Open Research Area for the Social Sciences
Eighth Call for Proposals 2023

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document sets out answers to a range of frequently asked questions (FAQ) which potential applicants may have. It may be updated while the call is open to elaborate or supplement answers, in response to received queries. However, the FAQ is a supplement to, not substitute for, the details provided in the call specification and associated guidance documents. These are available at the call webpage at: https://www.dfg.de/ora.

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Questions on who can apply to the call

Q1. Who can submit a proposal to ORA 8?
Since eligibility criteria are subject to national regulations, these criteria are described in the country specific requirements (section 9 of the Call Specification). If you are unsure, please contact the relevant national contact officers prior to submitting a proposal.

Q2. Can I be involved in more than one ORA application?
Project applicants (i.e., main applicant, applicants, and co-applicants) can only be involved in one proposal in the current round as a project applicant. It is the responsibility of applicants (including the main applicant) to ascertain that the project applicants are compliant with this rule. **If any individual appears as project applicant in more than one application, all applications will be declared ineligible and rejected by the Call Secretariat.** Project applicants in one proposal may still be involved in any number of proposals as either team members or cooperation partners.

Q3. Can any organisation submit a proposal?
Proposals must be submitted by individuals (applicants), not institutions. The call is open to proposals from eligible applicants from three or four of the subscribing countries, i.e., Canada, France, Germany, and the UK. All applicants should check institutional eligibility rules of each participating agency and/or contact national contact person for further details. There is no limit to the number of individuals (applicants) who can submit proposals from a given institution.

Q.4 Are investigators from outside of the four countries eligible to be included in the scheme?
Some of the partner agencies allow for other international collaborators to be included within the terms of their normal research grants. These policies will apply to co-applicants outside the four countries if the work of these researchers is most closely aligned with the national research team for which such collaborations are allowed. For example, for ESRC, the policy on international co-applicants (to be found here https://www.ukri.org/publications/project-co-lead-international-policy-guidance/) will apply, provided that these researchers work most closely with the UK research team. For DFG, regulations for cooperation with developing countries will apply. For SSHRC, researchers from international postsecondary institutions can participate as co-applicants, while any international individual can participate as a collaborator. You will need to check the eligibility rules of the national agency with which researchers outside the four countries are most naturally aligned for confirmation of eligibility.

If you have researchers from outside of the four countries whose costs are not covered by the funders' national terms and conditions (as above) but who have agreed to cooperate with your project, you should list their details in the cooperation partners sections in the *Proposal Template*, section 2. Please note that no funding can be requested to cover research from cooperation partners, but some funders may cover essential travel costs.

There is a possibility for the cooperation partners in Japan (if applicable) to obtain a special funding from a Japanese funding agency. The Japan Society of the Promotion of Science (JSPS) will provide an independent funding opportunity on application basis to support the cooperation partners in Japan involved in the successful proposals.

Q.5 How many applicants may be included in a proposal?
Each national sub-team will have an applicant in that country, who must be clearly identified in the *Proposal Template*, section 2. Applicants will act as national contact points with their national funding agencies and fulfil the role of an applicant as defined in the rules of their agency. Apart from the national applicants, there might be other applicants who also request funding. These applicants are per definition co-applicants. There is not

supposed to be any sort of hierarchy between applicants and co-applicants but, depending on national rules, the applicants might be accountable for specific duties with regard to their funding agency.

There is no limit to the number of participants that can be involved in the project, but all team members must make a significant contribution to the conduct of the research.

Q.6 Why do we need to name a main applicant?
For administrative reasons only, one of the applicants will act as main applicant and submit the proposals on behalf of all project partners. The Call Secretariat will direct communications about the progress of the application to this person only, and the main applicants are therefore responsible for informing the other parties in the application.

Q.W Questions asked during the webinar.

Can someone be a consultant on one project when they are a main applicant on another bid?	See Q.2 in the FAQ
Are there any minimum requirements (in terms of academic seniority/grant management experience) to be the main applicant or applicant? Will there be any consideration of career stage when reviewing the applications? If the applicants are at different career stages, is there any reason why it would be advantageous for the 'Director' to be a more senior researcher? Does the chance of success of the ORA grant become low if the main applicant and any co-applicant is a first-time grant applicant?	See Q.1 in the FAQ Once the eligibility requirements are met, there are no minimum requirements in regard to the career level. The team must show that they have the expertise to complete the project, and this is part of the *Capability*, more specifically, *The appropriateness of the research team* assessment sub-criterion.
What is the difference between co-applicants, team members and cooperation partners?	See sections 2.1 & 2.2 in the Call Specification See Q.28 in the FAQ

How we might incorporate colleagues from non-partner countries, in our case, from Latin America and India. Can we sub-contract researchers based in such countries? Is it different for academic and non-academic organisations (e.g., NGOs)? Can academic and non-academic partners in the Global South regions be included as team members or can they only be included as cooperation partners? If the latter, does that mean they would have to 'bring the relevant funding with them or are eligible for funding under one of the subscribing agencies' rules? How is it possible to support research by African colleagues in African universities in this framework? Can you please clarify the definition of team members and cooperation members? Can team members/cooperation partners outside the eligible countries receive funds from co-applicants? Is it possible to have consultants from, example, Finland? Can we share budget with Africa-based team members?	See Q.4 in the FAQ International academic and/or non-academic partners can be included in national sub-teams as co-applicants, team members and/or cooperation partners, under the conditions set out by the funder involved. For specific situations related to your project, please contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.
What is expected in terms of industrial partners (co-funding)? Do you have any recommendations for including industry cooperation partners and their contributions?	There are no requirements related to industrial partners/for-profit organizations; they are not expected to contribute with cash or in-kind to your project. However, if they do contribute, you can add this commitment in a letter of support.
Is it possible to include partners from civil society?	See Q.1 in the FAQ For specific situations related to your project, please contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.
I am based in Canada; can I include non-academic partners that are not based on any of the countries part of ORA 8?	See section 9.4 in the Call Specification Yes. Individuals from international non-academic organizations can be added as team members in the Canada-based sub-team. At SSHRC, an ORA team member is considered a collaborator.
If we want to include cooperation partners, do they have to contribute financially to the project or can they just contribute in-kind?	Cooperation partners are not required to contribute cash or in-kind. The requirement is not to transfer funds to them (unless allowed by the funder involved). For more information, see sections 2.1 & 2.2 in the Call Specification.
There is a link to find partners in Japan - is there a similar system to identify partners in Canada, France, Germany, UK?	ORA funders do not provide such a search tool.

Can project partners be companies or do they also need to be educational institutions?	ORA is an international collaboration among individuals, not organizations. However, individuals can be affiliated with industrial partners/for-profit organizations depending on their role in the ORA 8 project and the national sub-team to which they are added.
Should each national team have a similar number of applicants and team members, or can it be different? E.g., only two in one country and five in another?	There is no requirement for equal or similar number of project participants in participating national sub-teams.
Can there only be one co-applicant per country?	See Q.5 in the FAQ No. There is no minimum or maximum number of co-applicants, team members or cooperation partners.

Questions on what can be applied for in this call

Q.7 How much can be applied for in this call?
All budget items must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant. The total value of proposals requested from each national agency should not exceed the funding limit for that agency. The following funding limits will apply: ANR: Up to €450,000; DFG: No maximum limit, but keep in mind that this is a regular research grant (Sachbeihilfe), not a Research Unit (Forschungsgruppe) or a Collaborative Research Centre (Sonderforschungsbereich); 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).

Q.8 How long can a grant last?
This call allows proposals for projects between 24 and 36 months. What the research is focused on and how it will be conducted will determine the most appropriate length for a grant. Value for money will be a criterion of assessment in reaching funding decisions.

Q.9 Should costs be broken down in detail or proposed as a lump-sum amount?
Applicants should report the total amount of funds requested for the project per agency, using the *Proposal Template*, section 4. These amounts must be fully justified in section 5 of the same document. In the "Justification of resources" (section 5), you are required to provide a detailed breakdown and explanation of why the indicated resources are needed. This section should explain why the resources requested are appropriate for the research proposed, taking into account the nature and complexity of the research proposal. It should not be simply a list of the resources required. Where an itemised breakdown and justification is not provided, these costs will be removed from any grant made.

In addition to the information provided in the *Proposal Template*, applicants from Canada and the UK are required to fill out the *ESRC Finance Form* and the *SSHRC Finance Form* for the funds requested, and to upload the forms as separate documents to SSHRC's Convergence application form. The ESRC and SSHRC Finance Form templates are available on the ORA 8 website. Applicants from France requesting funding from the ANR are expected to complete the full financial form in the ANR's SIM application form. Applicants from Germany are required to upload their proposals via the DFG elan system and specify their budget there.

Q.10 Should inflation be included within the project budget?
No, inflation costs must not be included within the project budget. All costs must be entered at the prices at the time of submission. Successful grants may have an allowance for inflation, calculated using standard indices depending on national financial regulations (although this does not apply for all participating funding agencies).

Q.11 Can project management time and costs be included in the proposal?
Yes, if this is appropriate for your proposal you must justify time and cost within your proposal.

Q.W Questions asked during the webinar.

Is it common to budget a research finance assistant in ORA projects?	See Q.11 in the FAQ
Does each national sub-team need to have a similar budget, in terms of the overall amount? Does the funding for each participating country need to be in a similar range? Is it mandatory/recommended that every partner have the same budget?	See Q.7 and Q.9 in the FAQ No. National sub-team budgets need to be commensurate with the scope and the complexity of the national sub-team's contribution to the ORA 8 project.
Could you please say more about the ESRC funding requirements (min - max budget). Are these limits applicable to the whole project or just the parts of the project that will run in the UK?	See Q.9 in the FAQ Minimum £200,000 to maximum £600,000 (at 100% fEC, ESRC will meet 80% of the fEC). These limits are just applicable to the UK component of the project, not the whole multilateral project.
What are studentships and which countries can build those into their budget? What is an associated studentship that is not allowed in the UK component? Is it not possible to include a doctoral studentship in UK? I saw that the ESRC won't cover studentships. Is postdoctoral funding allowed for UK applicants? Or does that count as a paid studentship?	ANR: Eligible costs and rates of funding depend on the type of partners. Among others, eligible costs may include the following: personnel costs; equipment costs; consumable costs; travel and subsistence costs; sub-contracting costs. For public research organisations, only personnel costs of fixed-term contracts are eligible (except for an EPIC in partnership with an enterprise). Please, consult ANR's Règlement financier https://anr.fr/fr/rf/, and see also the Fiche n°3 "Les coûts admissibles (dépenses éligibles)" document. DFG: The budget may include the hiring of students at any level. ESRC: Associated Studentships are not allowed for the UK component of ORA. The studentships allocated to ROs are administered through Doctoral Training Grants (DTGs). A DTG is a grant providing funds for the training of research students leading to the award of a recognised qualification, usually a PhD. Further details on Associated Studentships can be found in the ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide. It would be possible to hire a postdoctoral scholar to be part of the research team. This is not an associated studentship. SSHRC: The budget may include the hiring of students at any level.

Are there limits/recommendations for budgeting consultants?	Consultants can be added in the budget request. For specific situations related to your project, please contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.
What is considered an appropriate amount for open access publication fees in the budget? ESRC requires that any publication from a funded project is published in Open Access journals. Does this condition also apply to this ORA call? What are SSHRC's requirements for open access publication for ORA 8?	Each agency has different requirements for open access. The appropriateness of the use of funds for open access depends on the specificities of your project. ANR: Researchers are free to publish in the journal of their choice. If researchers choose to publish in a subscription-based journal, they protect their intellectual property rights by implementing the non-assignment of rights strategy. The project coordinator is committed to ensure that the full text of the scientific publications (version accepted for publication or editor's version) is deposited in the HAL national open archive under a Creative Commons CC-BY licence at the time of publication at the latest. Deposit in another open archive is possible but not sufficient. Deposit in HAL allows the association publication/project. DFG: Open Access publication is recommended but not mandatory. Publication costs of 750 € per year per applicant can be included in the budget. ESRC: UKRI's Open Access Policy is applicable to the UK component of this call. See in particular the section on Open Access Funding. SSHRC Grant holders must comply with the Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications.
Do any of the agencies require confirmed matching funds (cash or in-kind)?	No. There is no requirement for matching funds in ORA 8.
Could a PI (on a low % of time) in one of the countries also conduct paid postdoctoral research in another on another budget?	Please contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca with more details so that we can provide an answer.
Could you clarify about UK public sector partners and civil society partners, and their eligibility for funding from the ESRC component of the budget? Can they be costed into the project?	Project co-leads from business, third sector or government bodies based in the UK can be included in the UK component of an ORA project. Further details can be found here: https://www.ukri.org/publications/including-project-co-leads-from-business-third-sector-or-government-bodies/
For DFG, does no "maximum budget limit" mean that the project needs to be within the usual DFG guidelines?	Yes, the budget must follow the usual guidelines for research grants (Sachbeihilfen).
Do all applicants in different countries have to align with the most restrictive agency's funding limitations? I.e., if the ESRC does not fund any activities x, then Canadian applicants could not include any activities x in the overall application?	No, national budgets must respond to the eligibility requirements of their respective funders. Activity x might not be eligible at ESRC but can be eligible at SSHRC. If that is the case, activity x should be added to the SSHRC budget request. For specific situations related to your project, please contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.

Is there a maximum budget?	See Q.7 in the FAQ
What are suggested minimum/maximum times dedicated to the grant? What is the expected working time on the project by the applicants (in percentage)?	The team must show that they have the time to complete the project, and this is part of the *Feasibility* of the project, more specifically, the *Individual aspects of resourcing the proposal* assessment sub-criterion. The funders have different eligibility/minimum requirements for the time dedicated to the grant. ANR recommends that applicants dedicate to their grant at least 40% of their research time. DFG has no minimum/maximum requirement for time dedicated to a grant. ESRC: Please see the "Directly allocated: staff" section of the ESRC Funding Guide. SSHRC has no minimum/maximum requirement for time dedicated to a grant.
Is the budget plan only for each country's own budget cost? Not for all three teams together? Some countries do not request additional budget forms?	See Q.9 in the FAQ
Can you clarify where the budgets can be spent? For instance, must all the Canadian funds be spent by the Canadian applicants?	The budget can be spent in accordance with national funders' rules. In this case, the Canada-based applicant and their institution would be responsible for the eligible use of grant funds offered by SSHRC.
One of the issues with this scheme is having to navigate rules of three (or four) separate funding agencies. It isn't a streamlined process. We discovered quite late in grant preparation process (2 months of work in) that French agency ANR only funds 50% of salary costs of researchers from institutes with private law status. No information on this on general documentation. We can't submit this year because of specific rules of one funding agency.	ORA 8 provides a great opportunity for international collaborations. At the same time, it raises some administrative challenges because it combines four national funding agencies, each with their own national responsibilities and accountabilities. French applicants must consult the "Modalités pour les participants français" document, and the Règlement financier document https://anr.fr/fr/rf/; see also the Fiche n°3 "Les coûts admissibles (dépenses éligibles)." Section 9 in the Call Specification contains all the agency-specific information.

Questions on general research eligibility

Q.12 Are there certain types of research that are considered more suitable for this call?
No. All projects must focus on substantive research and feature an integrated work programme demonstrating clearly the added value of transnational collaboration. The funding agencies expect that each partner contributes substantially to the common project topic, including taking responsibilities for the project design and organization. These contributions should also be reflected in a reasonable amount of requested funds by each partner.

Proposals may be submitted in any area of the social sciences within the remit of the relevant national agencies concerned (please see section 9 in the *Call Specification* document for additional information

concerning each agency).

Q.13 Are scientific infrastructure or networking activities allowed?
Scientific infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus. As stand-alone projects, infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible and will be rejected.

Q.14 What type of research can be funded?
Applications can be for basic research and national agencies are keen to encourage fresh ideas from early career as well as from established researchers. Research proposals cannot be accepted for the following: unspecified research work, research already carried out, writing up previous research, stand-alone literature surveys, conference attendance, travel for general study, unsolicited requests to hold conferences, workshops or seminars, preparation of books and publications, or primarily for the preparation and production of materials such as curriculum materials and software development.

However, within a research application the inclusion of literature surveys, conferences, seminars, workshops, and preparation of books and publications and other types of output are acceptable as long as the need for any of these is fully justified and these activities clearly support and/or disseminate the production of new research.

Q.15 Can disciplines outside of the social sciences be included in the project proposals?
Yes, they can if they are an integral part of and support the research questions and theme. However, the proposal should be predominantly within the social sciences. If you have any doubt as to whether your proposal is predominantly within the social sciences, please contact the agencies to which your proposal will be submitted for confirmation. Note, also, that the disciplinary coverage varies according to the involvement of the national agencies (especially SSHRC). If you have any doubt, check to ensure the disciplinary scope of your proposal is eligible with all agencies involved.

Q.16 Are proposals linked to projects that have been funded by other organisations acceptable?
Yes, although such proposals must be a discrete piece of work that can be judged on their own merits and does not duplicate previous work. It is important that the proposal still proposes new and cutting-edge research of the highest quality. It would be expected that in such instances applicants will demonstrate where there may be added synergies and added value between the two projects.

Q.17 Is it possible to apply for funding from this call if a proposal builds on previous research?
Yes, although it is important that the proposal still proposes new and cutting-edge research of the highest quality. Such proposals must be a discrete piece of work that can be judged on their own merits and does not duplicate previous work. It would be expected that in such instances applicants will demonstrate where there may be added synergies and value between the two projects.

Q.18 Is it acceptable to include researchers from disciplines outside the social sciences?
Yes, if this is relevant to the research project.

Q.19 Do proposals have to be multi-disciplinary?
No. Mono-, multi- and interdisciplinary proposals are all welcome. What is important is that the disciplinary approach is appropriate to address the specific research questions.

Where research teams do cut across disciplines, it is important that enough time and resource are allocated to make sure that strong working partnerships can be built up and maintained, and that collaboration is meaningful and productive. It is advisable for these teams to have a proven record of joint inter- or multidisciplinary work.

Q.W Questions asked during the webinar.

Must the project scope only focus on [Canada,] France, UK, and Germany? Or can we focus on other geographic areas? Can the case studies of the projects be based in countries other than the four ORA countries?	The research focus is not limited by geographical area.
Is there an expectation for the type of research methods used? Looking at the list of previous successful applications, it gives the impression that most funded research projects use qualitative methods. Is it common to fund projects that use theoretical models, e.g., game theory and operations research? Similarly, how frequently have econometrics-based empirical projects been funded?	There is no requirement or preference related to the research methodologies to be used in your project. The research methods should be suitable to the aims and objectives of you project. See Q.35 in the FAQ Information about past competitions is available on ORA 8 website.
Could you please elaborate on what is meant by 'integrated' projects? What are the criteria for integrated?	See Q.12 in the FAQ

Could you please provide additional information regarding the data management plan? Is there a template available, and are there any specific guidelines for minimum or maximum page lengths? Should it be submitted as a separate document, or is it acceptable to include it as part of the proposal? Is it mandatory to deposit the research data into an open-source research data repository?	See sections 2.3 in the Call Specification 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 – starting from planning for research and through the lifecycle of the grant until data is accepted for archiving. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider the data management guidelines of all partners involved in a proposal (that is, as pertaining to ANR, DFG, ESRC, and/or SSHRC, as applicable). The data management plan is part of the Proposal Template, section 3. Research Description. There is no specific template for it and no minimum or maximum requirement for page length. The Research Description section is limited at 12 pages in total. ANR: Researchers are free to publish in the journal of their choice. If researchers choose to publish in a subscription-based journal, they protect their intellectual property rights by implementing the non-assignment of rights strategy. The project coordinator is committed to ensure that the full text of the scientific publications (version accepted for publication or editor's version) is deposited in the HAL national open archive under a Creative Commons CC-BY licence at the time of publication at the latest. Deposit in another open archive is possible but not sufficient. Deposit in HAL allows the association publication/project. Concerning DMP, see 5.3.6.b in the Règlement financier document https://anr.fr/fr/rf/. DFG: DFG, German Research Foundation - Handling of Research Data "Wherever possible it is important to enable subsequent use of the research data and potentially also the objects by other users. Subject-specific recommendations regarding standards, methods and infrastructures should be taken into account." ESRC: ESRC Research Data Policy Please see the following link for guidance on making you research data open: https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/publishing-your-research-findings/making-your-research-data-open/ SSHRC Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy (Copying from this policy: "Grant recipients are not required to share their data. However, the agencies expect researchers to provide appropriate access to the data where ethical, cultural, legal and commercial requirements allow, and in accordance with the FAIR principles - Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable - and the standards of their disciplines.")

If the proposed project involves setting up a new research infrastructure (e.g., a cohort study) and some results will be available after the three-year period, is this kind of project eligible for the ORA 8 call?	See Q.13 in the FAQ Please contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca with more details so that we can provide an answer.
Can the proposal be multi-disciplinary (How much social science is needed?)	See Q.15, Q.18, and Q.19 in the FAQ
Does the presence of a Japanese partner increase the likelihood of success?	No.
Do you determine the percentage of social science aspects in a proposal only in terms of content or also in terms of researchers' backgrounds. At least 50% in the social science means 50% of participants?	Such eligibility will be determined from the content of the proposal, not the background of the researchers. However, please note that *the appropriateness of the research team* is one of the sub-criteria under *Capability* (section 5 in the Call Specification).
Will ESRC fund applicants in a not social science department if they contribute to the project with social science research?	Yes. But please ensure the UK component of the proposal falls within ESRC's remit; that the individual is eligible; and the Organisation is eligible.
Is it permissible for Canadian applicants or co-applicants to include more activities defined as non-social science than is permitted to, e.g., French or UK team members? I wonder if you can please elaborate on the statement that you made about "Humanities" research fitting into Social Sciences?	What is important is that the ORA 8 project is at least 50% in social sciences. However, agencies' definitions of social sciences might not be perfectly overlapping. This is why it is important to reach out to the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca whenever in doubt. SSHRC's mandate includes social sciences and humanities. Canada-based teams may conduct research in humanities as long as the ORA 8 project remains 50% in the social sciences.
I've been in contact with SSHRC, which seems not to include some topics that other agencies do. Can our partner in Canada still be a team member or cooperation partner on a proposal if France, UK, and Germany are also included. Is there a way for Canadian team-members to financially benefit somehow?	If the research conducted by your Canada-based colleague is not eligible under SSHRC's mandate, but you still wish to collaborate with them, you can add them as part of your respective national sub-teams. For more information about this scenario, see Q.4 in this FAQ.
Are interventions allowed? Also are policy-related proposals considered?	Please contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca with more details so that we can provide an answer.
Can you please tell us where we can find detailed information on SSHRC subject matter eligibility and how this might be impacted by interdisciplinary approaches? For instance, approaches that might combine disciplines such as Religious Studies, Ethnomusicology, and Research Creation?	SSHRC's Subject Matter Eligibility See Q.19 in the FAQ A project at the intersection of religious studies, ethnomusicology and research-creation would be eligible at SSHRC.

Is experience working together an advantage or disadvantage? Is there an advantage if ORA 8 funding lays the foundation for continued collaboration?	Previous collaborations could be advantageous if they are relevant to your project. Future/continued collaborations could be an outcome of your project, but we cannot speak to its advantageousness. The panel will assess the merit of such an outcome in relation to your project.
Is psycholinguistics social science?	Please contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca with more details so that we can provide an answer.
Are those participants who have funding from ORA 7 eligible for ORA 8?	Yes.
What constitutes 'clinical psychology' research. I am a clinical psychologist and looking at behaviour change experiments (not with clinical populations) with collaborators in the UK and Germany. Is this eligible? Is it possible to have a project reviewed (i.e., a brief summary) and get information on whether it is eligible?	Please see SSHRC's Guidelines for the Eligibility of Applications in Psychology: "SSHRC considers eligible applications within the broad areas of social, developmental, personality and educational psychology. SSHRC also considers eligible proposals related to theory and methods in these areas. SSHRC does not support clinically oriented research with an intent to improve health, or research involving clinical trials." Please contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca with more details.
If ESRC doesn't allow resubmission - would this also include a similar (but not same) project that was submitted not to ESRC but to UKRI? Could you please specify what qualifies as a revised "re-submission" and a "new submission"? Would the ESRC accept resubmission of projects with substantial changes? Can you clarify the resubmission issue? From what was said, only the ESRC does not allow a revised project submission, yet the other agencies do. Does this then mean that there can be no participation on the team of any applicant from the ESRC region? Resubmissions of previously rejected proposals are not allowed at all, even if the team does not include the UK? What about new versions of proposals submitted under different ESRC calls in the past, other than ORA? Are these allowed to be submitted?	See section 2.5 in the Call Specification ESRC does not allow the resubmission of a previously unsuccessful proposal, however ANR, DFG, and SSHRC do allow for resubmissions. Applications that are resubmissions of previously unfunded non-ORA projects (i.e., applications to a non-ORA call) are also allowed by ANR, DFG, and SSHRC, but not by the ESRC. If an application to a non-ORA call is still awaiting a decision, then resubmissions are not allowed by any of the funding organisations. If the proposal is a resubmission, then it would not be eligible to include the UK component, as ESRC does not allow resubmissions. Please see ESRC's Resubmissions Policy and guidance on "What constitutes a new proposal?"

Can an applicant be on both an ORA 8 and a SSHRC IDG application in the same year? The applicants cannot be involved in any capacity in another ORA 8 application. What about other SSHRC proposals, e.g., Insight and Connection grants? If a SSHRC participant has an unrelated non-ORA SSHRC submission, can they still submit to ORA?	Yes, if there is no duplication of funding for the same research or research-related activities. More information: Multiple Applications - Grants, Fellowships and Scholarships
If an application was deemed ineligible in the ORA 7 competition because an applicant was engaged as an applicant with another ORA 7 application, does this mean the project is also ineligible now to apply for ORA 8?	Such a project would not be considered a resubmission because it was declared ineligible before the merit review. Therefore, the same project can be submitted to the ORA 8 competition.

Questions about the application process

Q.20 Where can I download the application templates?
Application templates along with all relevant ORA 8 literature can be found on ORA 8 website.

Q.21 Are proposals submitted to each individual agency?
SSHRC is the coordinating agency for this round and all applications must be submitted online through SSHRC's 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.

Researchers from the UK are not required to submit the application to ESRC. (Though note that post funding decision, all successful UK applicants will be required to complete an additional submission to ESRC via TFS (the Funding Service) for administrative purposes as a condition of access to UK ESRC funding).

Q.22 In what language(s) should the proposals be submitted?
All proposals must be written in English, with the exception of proposals including Canadian partners, which may be submitted in French. Applicants wishing to submit in French should get in touch with the national contact at SSHRC for further details.

Q.23 May supplementary information or appendices be added to the proposal?
Only those specifically requested in the Call Specification document. **Word and page limits should be strictly adhered to.** Additional diagrams, charts and tables should not be provided.

Q.24 When can projects start?
The earliest starting date for successful projects is October 1st, 2024, the latest is March 31st, 2025. All national research teams within a project will be expected to start at the same time.

Q.25 What are the national financial forms for and how should they be submitted?
The financial forms summarize the costs directed to each national funding agency.

Applicants from Canada and the UK are required to fill out the *ESRC Finance Form* and the *SSHRC Finance form*, respectively, for the funds requested, and to upload the forms as separate documents to SSHRC's Convergence application form. The ESRC and SSHRC Finance Form templates are available on the ORA 8 website.

Applicants from France requesting funding from the ANR are expected to complete the full finance form in the ANR's SIM platform; they will upload their proposals to both SSHRC's Convergence Portal and ANR's SIM platform by the deadline for submitting proposals. Applicants from Germany are required to upload their proposals via the DFG elan system by the deadline for submitting proposals and specify their budget there.

Q.26 How many national partners should there be in a project? Will a project with a higher number of national partners be treated preferentially?
As long as there are partners from three or four ORA countries (excluding Japan), the precise configuration should be determined by the research question and project design. There is no ideal number and applicants should not add partners just to bolster numbers. All partners should have a significant role in the research.

Q.27 Is Japan included in the minimum three or more ORA countries required?
No, Japan is not included in the required number of ORA countries. You will need to have a minimum of three ORA participating countries, i.e. Canada, France, Germany, and the UK.

Q.28 What is the difference between the main applicant, applicant and co-applicant?
The main applicant is one of the applicants, selected for administrative reasons, who submits the application through SSHRC's Convergence Portal for the whole project. The main applicant also acts as a main contact point with the Call Secretariat for all matters related to the proposal as a whole.

The applicant is the national head responsible for the funding contracts with their agency. There can be one applicant per country.

The co-applicants are any individuals who make a significant contribution to the intellectual direction of the research, who play a significant role in the conduct of the research, and who may also have some responsibility for financial aspects of the research.

Q.29 Do you accept late applications?
No. All proposals must be submitted by the deadline of November 14th 2023.

Q.W Questions asked during the webinar.

Last time DFG required the proposal to be printed and sent by regular mail. Will it apply this year, too?	No. See Q.21 in the FAQ
If there are more than one UK institution, do they each complete the ESRC Finance form or does the lead UK institution complete one for all other UK institutions?	If there is an UK component, there is only one ESRC Finance Form per ORA 8 project.
What was the name of the classification framework that you just mentioned?	The Canadian Research and Development Classification See paragraph *Fields of research* in the document Convergence Guidance for Applicants

SSHRC Terms & Conditions – is it correct that the Canadian partner completes and signs this form, but the Main Applicant (which may or may not be the same as the Canadian partner) submits together with all documents it via Convergence? Could you clarify - do the Canadian Applicants submit their own Finance Forms and Terms and Conditions through Convergence Portal, or does the Main Applicant submit these and all other documents on behalf of the international team through Convergence Portal? If the lead applicant is in another country, do they submit the SSHRC Finance Form etc. or does the Canadian applicant submit this on their Convergence Pages?	The Main Applicant (Canada-based or not) uploads the SSHRC Finance Form and the SSHRC T&Cs document (along with all other ORA 8 documents) to the Convergence Portal. Only the Main Applicant can add or modify information on the Convergence Portal. All other Applicants would just confirm their affiliation in the Portal.
Narrative CVs: Is there a format guidance (font, spacing) in the guidelines regarding the narrative CV? Should individual (i.e., non-co authored) publications be prioritized in research contributions; what counts in the human capacity one: the obvious is supervision of students but what are some examples for junior scholars. And finally, what are the limits of a community contribution; can this include public presentations? The instructions state "at most four pages per main applicant, applicant and co-applicant". Can I check that this is max. 4 pages per applicant? For the narrative CV, can we delete the explanation for each section, to free up space?	All necessary instructions for completing the Narrative CVs are included in the Narrative CV Template. The format guidance is provided on page 1, Note 3 in the Proposal Template as well as on page 1 of the Narrative CV Template. All narrative CVs should be pasted in the Proposal Template, section 9. The Narrative CVs contains a number of sections but there is no word limit for each section—you may choose to devote more space to certain sections depending on the nature of your past contributions and experience. If you have specific questions related to the content of your CV, contact the ORA 8 Secretariat at ORA8@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca with more details so that we can provide an answer. The Narrative CVs document should occupy at most four pages per main applicant, applicant and co-applicant (4 pages for each individual). You can delete the explanation for each section so that you can maximize the space.
Do we have to use one full page for the diagrammatic workplan in section 5 of the proposal template? That effectively shortens the space available to only 11 pages.	You can use as much space as you need for the workplan as long as you are able to detail significant milestones and show how different aspects of the project will link together and be managed. The workplan will be part of the *Feasibility* assessment criterion, more specifically the *Feadibility of research design* sub-criterion. Hence, it is important to take the space you need to present this aspect.

From whom do you expect to receive letters of support?	See section 3 in the Call Specification Exceptionally, letters of support can be submitted as part of a proposal, provided they are essential to the successful conduct of the research (e.g., confirming access to datasets, confirming access to or use of the facilities provided by named organisations, offering cash and/or in-kind contributions to your project). General letters of support that are not essential for the successful conduct of the research or do not confirm any specific contribution to the project should not be included.
Can you say more about the requirement to submit an additional ESRC bid for successful UK awards?	See section 9.3 in the Call Specification, paragraph *ESRC successful applicants* See Q.21 in the FAQ
Which documents exactly are required for the ORA 8 by German (DFG) applicants? Project Application and Basis Module or is the DFG project application form replaced by the SSHRC Convergence form?	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 (e.g., statement from the potential employer for Temporary Positions for PI or the statement by the university for the Replacement Module) need only be submitted to elan, not to Convergence.
Is this a one-step submission process? When applicants submit in Convergence Portal, the application goes straight to SSHRC? Or do the Research Offices have to submit the application to SSHRC?	For ORA 8 specifically, applications are submitted directly to SSHRC, through the Convergence Portal. Applications are not forwarded to SSHRC by the administering organization. However, Canadian postsecondary institutions must sign the SSHRC T&Cs document.
Is the there value-added of having five countries (four + Japan) vs. only three? Does it count as an advantage when proposals are evaluated?	See Q.26 in the FAQ

Questions about the assessment process

Q.30 How does the assessment process work?
This call will follow a one-stage procedure consisting of a full proposal. Eligible proposals will be sent for assessment to external, independent referees for peer review. Based on those reviews, proposals will be discussed by an international commissioning panel, consisting of experts nominated by the four funding agencies. For more details about the decision-making process, please consult the Call Specification document, section 4.

Q.31 Will the JSPS element of the proposal be assessed?
The Japan component will be evaluated and decided upon by JSPS, in light of its association with ORA. The ORA-proposal will be evaluated as a stand-alone proposal by the ORA partners and funding decisions will be made independently. There is no strategic advantage or disadvantage to planning a project with partners from Japan.

Q.32 What happens if the Japan element to my project is dependent on being funded by JSPS? How will the ORA peer reviews evaluate my proposal if JSPS funding is ultimately declined?
Both projects will be evaluated separately. ORA proposals will not be dependent on the Japan component being funded. If the ORA project is assessed positively, the project will be funded by the European partners even if JSPS declines to fund the Japan teams.

Q.33 What are the assessment criteria?
Please see the assessment criteria in section 5 of the Call Specification document for details of the criteria according to which external assessors and panel members review the proposals.

Q.W Questions asked during the webinar

Only the Japanese application is evaluated by the Japanese agency? If you could explain a bit further the different parts of the proposal and how the national agencies evaluate, it would be great.	Complete information about the decision-making process can be found in section 4 in the Call Specification. See Q.31 and Q.32 in the FAQ
Are there area specific assessment panels A and B like last year, and how are submissions assigned to the panels?	The number of panelists will be determined based on the number of applications, that is, the panel can consist of one, two, or tree sub-panels. If there are more than one sub-panel, the sub-panels will be constructed along disciplinary lines. We aim to assign applications to the panelists whose expertise is most closely related to the disciplines in the applications. The panelists will include in their review, along with the applications, the external assessment and applicant responses to external assessment. For more information see section 4 in the Call Specification.
What is the date of the Main Applicant response period to reviewer comments? Is there an oral component to the applicant response to external assessment or is this written? In some ESRC funding, only a certain subset of applicants gets to respond to reviewers' comments if they meet a certain threshold. Is this the case or will all applicants have the opportunity to respond to reviewers?	We aim to implement this stage at the end of April 2024. Main applicants will be informed well in advance about the timeline and the process. The applicant response stage is written only. All applicants will have the opportunity to respond to the external assessments.
Can you please say more about the pool of reviewers you're drawing on? Are the reviewers drawn from all four countries for every proposal or just the ones in the proposal or a more random sample?	Complete information about the decision-making process can be found in section 4 in the Call Specification. Each proposal will be evaluated by a minimum of two external assessors. According to the size and the disciplinary breadth of the project, additional reviews may be commissioned. We aim to recruit reviewers from different countries for each application (but in very rare cases this might not be possible).

Is the panel from four countries to decide funding or will your SSHRC funding body be making decision for all applications? Is the ORA 8 adjudication panel international or drawn from people based in Canada? Are there only academics or are there also members of the adjudication committee drawn from industry or civil society? Is the membership of Commissioning Panel public?	Complete information about the decision-making process can be found in section 4 in the Call Specification. The multidisciplinary and multinational commissioning panel agrees on a rating and a funding recommendation, taking into account the available national research agency budgets. Based on the recommendations by the panel and taking into account the available (individual agency) budgets, the participating funding agencies will make final funding decisions, depending on the national rules. The panel is composed of academic researchers only. The membership of Commissioning Panel is not made public by all funders?
Is there an adjudication of the ORA applications conducted by each separate funding agency, or do they only conduct a review of eligibility and budget matters? Do all the participating research councils review the applications?	Complete information about the decision-making process can be found in section 4 in the Call Specification. Once the call has closed, the funding agencies conduct office checks on all proposals to determine their eligibility. All four agencies participate in this process.

Other questions

Q.34 How many applications were successful in the previous seven rounds?
Here are some stats related to the previous seven rounds of ORA:

#	Received	Eligible	Funded
ORA 1	139	123	15
ORA 2	160	142	10
ORA 3	186	178	15
ORA 4	188	188	20
ORA 5	319	293	16
ORA 6	103	95	13
ORA 7	99	92	13

Q.35 Is there a list of projects funded in the previous round?
Yes, results for ORA 1-7 are available here. Please be mindful that due to the open nature of this call, previously funded projects only reflect the topics and quality of applications in that specific round and should not be used as an indication of what might be funded in future rounds.

Q.36 If there are ethical issues, is approval required before submitting a proposal?
The requirements and timings for ethical approval vary between agencies. Proposals must adhere to the ethical requirements for each relevant national agency.

Q.37 How will successful ORA projects be monitored by the funding agencies?
Each national research team will be expected to report to its national funding agency, in accordance with each

agency's regulation. In addition, all successful applicants in the ORA 8 call will be required to complete a joint final report on their project after the grant ends. Further details on the format and deadlines for submission of the final report will be communicated to all successful applicants at contracting stage.

Q.W Questions asked during the webinar.

Will ORA, as an international collaborative research programme be available in 2024 between DFG, ESRC, SSHRC, and ANR?	This information is not currently available. However, should there be an ORA 9, it will not be offered before 2025.
Are reports submitted by applicants to national funding agencies or through the main applicant? How long is the mid-term report? Does each national team file a separate report or is an overall report filed by the lead applicant (PI) only?	See Q.37 in the FAQ
Is there a maximum number of projects that can be funded? How many applications have you received in the past? Where can we find a list of previously selected applications from ORA? Could you please share the success rate of the submissions to ORA?	See Q.34 and Q.35 in the FAQ The number of meritorious projects to be funded depends on national agencies' budgets allocated to ORA 8.

Do projects have ethical clearance from the respective institutions prior to submission of the ORA8 proposal? When do documents with regard to ethical approval have to be submitted? Must each application provide REB (ethic committee) approval or is it sufficient to have one REB approval for the whole project from one of the applications? What ethical guarantees need to be submitted to DFG with the submission?	Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider the ethical guidelines of all partners involved in a proposal. ANR: The French PI will inform ANR, within 6 months from the date of the signature of the funded grant, whether or not they intend to access genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge in the frame of the project. Also consult article 5.3.6.a of ANR's Règlement financier document https://anr.fr/fr/rf/. DFG: You should consult the DFG FAQs for information on when a statement from the Ethics Committee is necessary: DFG, German Research Foundation - FAQ: Humanities and Social Sciences. If one is required, you need to submit it when you apply for the grant (just to DFG's elan). In exceptional cases it might be possible to hand it in a little later. ESRC: See here for our Research Ethics Guidance SSHRC: If your proposed research involves humans, you are required to consult the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans and submit your proposal to your administering organization's Research Ethics Board (REB). The REB designated by the Institution must approve the research project before research activities involving humans have commenced. REB approval must be maintained as long as activities involving humans are carried out.