



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Open Research Area 8

2023/2024

Webinar for potential applicants

Thursday, September 21st, 2023



Welcome and participant instructions

- Two identical one-hour webinars: 13:00 CET (7:00 ET) and 20:00 CET (14:00 ET)
- **TURN OFF** webcam and microphone
- Webinar includes presentation followed by Q&A
 - If your question isn't answered due to volume or because it is very specific to your proposal, please email ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.
- Recording, deck, and an updated FAQ will be available on the [ORA 8 website](#).



Agenda

- Introduction
- Call mechanisms
 - Call summary
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Japanese cooperation partners
 - How to apply
 - Decision-making process
 - Final steps
 - Assessment criteria
 - Content of proposals
- Agency-specific information
- Indicative timeline
- Contact Details
- Q&A



Call mechanisms: Call summary

- Four funding agencies: ANR, DFG, ESRC, and SSHRC
- **SSHRC is the co-ordinating agency for ORA 8**
- Integrated projects by researchers based in at least three of the four subscribing countries (Canada, France, Germany, United Kingdom)
- Proposals may be submitted in any area of the social sciences
 - the disciplinary coverage varies according to the involvement of the national agencies
- Special opportunity for cooperation with projects in Japan
 - Japan does not count against the three-country minimum requirement
- One-stage, one-application process consisting of a full proposal
- **Deadline: Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, 23:00 CET (17:00 ET)**



Call mechanisms: Call summary (cont.)

- **ORA 8 literature** consists of:
 - [ORA 8 main page](#)
 - ORA 8 Call specification
 - Convergence Guidance for Applicants
 - FAQ
 - (For France-based researchers only:) Modalités pour les participants français

- **Your ORA 8 application** consists of:
 - SSHRC's [Convergence application form](#)
 - Proposal template (including the narrative CVs)
 - ESRC and/or SSHRC Finance forms
 - SSHRC Terms and Conditions for Applying
 - Letters of support (if applicable)



Call mechanisms: Eligibility criteria

Project participants

- All project participants must be listed in the ORA 8 Proposal template:
 - One Applicant per country involved in the proposal (that is, **three or four Applicants per ORA 8 project**)
 - One Main Applicant: one nominated Applicant who manages the online submission of the proposal and acts as point of contact (that is, **one Main Applicant per ORA 8 project**)
 - Co-applicants named in conformity with national rules
 - Other: Team members and Cooperation partners
- All Applicants (including the Main Applicant) and all Co-applicants are considered **project applicants**. **Project applicants can only be involved in one proposal, in any capacity.**



Call mechanisms: Eligibility criteria (cont.)

Duration and Budget

- Projects with a minimum period of two years and a maximum of three years (24 to 36 months)
- Funding limit per project, per agency:
 - **ANR**: Up to €450,000
 - **DFG**: No maximum limit
 - **ESRC**: From minimum £200,000 to maximum £600,000 (at 100% fEC, ESRC will meet 80% of the fEC)
 - **SSHRC**: Up to \$600,000 (maximum \$200,000 per year)
- All budget items must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant and national group.



Call mechanisms: Eligibility criteria (cont.)

Additional Guidelines

- All proposals must be written in English (exception for researchers affiliated with a Canadian postsecondary institution)
- Proposals **must be** submitted to the [SSHRC Convergence Portal](#)
 - Applicants requesting funding from ANR are required to additionally submit their proposals through the [ANR SIM platform](#).
 - Applicants requesting funding from DFG are required to additionally submit their proposals through the [DFG elan system](#).
- At least 50% in the social sciences, but remit varies among agencies. Contact your national agency if in doubt.
- Resubmissions:
 - **ESRC does not allow the resubmission of any previously unsuccessful proposal.**
 - If an application to a non-ORA call is still awaiting a decision, then resubmissions are not allowed by any of the partners.



Call mechanisms: Eligibility criteria (cont.)

- Additional eligibility rules from each agency (see section 9: **Agency-specific information** in Call specification document)
- **If a proposal is ineligible with one national agency, it will not be included in the ORA 8 competition.**



Call mechanisms: Japanese cooperation partners

- Additional opportunity to associate ORA projects with partners in Japan
- The Japanese proposal will be evaluated and decided upon separately by JSPS
- The ORA proposal will be evaluated as a standalone proposal by the ORA partners and funding decisions will be made independently.
- Complete section 7 **Summary of Japanese Component** in the ORA 8 Proposal Template:
 - information on the participants in Japan
 - summary of the project partner



Call mechanisms: How to apply

- Proposals must be submitted via the [SSHRC Convergence Portal](#) by **Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, 23:00 CET (17:00 ET)**.
- For detailed guidance on how to submit proposals, please refer to the [Convergence Guidance for Applicants](#).
- Allow sufficient time for registration and submission to avoid disappointment.
- **Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**




Call mechanisms: How to apply (cont.)

Convergence Portal

- Use latest versions of Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Apple Safari and Mozilla Firefox
- The following labels apply in Convergence:
 - Main Applicant = Project Director
 - Applicant = Co-Director
- Only the Main Applicant and the Applicants interact with the Convergence Portal.
 - **Main Applicant:** registers, creates the proposal, and completes the preliminary eligibility survey; invites the remaining two or three Applicants; ensures all sections are completed according to the requirements, and that the Applicants complete their profiles; submits application once complete.
 - Note: the four preliminary eligibility questions refer to the Main Applicant, not to the application.
 - **Applicants:** once invited by the Main Applicant, Applicants must complete their own profile, i.e., confirm their affiliation. Applicants can see the application but cannot edit it.
- The Co-applicants, Team Members and Cooperation Partners do not interact with the Convergence portal.



Call mechanisms: How to apply (cont.)

| My Information | |
|--|--|
| CV Details | |
| Finalize | |
| Shared Information | |
| Application Details | |
| Invitations | |
|  Participants | |
| Fields of Research | |
| Keywords | |
| Summary of Proposal | |
| Reviewer Exclusions | |
| Supporting Documents | |
| Finalize and Submit | |

Convergence application form

- Application details
- Invitations
- Participants
- Fields of research
- Keywords
- Summary of proposal
- Reviewer Exclusions
- Supporting documents
 - Research proposal = Proposal Template
 - Letters of support from partner organizations
 - SSHRC Finance Form
 - ESRC Finance Form
 - SSHRC Terms and Conditions for Applying
- Finalize and Submit

If an application contains one or more attachments that do not comply with the page limits or formatting standards, it could be withdrawn from the competition or pages could be removed from the application.



Call mechanisms: Decision-making process

- **Determination of eligibility:** following office checks, all proposals not deemed to be within the scope of the call, or which do not meet the core eligibility criteria will be rejected.
- **External assessment:** proposal will be sent for assessment to external, independent referees for peer review (minimum two reviewers per each proposal).
- **Applicant response to external assessment:** the Main Applicants (on behalf of all project participants) will be invited to submit a response to comments received on their proposal.
- **Panel review:** proposals, external assessments and applicant responses will be discussed and funding recommendations will be made by a joint panel.
 - The funding recommendations of the panel will be subject to approval by the national agencies.
 - In making final decisions, the guiding principle will be scholarly merit (research excellence).



Call mechanisms: Final steps

- Feedback to applicants will include: the anonymous reviews of the external referees and a consensus report of the joint commissioning panel.
- For successful applications:
 - Funding recommendations will be announced in September 2024
 - Some funding agencies will conduct **costings checks on all successful applications**
 - In exceptional circumstances, the commissioning panel may recommend a proposal to be funded subject to a condition
 - The earliest starting date for successful proposals will be October 1, 2024, and the latest starting date will be March 31, 2025
- All successful applicants will be required to complete a joint final report on their project after the grant ends.



Call mechanisms: Assessment criteria

- **Challenge** - The aim and importance of the endeavour (45%)
 - The originality and potential contribution to new scientific knowledge (theory, methodology, or practice)
 - Appropriateness of research design
 - Likely impact of the work
- **Feasibility** - The plan to achieve excellence (25%)
 - Feasibility of research design
 - Communication plans
 - Overall value for money
 - Individual aspects of resourcing the proposal
 - Ethical issues and data management
- **Capability** - The expertise to succeed (30%)
 - The appropriateness of the research team
 - The appropriateness of the collaboration plans



Call mechanisms: Content of proposals

- **Ethics:** Applicants must ensure the proposed research will be carried out to a high ethical standard and their application must clearly state how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and will be addressed ensuring that all necessary ethical approvals are in place and all risks are minimised.
- **Equity, diversity and inclusion:** Applicants are encouraged to consider equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) into their research plans and proposals. EDI considerations can be incorporated into the research team, research environment and research design.
- **Data management:** Planning for data management is a requirement for all applicants planning to generate data as part of their grant. The data management plan should be used as an opportunity to describe how the data are going to be managed.



Agency-specific information - ANR



■ Project eligibility:

- The project has to be complete
- The project needs to be unique
- The project needs to conform to national financial rules. See : <https://anr.fr/RF>

■ Reporting:

- If selected, participants will have to provide a midterm and a final report.

■ More information:

- See “Modalités pour les participants français” on [ORA 8 website](#).
- [Open Research Area \(ORA\) for the Social Sciences 8th call for proposals](#) on ANR webiste



Agency-specific information - DFG

Instructions for submission for DFG-Applicants



- Deadline for elan submission: November 14th, 2023, 23:59
- Funding scheme: Individual Grants Programme/Research Grant (Sachbeihilfe)
- Call to Select: ORA VIII 2023
- **Important:** The box “Acronym” needs to be filled (the same as in the *Proposal Template*).
- Title and summary do not have to be translated into German; the English text can be copied into the boxes for the German version.
- Applicants and main applicant to be added as “Participating Individuals” in the role of “Cooperation Partner”.
 - Any person listed as cooperation partner in the *Proposal Template* section 2 should not be entered into elan at all.
- German applicants can obtain a PDF file of the application on Convergence. This file must be uploaded to elan together with CVs for the German team.
- DFG-specific documents need only be submitted to elan, not to Convergence.



Agency-specific information - ESRC



- Standard ESRC research funding terms and conditions apply as set out in the [ESRC Research Funding Guide](#)
- No resubmissions are allowed
- Associated Studentships are not allowed for the UK component of ORA
- As a condition of access to UK ESRC funding, all **successful** UK applicants will be required to complete an additional submission to ESRC via TFS (the Funding Service) for administrative purposes.



Agency-specific information - SSHRC



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- Extensive guidance for applicants affiliated with a Canadian postsecondary institution in Call Specification, section 9.4
- Canada based researchers to submit the **SSHRC Finance Form** and the **SSHRC Terms and Conditions for Applying** (signed by applicant and RGO)
- [Subject matter eligibility](#): any discipline, thematic area, or approach eligible for SSHRC funding
- All applicants and grant holders must comply with the [Regulations Governing Grant Applications](#) and with the regulations set out in the [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#).
- SSHRC-eligible applicants can submit their proposals through the Convergence Portal in English or French.

Deadline: November 14th, 2023

5:00 p.m. Eastern



Indicative timeline

- June 2023 → Call for proposals open on Convergence
- November 14th 2023 → Deadline for submitting proposals
- April 2024 → Applicant response to external assessment
- June 2024 → Panel meeting
- September 2024 → Final decisions to applicants
- October 1st 2024 → First day to start projects
- March 31st 2025 → Last day to start projects



Contact Details

ORA 8 Call Secretariat: ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
Convergence Portal Helpdesk: websupport@convergence.gc.ca

Canada, SSHRC

ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

(Contact SSHRC if you wish to submit in French.)

France, ANR

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Q&A



- Please keep your microphones switched off, and type your questions via the webinar chat function – please share with **everyone**
- Please keep questions of general relevance
- Proposal-specific or further queries can be directed to ORA8@sshr-crsh.gc.ca
- Recording, deck and an updated FAQ with the collected questions and answers will be available on the [ORA 8 website](#)





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**Thank you for your time and
attention!**

