. Reviewers should review all materials in accordance with instructions given in the Funding Service and should refer any questions relating to reviewing the application to the Council, and must not contact applicants. Applicants may be given the opportunity to respond to any completed reviews, the applicants' research organisation will also be given access to the anonymised review to support transparency of decision making. The Councils expect all parties to respect the roles of all involved in the peer review process.

Peer Reviewer grading scale

Unless otherwise indicated grades awarded to all proposals and their definitions are contained in the tables below:

Generic

Score	Description	Definition
6	Exceptional Should be funded as a matter of the very highest priority	Work that is at the leading edge internationally, in all of the assessment criteria – scholarship, originality, quality and significance, and meets the majority of them to an exceptional level. Likely to have a significant impact on the field. The proposal's evidence and justification are fully and consistently provided, and management arrangements are clear and convincing.

SECTION 5: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PEER REVIEW

5	Excellent Should be funded as a matter of priority, but doesn't merit the very highest priority rating	Work that is internationally excellent in all of the assessment criteria – scholarship, originality, quality and significance, and meets them to an excellent level. Will answer important questions in the field. The proposal's evidence and justification are fully and consistently provided and management arrangements are clear and convincing.
4	Very Good Worthy of consideration for funding	Work that demonstrates high international standards of scholarship, originality, quality and significance. Will advance the field of research. It meets all assessment criteria. The proposal's evidence and justification are good and management arrangements are clear and sound.
3	Satisfactory In a competitive context, the proposal is not considered of sufficient priority to recommend for funding	Work that is satisfactory in terms of scholarship and quality but lacking in international competitiveness. It is limited in terms of originality, innovation and significance and its contribution to the research field. It meets minimum requirements in terms of the assessment criteria and the proposal's evidence and justification are adequate overall.
2	Not Competitive Not recommended for funding	Work that is of inconsistent quality with some strengths, innovative ideas and good components, but has significant weaknesses or flaws in its conceptualisation, design, methodology and management. Unlikely to advance the field significantly. It does not meet all scheme assessment criteria.
1	Unfundable Not suitable for funding	A proposal that has an unsatisfactory level of originality, quality and significance. Has limited potential to advance research within the field and may be unconvincing in terms of its management arrangements or capacity to deliver proposed activities, especially for the amount of funding being sought. Unlikely to advance the

SECTION 5: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PEER REVIEW

		field. It falls short of meeting the assessment criteria for the scheme.
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Follow on Fund for Impact and Engagement

Score	Description	Definition
6	Exceptional Should be funded as a matter of the very highest priority	An exceptional and innovative proposal meeting the highest quality and standards of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement, which targets new audiences, leading to significant impact. All assessment criteria are fully met with full and consistent evidence and justification provided for the proposal in terms of concept, design, methodology and management.
5	Excellent Should be funded as a matter of priority, but does not merit the very highest priority rating	An excellent and innovative proposal meeting the highest quality and standards of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement, which targets new audiences and is likely to lead to significant impact. All assessment criteria are fully met with full and consistent evidence and justification provided for the proposal in terms of concept, design, methodology and management.
4	Very Good Suitable for funding	A good proposal meeting a high quality and standard of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement and is likely to lead to impact. All assessment criteria are fully met with full and consistent evidence and justification provided for the proposal in terms of concept, design, methodology and management.
3	Satisfactory Not recommended for funding	A satisfactory proposal in terms of the overall quality and standard knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement and likely to lead to some impact. Assessment criteria for the scheme are met and reasonable

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		evidence and justification for the proposal are provided in terms of concept, design, methodology and management, but which in a competitive context is not a priority.
2	Not Competitive Not suitable for funding	A proposal of inconsistent quality and standard of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement which is unlikely to lead to any significant impact. Has some strengths, but also contains a number of major weaknesses or flaws in its concept, design, methodology and/or management. Does not meet all the assessment criteria for the scheme.
1	Unsatisfactory Not suitable for funding	A proposal of an unsatisfactory quality and standard of knowledge exchange, active dissemination and/or public engagement with no significant impact. Does not meet the assessment criteria for the scheme and offers no satisfactory evidence and justification for the proposal.

Sifting of proposals

Proposals will be sifted before going to moderating panel based on the following principles:

The AHRC will reject a proposal upon submission where the proposal does not meet the published eligibility criteria; either relating to documentation requirements or where it does not meet the aims or criteria of the scheme to which it has been submitted.

The AHRC will sift proposals against quality criteria, solely on the basis of information supplied by an AHRC peer review process.

The sifting process

The sifting process occurs in two stages:

Sift stage 1

Each proposal is assessed on the following criteria, in reference to eligibility and assessment requirements:

- All application documents must be eligible under the scheme requirements
- All applicants and named staff must be eligible under the scheme requirements

SECTION 5: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PEER REVIEW

The proposal must meet the aims and criteria of the scheme to which it has been submitted.

Sift stage 2

A sifting decision is made based on the overall confidence levels and grades given by the peer review process. An application will be rejected when the threshold of unsupportive review scores is reached. Details of the threshold will be included on the relevant funding opportunity webpage on the UKRI Funding Finder. A review is considered unsupportive where it is marked as Not Recommended for Funding or Not Suitable for Funding (score 1 – 3). If an application is rejected at sift stage 2, it will not be made available for Applicant Response. The reviews will be made available to the applicant through the Funding Service.

This change of process is being rolled out on funding opportunities across 2024. Please check the funding finder text of specific opportunities for details

Project Lead Response

For Research Grants, Catalyst Awards and Follow-on Funding over £30,000, the applicant will be given the right of reply to the reviews received.

The Project Lead (PL) response allows applicants to correct any factual errors or conceptual misunderstandings, or to respond to any queries highlighted in the comments from the peer reviewers. It is not intended to be an opportunity to change or re-constitute a proposal in the light of the reviewers' comments. You are not obliged to submit a response, but it is recommended that you do so as responses from applicants are forwarded to the moderation panel(s), and are taken into account in the grading and prioritisation of proposals. Applicants are given 14 days to respond to reviewers' comments.

The PL response must be:

- No more than 500 words per peer review

The PL Response should be a self-contained response to comments and should not depend on additional information such as the inclusion of external links. Applicants must not include hyperlinks to web resources in order to extend their PL Response. Peer reviewers are advised to base their assessment on the information contained within the application and are under no obligation to access such links.

The PL Response should be submitted through the grants system by the Project Lead (PL) wherever possible. However, if the PL is unavailable and the proposal contains Project co-Lead (UK), the PL can delegate response submission to one of one of the PcL, who will need to be given access in order to view the proposal. In order to delegate submitting the response, the PL should contact the TFS Helpdesk support@funding-service.ukri.org for further advice. If neither the PL nor PcL are able to respond within the 14 day deadline then an extension may be granted under certain circumstances. If an extension is required, this can be requested by emailing Operations@ahrc.ukri.org.

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For schemes that operate with open deadlines, we will not be able to provide you with exact dates of when we will contact you for the PL response. You will be contacted once the reviews have been obtained and you will be sent an e-mail which will detail the size limit and deadline you need to submit your PL response by. These details vary according to the scheme and the number of reviews you have received so it is important to read the email carefully. Please note that the AHRC will not issue reminder for overdue PL responses and it is the PL's responsibility to ensure they submit their Response within the period allowed. If your response is not received within the period stated, then your application will proceed without it.

When you have submitted your PL response you will receive an email from our grant system confirming it has been submitted. This will be sent to your email address registered in your TFS account. If the email does not arrive within an hour you should check your spam or junk folder, and if you have not received it you should contact the TFS Helpdesk on support@funding-service.ukri.org who will be able to check if the response has been submitted.

As mentioned above, we strongly recommend that you do respond to the reviews even where extremely favourable, however if you do not wish to submit a response you should log into TFS to advise us accordingly.

Where there is no PL Response

All proposals to the Curiosity Awards or proposals to the Follow-on Funding scheme which are under £30,000

Please note that proposals in the above criteria do not have a PL response stage, but instead proceed straight from peer review to the moderation panel.

Peer review panels

Non-standing Peer Review Panels are convened on an ad hoc basis from the Peer Review College membership.

In selecting panel members we will aim to achieve a balance in terms of gender, ethnicity, institution and regional distribution, and to achieve a range of expertise which broadly reflects that of the applicant population.

The proposal, peer reviews, and the PL's response to these reviews will be considered individually by members of the peer review panel and then discussed at the panel meeting.

The peer review panel will determine a final grade for each application and will rank proposals in order of priority for funding. The panel will consider only the expert peer reviews and the PL's response to these reviews to reach its decisions. Final funding decisions will rest with the AHRC.

Peer review panel members are not permitted to discuss with applicants the content of any proposals they have reviewed, either during or after the assessment process.

SECTION 5: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PEER REVIEW

Panel grading scale

Below is the updated panel grading scale.

Score	Score definitions
10	The application is exceptional ; it very strongly meets all of the assessment criteria to the highest standard. The panel agrees that it is difficult to articulate how the application could be improved.
9	The application is outstanding ; it very strongly meets all of the assessment criteria.
8	The application is excellent ; it strongly meets all of the assessment criteria.
7	The application is very good ; it meets the assessment criteria well but with some minor weaknesses/limitations .
6	The application is good ; it meets the assessment criteria well but with some clear weaknesses/limitations .
5	The application is adequate ; it meets the assessment criteria but with clear weaknesses/limitations.
4	The application is weak ; it meets the assessment criteria but with significant weaknesses/limitations .
3	The application is poor ; it meets the assessment criteria but has major weaknesses/limitations .
2	The application is unsatisfactory ; it does not meet one or more of the assessment criteria .
1	The application is unsatisfactory ; it does not meet any of the assessment criteria.

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SECTION 6: AWARD DECISIONS

Notification of the outcome

The AHRC is not able to notify you of the outcome of your proposal by telephone. All outcome notifications are sent electronically to the email address shown on your Je-S or TFS record.

If you are unsuccessful, you will receive an email advising that you have not been offered an award, and indicating the final outcome your proposal received. The AHRC is unable to provide information on why your proposal was unsuccessful.

Applicants are advised that under no circumstances should they contact peer review panel members to discuss individual proposals, meeting details or outcomes.

Offer acceptance and payment

The AHRC, on advice from peer reviewers or panels, may remove costs if they are not justified or not permitted under the scheme rules.

If you are successful you will receive a notification email as will your Research Organisation (RO). Later a formal grant offer containing details of the funding and terms and conditions will be sent via JeS or TFS to your Research Organisation. The RO will have 2 weeks to consider and then formally accept this offer. Once the research activity has commenced the RO is required to complete and submit to AHRC the Start Confirmation via JeS or TFS. Grant payments will be made direct to the RO on a quarterly basis.

Under the arrangements for the full economic costing of Research Council grants, this reduction has an impact on the estates and indirect cost figures that have been provided. In such circumstances, the AHRC will contact the Research Organisation and request that you provide revised figures for these two budget headings. The research organisation will have ten working days to provide these revised figures.

The amount awarded may be different from the sum you sought as it may include an extra element for indexation (inflation). The sum may also differ if the Council considers that a lower level of funding to the one you sought is more appropriate. You will be notified of any amendments made for this reason.

For UKRI Responsive Mode Grants, all grant offer letters will include a nominal starting date that is at least three months after the issue date of the grant offer. Research organisations will be permitted to start their grants on any actual date that is later than the issue date of the grant offer document and, up to three months later than the nominal start date.

Therefore, grants may start before the nominal start date listed on the offer document without reference to AHRC. This can be done by entering the required start date in the start conformation.

Resubmission policy

Proposals that have been Office Rejected

An application will normally be rejected prior to review stage (termed 'Office Reject'), because of a failure to adhere to AHRC's scheme or call rules. Applicants rejected in this way will be informed of the reasons why their application was rejected and that they are permitted to submit the application again.

Proposals that have been Rejected at any point in the assessment process

If the application is rejected at any point in the assessment process (either following the peer review stage or the panel meeting stage) applicants will not be allowed to resubmit the same, or substantively similar, proposal to any scheme unless explicitly invited to do so in the outcome notification of the proposal. Such invitations will only be given in very particular and rare circumstances.

This policy applies for both resubmission to the same scheme and applying for a different AHRC scheme.

Invited Resubmission

Invited resubmissions will be assessed in the usual way in competition with all other proposals. The original notification will advise clearly that the application has been rejected following peer review or panel meeting stage and any issues the applicant may need to consider in submitting the proposal again. If the same or similar application to one which was previously rejected following the peer review stage or the panel meeting stage is received but which was not an invited resubmission, it will be rejected.

What constitutes a new proposal?

A new proposal should involve a significant change of focus from any previous proposal you have submitted to AHRC or other UKRI bodies and will likely be accompanied by a different set of costings to deliver the project. Proposals which demonstrate only minor amendments from previous submissions, for example specific changes based on previous peer review feedback alone, will be counted as resubmissions.

We expect new proposals to have fresh or significantly modified objectives and/or an entirely revised methodological/analytical approach to a research question. Any proposal which does not meet either of these criteria will be judged a resubmission.

When preparing any new proposal a good approach is to critically ask yourself if any of the following apply. If the answer is 'yes' then your proposal may be considered a resubmission:

- broadly the same title and/or proposal summary
- overall aim of a new proposal and its high-level objectives broadly the same
- broadly the same research questions
- broadly the same resources required to carry out the research

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- Project Lead and Project co-Lead (UK) on a proposal are amended (for example swapping of roles) whilst the content of the proposal is essentially the same.

However, this is not an exhaustive list and none of these points in isolation will be used to define a resubmission.

In order to treat everyone fairly, we cannot engage in discussions about whether a particular proposal will be treated as a resubmission before you apply. We advise that you consult within your institution before making an application which you believe may be considered a resubmission.

Monitoring

Research outputs, outcomes and impact

If successful, you will be required to submit outputs, outcomes and impacts linked to your award through the Researchfish system. Information can be added to Researchfish at any point once the grant has been made and beyond its conclusion. Although you can add information to Researchfish at any time you will be required to submit this information to AHRC at a point during the year which will be communicated in advance to all Research Organisations. This allows for a deeper and longer-term record of the results of AHRC funding. Researchfish is available at <https://www.researchfish.com/>; researchers will need to create an account in order to sign in and start submitting outcomes. More details on Researchfish are available on the UKRI website: <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/manage-your-funding-award/report-your-research-outcomes/>

Please also note that the monitoring of existing or past awards may be taken into account in the assessment of future applications, particularly if this monitoring is found to be less than satisfactory.

Financial Reporting

As part of the terms and conditions of an AHRC award, your Research Organisation will be required to submit a final expenditure statement (FES) no later than three months after the end of the award period. Final expenditure statements are made available in the Research Organisation's Je-S account as soon as the end date of the grant has been reached. The Research Organisation will need to complete and submit the statement using Je-S. Further information on submitting final expenditure statements through Je-S can be found [here](#) and clicking on 'Expenditure Statements', either for FEC or non-FEC grants. For further help with submitting final expenditure statements please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 44 4164 or email JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org

Please note that it is the responsibility of the Research Organisation to monitor when the FES is due and to submit on time accordingly. The Je-S system will automatically provide reminders of FES due dates but the AHRC will not notify grant holders or Research Organisations directly.

If a final expenditure statement has not been received within 3 months of the end date of the grant AHRC will recover 20% of the funds paid to the grant. The AHRC's grants system will automatically remove this from future pay runs to the Research Organisation or will raise an invoice for the

SECTION 6: AWARD DECISIONS

Research Organisation to pay. If the FES has still not been received within 6 months AHRC will recover all funds paid to the grant. This is a policy in place across all Research Councils; please see the [Meeting UKRI terms and conditions for funding – UKRI](#) for more information. Research Organisations may appeal against sanctions but appeals must be received within 60 days of the pay run in which the sanction was imposed at the latest.

AHRC complaints and appeals procedures

For details on the complaints procedure or appeal process, please refer to the document Complaints and Appeals Procedure for Applications and Awards which can be found on our website [here](#).

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Demonstrating potential impact

The excellent research funded by the UK Research Councils has a huge impact on the wellbeing and economy of the UK. Working together with our wider communities and other partners, we want to ensure that these impacts are effectively demonstrated and supported throughout the research lifecycle and beyond. This will add value, stimulate interest from wider stakeholders - including the general public - and, where needed, actively highlight the need for continued investment in the research base.

The onus rests with applicants to demonstrate how they will achieve this excellence with impact, bearing in mind that impacts can take many forms and be promoted in different ways.

The Research Councils describe impact as the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy. Impact embraces all the extremely diverse ways in which research-related knowledge and skills benefit individuals, organisations and nations by:

- fostering global economic performance, and specifically the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom
- increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy
- enhancing quality of life, health and creative output

This accords with the Royal Charters of the Councils and with HM Treasury guidance on the appraisal of economic impact.

The Research Councils give their funding recipients considerable flexibility and autonomy in the delivery of their research, postgraduate training and knowledge transfer activities.

This flexibility and autonomy encompasses project definition, management, collaboration, researcher development activities, participation, promotion and the dissemination of research outputs; this approach enables excellence with impact.

In return, the Research Councils expect those who receive funding to:

- demonstrate an awareness of the wider environment and context in which their research takes place
- demonstrate an awareness of the social and ethical implications of their research, beyond usual research conduct considerations, and take account of public attitudes towards those issues
- engage actively with the public at both the local and national levels about their research and its broader implications

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- identify potential benefits and beneficiaries from the outset, and through the full life cycle of the project(s)
- maintain professional networks that extend beyond their own discipline and research community
- publish results widely – considering the academics, user and public audiences for research outcomes
- exploit results where appropriate, in order to secure social and economic return to the UK
- manage collaborations professionally, in order to secure maximum impact without restricting the future progression of research
- ensure that whilst working on AHRC grants, all research staff and students develop research, vocational and entrepreneurial skills that are matched to the demands of their future career paths
- take responsibility for the duration, management and exploitation of data for future use
- work in partnership with the Research Councils for the benefit of the UK

The expectations clarify the position of the Research Councils with respect to impact, rather than introducing a new approach. Many of these expectations are already incorporated into Research Council processes and guidance, for example;

- exploitation is addressed within Grant Terms and Conditions;
- continuing professional development (CPD) of all staff working on AHRC grants in line with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers is a recommendation

The AHRC recognises that not all research will have direct dissemination but aims to encourage researchers to maximise potential impacts where they occur. The nature of your research may mean that identifying potential impacts or beneficiaries outside academia is not straightforward at the time of application. Where this is the case you should explain the reasons throughout the application, in the same way as demonstrating impact identifying how the research will be beneficial should also be evidenced throughout the application. Excellent research without obvious or immediate dissemination will continue to be funded by the AHRC and will not be disadvantaged as a result of the introduction of these sections to applications.

Access to Research Outputs

If one of the proposed outputs is a journal article then the applicant must ensure that they comply with the former UKRI position on Access to Research Outputs <https://www.ukri.org/our-work/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/open-research/open-access-policies-review/>

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AHRC subject remit and proposal classification

In order for a proposal to be eligible to be submitted to the AHRC, the majority of the research, i.e. the main focus of its Research Questions/Problems, must lie within the Arts and Humanities.

For proposals that cross Research Council boundaries the Research Councils have put in place the following agreement: <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/preparing-to-make-a-funding-application/if-your-research-spans-different-disciplines/>

Proposal classification

You are required to classify your proposal as part of the application. This activity serves partly as a confirmation that the proposal sits within the remit but more importantly as tool to help identify the most appropriate peer reviewers to assess the proposal. It is therefore very important to complete this section accurately.

AHRC disciplines

In order for a proposal to be **eligible for consideration by AHRC**, the choice of **Primary Research Area must** come from the list below.

Histories, Cultures and Heritage

Level 1 - Archaeology

Level 2

- Prehistoric Archaeology
- Archaeology of Literate Societies
- Archaeology of Human Origins
- Archaeological Theory
- Maritime Archaeology
- Landscape and Environmental Archaeology
- Industrial Archaeology

Level 1 – Classics

Level 2

- Classical Literature
- Classical Reception
- Philosophy, Thought and Religion

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- Epigraphy and Papyrology
- Languages and Linguistics

Level 1 – Cultural and Museum Studies

Level 2

- Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Museum and Gallery Studies
- Cultural Studies and Pop Culture
- Policy, Arts Management and Creative Industries
- Cultural Geography
- Heritage Management
- Conservation of Art and Textiles

Level 1 – Development Studies

Level 2

- Development Studies

Level 1 – History

Level 2

- Cultural History
- Political History
- Imperial/Colonial History
- History of Science/Medicine/Technology
- War Studies
- Religious History
- Economic and Social History
- American Studies
- Post-Colonial Studies

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Level 1 – Human Geography

Level 2

- Historical Geography

Level 1 – Information and Communication Technologies

Level 2

- Information and Knowledge Management

Level 1 – Law and Legal Studies

Level 2

- Jurisprudence/Philosophy of Law
- Human Rights
- Criminal Law and Criminology
- International Law
- EU Law
- Public Law
- Comparative Law
- Common Law, including Commercial Law
- Law Regulated by Statute
- Law Relating to Property
- Legal History

Level 1 – Library and Information Studies

Level 2

- Archives
- Records Management
- Information Science and Retrieval
- Library Studies
- Information and Knowledge Management
- Computational Studies

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Level 1 – Philosophy

Level 2

- Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Mind
- Aesthetics
- Metaphysics
- History of Ideas
- Language and Philosophical Logic
- Epistemology
- Ethics
- History of Philosophy
- Philosophy of Science and Mathematics and Mathematical Logic
- Philosophy of Religion

Level 1 – Political Science and International Studies

Level 2

- Diplomacy and International Relations

Level 1 – Theology, Divinity and Religion

Level 2

- Old Testament
- Modern Theology
- Judaism
- Islam
- Liturgy
- Systematic Theology
- Church History and History of Theology
- New Testament
- East Asian Religions
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Jainism

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- Sikhism
- Alternative Spiritualities/New Religious Movements
- Atheism/Secularism
- Inter-faith Relations
- Contemporary Religion

Creative and Performing Arts

Level 1 – Dance

Level 2

- History of Dance
- Dance Performance
- Dance Notation
- Social Dance
- Choreography

Level 1 – Design

Level 2

- Architecture History, Theory and Practice
- Design History, Theory and Practice
- Digital Art and Design
- Product Design

Level 1 – Drama and Theatre Studies

Level 2

- Theatre and Society
- Dramaturgy
- Scenography
- Performance and Live Art
- Theatre and History
- Theories of Theatre
- Drama and Theatre - Other

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Level 1 – Media

Level 2

- Media and Communication Studies
- Journalism
- Publishing
- Television History, Theory and Criticism
- New Media/Web-Based Studies
- Film History, Theory and Criticism

Level 1 – Music

Level 2

- Traditional Music
- History of Music
- Music and Society
- Popular Music
- Composition
- Classical Music
- Musical Performance
- Musicology

Level 1 – Visual Arts

Level 2

- Fine Art History, Theory and Practice
- Photography History, Theory and Practice
- Art Theory and Aesthetics
- Community Art including Art and Health
- Installation and Sound Art History, Theory and Practice
- Ethnography and Anthropology
- Digital Arts History, Theory and Practice
- Applied Arts History, Theory and Practice
- Art History
- Design History, Theory and Practice

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- Film-based media (History, Theory and Practice)
- Time-based media History, Theory and Practice

Languages and Literature

Level 1 – Languages and Literature

Level 2

- American Studies
- Interpreting and Translation
- Life writing
- History and Development of the English Language
- Literary and Cultural Theory
- Post-Colonial Studies
- Scandinavian Studies
- Asiatic and Oriental Studies
- Middle Eastern and African
- Italian Studies
- Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin Studies
- English Language and Literature
- Creative Writing
- Comparative Literature
- French Studies
- Celtic Studies
- Medieval Literature
- Ethnography and Anthropology
- Australasian Studies
- Comparative Studies
- German, including Dutch and Yiddish
- Russian, Slavonic and East European Languages and Literature
- Gender and Sexuality

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Level 1 – Linguistics

Level 2

- Textual Editing and Bibliography
- Syntax
- Semantics and Pragmatics
- Phonetics
- Language Variation and Change
- Lexicon
- Linguistic Theory
- Morphology and Phonology
- Applied Linguistics
- Linguistics (General)

Subjects where the AHRC and the ESRC share interests and responsibilities

The following is a list of some of the main areas of study where the AHRC and the ESRC share interests.

Area studies

AHRC supports research that is concerned with the culture, history, language and religion of specific regions. ESRC supports research that is concerned with the society, economy, politics and human geography of specific regions.

Communications, cultural and media studies

AHRC supports research that seeks to understand communications, culture and media through the study of phenomena such as the visual arts, film and television, history, language, literature and performance. ESRC supports research that approaches communications, culture and media through the study of sociology, social theory, social anthropology, politics and economics. Note that there is also an important interface between AHRC, ESRC and EPSRC in this area where proposed research projects include a significant engagement with, or advancement of, communication technologies. In the case of relevant research applications, the AHRC and/or ESRC will liaise with EPSRC when consulting reviewers and making funding decisions.

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Cultural policy and management

AHRC supports historical, comparative and empirical research that addresses questions of human value in creativity and culture, including both the individual and collective experience of creativity and culture. AHRC also supports research in museum studies. ESRC supports research into the psychological processes involved in creativity and the social and economic influences on and consequent impacts of creativity and culture, and public policy and management in this area.

Education

ESRC is the primary funding body for educational research across all subjects, including the arts and humanities. AHRC supports research where the imperative for the research questions resides in the arts and humanities, but there may be an educational element. Examples include research into the history of education, children's literature, creative art and performance in (but not for) educational environments, religious teaching and scholarship, and the role of education in librarianship and museums practice.

Gender studies

AHRC supports research that is concerned with sex and gender as they relate to the creative and performing arts, language, law, literature, religion and history of all periods. ESRC supports research that is concerned with sex and gender as they relate to society, the economy and politics.

Human geography

ESRC is the primary funding body for human geography. However, AHRC supports research in cultural geography, which includes research into the interpretation of the cultural landscape; cultural constructions of nature and environment; creative and imaginative aspects of geographical thought and practice; relationships between space, place and cultural identity. AHRC also supports research in historical geography, which includes geographical change over time, connecting the local to the global; histories of geography and cartography; and the study of past geographies and their legacies.

History

AHRC supports historical research covering all periods of history from ancient times to modern, and in all parts of the world. Applicants whose research focuses primarily on the very recent past will need to show in their proposal how and why their focus is indeed predominantly historical, for example how the study will focus on change over a defined period of time or will make predominant use of historical modes of analysis.

ESRC supports historical research across all periods that seeks to understand the development of social and economic arrangements over time and applies social and economic theories. Research focusing on contemporary or near-contemporary social, political, economic or geographical themes should normally be directed to the ESRC.

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International relations

ESRC is the primary funding body for international relations, but AHRC supports research that is concerned with the relationship between international relations and the culture, history, language and religion of specific countries and regions.

Librarianship and information science

AHRC supports research into the practice and techniques of information and knowledge management as they relate to librarianship, archives and records management, information science and information systems, storage and retrieval, and professional practice in journalism and the media. AHRC also supports research into information use and users in specific organisational environments. ESRC supports research into the broader socio-economic context of information use and policy, information flows within and between organisations, and the shaping, use and potential of information and communication technologies. The ESRC also supports research on knowledge management and on forms and structures of knowledge, as they relate to the wider socio-economic context. Note that there is also an important interface between AHRC, ESRC and EPSRC in this area where proposed research projects include a significant engagement with, or advancement of, technologies dealing with information management. In the case of relevant research applications, AHRC and/or ESRC will liaise with EPSRC when consulting reviewers and making funding decisions.

Linguistics

AHRC supports research into the structure, history, theory and description of language and languages. This includes the development and exploration of theories of language, the elucidation of the historical development of languages and the production of descriptions of languages or features of languages. ESRC supports research in areas of computational linguistics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, and interdisciplinary social science research involving linguistics. Both Councils also fund research into phonetics and applied linguistics relating to the areas for which they are responsible.

Law

AHRC supports research into the content, procedures, theory, philosophy and history of the law. This includes studies of legal systems and legislation in all periods of history and in all parts of the world. ESRC supports socio-legal studies, which are concerned with the social, political and economic influences on and impact of the law and the legal system.

Philosophy

AHRC supports research in philosophy, covering all topics, methods and periods. This includes research into ethical theory and applied ethics, for example bio-ethics, professional ethics and environmental ethics. ESRC supports research into the social political and economic influences on and effects of ethical positions of institutions and individuals.

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Religious Studies

AHRC supports research into religions and belief systems of all kinds, in all periods of history and in all parts of the world. This includes research into the ethics of religions and belief systems, and their application in socio-economic, scientific and technological contexts. ESRC supports research that is concerned with the social and economic influences on and the impacts of religious beliefs and groups.

Science and technology studies

ESRC is the primary funding body for research on innovation and the interdisciplinary study of science, technology and society. AHRC supports research into the history, law and philosophy of science, technology and medicine, as well as their interface with religion. AHRC also supports research into the interpretation and representation of, and engagement with, science, technology and medicine through art, literature, performance, museums, galleries, libraries and archives.

Social anthropology

ESRC is the primary funding body for social anthropology, but the AHRC also supports anthropological research where the research questions and methods are significantly concerned with arts and humanities phenomena and critical, historical and practice-led approaches. This includes studies of archaeology, history, language, law, literature, the creative and performing arts and religion.

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SECTION 8: GRANT CONDITIONS RGC1 – RGC14

The AHRC adheres to the joint UKRI Terms and Conditions, which are kept updated on the UKRI website, and can be found [here](#).

Additional terms and conditions

The following are additional terms and conditions should be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions of Research Council Grants. Where the additional term and condition only applies to one scheme this is indicated.

RGC4.4 in addition to Transfers between Headings - Project co-lead (international) (Standard/Research Grants)

The following rules apply to the use of costs for Project co-lead (international): monies in the Exceptions Fund Heading related to Project co-lead (international) may be vired to the Other Directly Incurred Cost Heading (and vice versa) provided the organisation incurring those costs seeks and receives AHRC prior approval.

GC12.4 In addition to Exploitation and Impact:

In all of the communications linked to the research that the AHRC has funded (press releases, social media, blogs, websites, events and publications) you must acknowledge the support of the AHRC. This could be by using the AHRC logo or a full attribution in writing – for example, Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), part of UK Research and Innovation – using AHRC and UKRI thereafter. Brand advice can be offered by emailing UKRI's brand team at brand@ukri.org. Please keep the UKRI Press team informed about any media work planned throughout the project. We request that press releases mentioning AHRC/ UKRI funding are shared with press@ukri.org at least 72 hours prior to the planned announcement. For more information and guidance please visit <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/contact-us/contact-the-media-team/>

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