



Collaborate with UK partners on arts and humanities research: round 7

I. Introduction and aims of the Call

This is the seventh 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' places 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 allows 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 for individual research grants](#). Applicants in the UK must meet [AHRC eligibility requirements](#).

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

Project teams

Each joint research project must consist of two (UK and German) national teams. Both teams must have a project lead. The inclusion of additional team members is optional.

The German team must be led by a researcher eligible to apply to DFG.

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.

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

The UK team must:

- propose research which falls within the remit of AHRC
- be led by a researcher who meets AHRC's individual eligibility criteria, and who is based at a research organisation eligible for AHRC funding.
- not include costs for project PhD students within UK budgets.

Project Co-Leads (International)

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

Costs for and associated with project co-leads (international) 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 project co-lead (international) 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.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) (UK applicants only)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world's largest funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers. The DAAD is the independent member organisation of German higher education institutions and their student bodies, devoted to internationalising the academic system. The DAAD offers a wide range of [individual scholarship- and project funding-programmes: Funding Guide for Academic Mobility between the UK/Ireland and Germany 2025-2026](#)

German applicants can include mobility costs in their budget.

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 sixth opportunity to the seventh opportunity is not permitted.

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

A reworked resubmission from the all DFG/AHRC calls prior to the sixth round 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](#) and [DFG index](#).

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 (minimum duration is 24 months). The UK component of successful projects will be required to start between January and mid-February 2026 and the German team will be expected to follow a similar schedule.

Standard AHRC funding requirements apply to the UK component as outlined in the [AHRC research funding guide](#). 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). Project co-leads (international) 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 UK finance form 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.

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 seventh 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. Font size and margins are set in the template and should not be changed.

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 19th 2025 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 15 awards will be made under this opportunity, subject to proposals meeting the criteria and quality standards.

Outcomes will be issued in early November 2025.

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

16th October 2024 – Call opens

19th February 2025 – Call closes at 23:59 hrs (German time) for elan submission

March to June 2025 – Peer Review

September 2025 – Assessment panel

Early/mid November 2025 – Decisions expected to be released

The UK component of successful projects will be required to start between January and mid February 2026. German project parts are expected to follow a similar schedule.

VII. Call Documents

- Call Text
- Information for Applicants
- Project Description Template
- CV Template
- UK Finance Form

VIII. Further information

The 8th round of the DFG/AHRC call will open in October 2025 and close in February 2026.

Outcomes of the previous rounds can be found on the DFG homepage:

www.dfg.de/ahrc.

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.

Data, including personal data, is shared between UKRI and DFG to enable the efficient processing and assessment of applications via a secure transfer mechanism, as

appropriate. Information shared will include applicant and reviewer information, application details and reviewing documents.

UKRI and DFG are committed to maintaining data confidentiality, protection and privacy and intend to fully abide by their own applicable internal policies concerning the sharing of data in collaborative activities as well as carrying out the processing of personal data in accordance with applicable UK and EU Data Protection legislation.

Further information on how UKRI processes personal data can be found in the [UKRI privacy notice and data protection policy](#).

We reserve the right to modify the assessment process as needed.

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 seventh call and should therefore be the first point of contact for general enquiries relating to the call.

DFG

AHRC-Ausschreibung@dfg.de

Sigrid Claßen

Humanities and Cultural Studies

Tel +49 (0)228 885-2209

Dr. Nora Böttcher

Humanities and Cultural Studies

Tel. +49 (0)228 885-2693

AHRC

Frazer Singlehurst, International Partnerships and Engagement Manager, AHRC
international@ahrc.ukri.org (Programme enquiries)

Include 'DFG' in the subject line.

We aim to respond within five working days.