Collaborate with UK partners on arts and humanities research: round 5

CALL TEXT

I. Introduction and aims of the Call

This is the fifth in a series of annual bilateral opportunities with AHRC and DFG since 2018. Following the renewal of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) in June 2021, there will be at least eight annual joint opportunities in total. Proposals should strengthen co-operation in the fields of arts and humanities between Germany and the UK.

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

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

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

II. Eligibility
This funding opportunity provides the opportunity for UK-based arts and humanities researchers to conduct highly integrated projects with Germany-based partners, adding value to research objectives through international collaboration.

Applicants in Germany must meet the German Research Foundation’s (DFG) eligibility requirements. Applicants in the UK must meet AHRC eligibility requirements.

Funding will be distributed among the research partners according to the researchers’ place of work and, in general, according to the funding rules of each individual agency.

Research teams

Each joint research project must consist of two (UK and German) national teams. Each team must be led by one principal investigator.

The UK team must be:
- based at a research organisation eligible to apply to AHRC
- working with a German team led by a humanities researcher eligible to apply to DFG
- proposing a project within the remit of the AHRC.

Individual eligibility criteria

DFG regulations concerning first time applicants will not be taken into account for this opportunity.

German researchers from non-university research institutions must comply with their duty to cooperate (Kooperationspflicht). This duty to cooperate is not met if one only cooperates with a UK partner.

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

International Co-Investigators

Under AHRC’s policy, the UK component of projects can request funding for international co-investigators. However, we would not expect international co-investigators based in Germany to be included within the UK component. We would expect investigators in Germany to be included within the German team and DFG supported component of the collaboration.

International Co-Is costs cannot exceed 30% of the overall funding requested for the proposal. These costs will be paid at 100% FEC.

Read the AHRC research funding guide for further information on AHRC’s international co-investigator policy and which costs are eligible within a UK budget.

Researchers based in Germany can submit a joint proposal to fund domestic (German) and international project costs with colleagues from a developing country.

Further information can be found on the DFG website in the Supplementary Instructions for Projects Involving Cooperation with Developing Countries.
Supporting early career researchers and technicians

UKRI and DFG aim to enable a dynamic, diverse and inclusive system of research and innovation in the UK and Germany that is an integral part of society, giving everyone the opportunity to participate and to benefit.

We encourage the inclusion of early career researchers and technicians in proposals to this call. The suitability of support and management mechanisms for these members of project teams will be specifically considered as part of the assessment criteria for this call as part of the feasibility of the project.

Under this call the application of early career researchers on the German side for a Temporary Position for PIs (Eigene Stelle) is possible.

Applying for other funding

If this application has been submitted to any other funding opportunity or funding stream of any other funding agency, this must be clearly stated in the proposal.

Please also check the respective national agency’s rules regarding submission of a project to more than one funder or scheme.

Resubmissions

A resubmission is only allowed once within the AHRC-DFG bilateral programme.

Immediate resubmission of unsuccessful proposals from one opportunity to the next is not permitted. As such, resubmission of unsuccessful proposals from the fourth opportunity to the fifth opportunity is not permitted.

However, applicants involved in unsuccessful applications under the fourth opportunity may submit, or be involved in, different or new proposals for the fifth opportunity.

A reworked resubmission from the first, second or third opportunities will be allowed to submit to this opportunity, where the proposal has been revised, for example with changes to:

- research questions
- methodology
- the project team.

Changes should be summarised under the resubmission heading in the case for support.

III. Projects

The projects must focus on substantive research and feature an integrated work programme.

Academic infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus. Infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible as stand-alone projects.
Applicants should demonstrate the added value which cross-national collaboration will make to advancing the research topic by bringing together researchers based in the UK, Germany, and, where applicable, other countries.

We expect that each partner substantially contributes to the common project. This also includes taking on organisational responsibilities. This division of responsibilities should also be reflected in the amount of funds requested by each partner.

When undertaking research and innovation activities outside the UK and Germany, you must recognise and address the possible impact of contextual, societal and cultural differences on the ethical conduct of those activities. The Project Description should be used to evidence how partnerships (if present within your project) are equitable, ethical, responsible and meaningful.

**Research topics and disciplines**

The funding opportunity will be open to applications addressing any research topic where there is significant potential to advance knowledge through collaborative research. Projects will achieve this by bringing together arts and humanities researchers in the UK and Germany.

For this funding opportunity, the field of humanities is defined by the AHRC’s remit, not by the DFG’s classification of humanities.

For a full specification of AHRC’s and DFG’s subject remits, read the [AHRC research funding guide](https://ahrc.ac.uk/) and [DFG index](https://dfg.de/).

Both single-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary applications can be considered provided that the UK component falls within the remit of AHRC, and the German component within the remit of DFG.

Applications may also overlap with other disciplines provided that they fall primarily within the remit of AHRC and DFG.

Cross-disciplinary applications must demonstrate how their project team fulfils the eligibility requirements. If you are in doubt about the eligibility, please contact the respective organisation.

Applicants who are uncertain whether their proposal would be eligible should contact the relevant agencies for clarification.

**Costs and duration**

The duration of the projects will normally be, and must not exceed, 36 months. The UK component of successful projects will be required to start between January and mid February 2024 and the German team will be expected to follow a similar schedule.

Standard AHRC funding requirements apply to the UK component as outlined in [AHRC’s research funding guide](https://ahrc.ac.uk/). UK costs should be approved by an eligible UK research organisation in line with the requirements of full economic costing for applications to UK research councils.
The full economic cost of the UK component of your project can be up to £420,000. AHRC will fund 80% of the full economic cost (up to £336,000). International co-Investigators outside of the UK and Germany, will be paid at 100% FEC.

In line with its individual research grants programme, DFG does not specify a maximum limit to the amount of funding that can be requested.

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

All budget items must conform to the national rules applicable to each applicant. A detailed justification of the requested budget will be required. For UK costs they should be included in the mandatory justification of resources document and submitted by the German PI.

AHRC and DFG retain the right to reject proposals where applicants fail to comply with the procedures set out in the guidelines of the respective agency.

If a proposal is ineligible with one national agency, the whole project will be rejected by both agencies.

It is expected that in the region of 18 awards will be made under this funding opportunity (subject to proposals meeting the criteria and quality standards).

Funding will be granted from the core budgets of AHRC and DFG.

For more information please see the Information for Applicants.

IV. Submission of proposals

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

All applications must be submitted in English.

All text-based attachments should use an Arial font. The font should be no smaller than point 11 and you must use standard (2cm) margins.

A single integrated proposal with separate financial sections for each national agency must be submitted via DFG’s submission system “elan” no later than Wednesday, February 15th 2023 at 23:59 hrs (German time).

Proposals received after the deadline will not be eligible. For details on the format of the proposal and on the required documents please refer to the "Information for Applicants". UK applications will be required to submit their costings on the finance form provided as an attachment to the integrated proposal submitted to DFG.

V. Assessment Procedure

Applications will be assessed on the basis of their scholarly merit and the added value of UK-Germany collaboration through a joint two-stage process.
The first stage will involve assessment by external expert peer reviewers. The second stage will be considered by members of a joint academic panel, selected by DFG and AHRC, which will make funding recommendations to the funders.

The funding recommendations of the joint expert panel will be subject to approval by AHRC and DFG, including by the DFG’s Grant Committee (Hauptausschuss), taking into account the availability of funds.

It is expected that in the region of 18 awards will be made under this opportunity, subject to proposals meeting the criteria and quality standards.

Outcomes will be issued in early November 2023.

**Assessment criteria**

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

- expertise of the research team members
- academic quality of the research project
- feasibility of the project.

**Expertise of the research team members**

This criterion includes:
- research portfolio of the research team
- relevant preliminary work.

**Academic quality of the research project**

This criterion includes:
- innovative nature of the project
- appropriateness of research design
- contribution of the research project to advances in the relevant academic discipline or disciplines and international cooperation
- scholarly merit of objectives and work programme
- integrated approach of the project, maximizing the added value of UK-German research collaboration
- contribution of the project to deepening UK-German academic collaboration.

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

This criterion includes:
- feasibility of the project
- appropriateness of the project's budget and overall value for money
- access to research facilities and infrastructure required for the research
- appropriateness of support for early career researchers, where applicable
- appropriateness of management arrangements of the project.

**VI. Call Timeline**

6th October 2022 – Call opens
15th February 2023 – Call closes at 23:59 hrs (German time) for elan submission
March to June 2023 – Peer Review
September 2023 – Assessment panel
Early/mid November 2023 – Decisions expected to be released

The UK component of successful projects will be required to start between January and mid February 2024. German projects are expected to follow a similar schedule.

VII. Call Documents

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

VIII. Further information

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

IX. Contact Information

Lead responsibility for the administration of calls rotates between the AHRC and the DFG. The DFG is leading the administration of this fifth call and should therefore be the first point of contact for general enquiries relating to the call.

DFG

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Include ‘DFG’ in the subject line.
We aim to respond within five working days.