UK-German Funding Initiative in the Humanities
Call for proposals 2019/2020

CALL TEXT
I. Introduction and aims of the Call
The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) together with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) are launching a call for proposals for outstanding joint UK-German research projects in the Humanities. Proposals should strengthen co-operation between arts and humanities researchers in the UK (within the remit of the AHRC) and humanities, including law and linguistics, researchers in Germany. For a full specification of the AHRC and DFG subject remits, please see the AHRC Research Funding Guide (https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/researchfundingguide/) - DFG http://www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/statutory_bodies/review_boards/subject_areas/index.jsp

Both funding agencies want to strengthen international cooperation in these fields and 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 AHRC-DFG scheme will provide funding for integrated UK-German projects, and 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.
All applications must be submitted in English. Where appropriate for the research topic, applicants may also submit their proposals in both German and English, although they are not required to do so.

II. Eligibility

Proposals must involve collaboration between UK and German researchers.

Both single-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary applications can be considered provided that the UK component falls within the remit of the AHRC and the German component within the remit of the DFG. Applications may also overlap with other disciplines provided that they fall primarily within the remit of the AHRC and DFG. Cross-disciplinary applications must demonstrate how their project team fulfils the eligibility requirements. If you are in doubt about the remit eligibility of your proposal, please contact the relevant agencies for clarification.

Joint UK-German research projects will normally be funded for, and will in any case not exceed, a period of **up to 36 months**. 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. As stand-alone projects, infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible.

All budget items must conform to the national rules applicable to each applicant. Applicants should note that AHRC and DFG retain the right to reject proposals where they fail to comply with the procedures set out in the guidelines of the respective agency. If a proposal does not meet the eligibility requirements of one national agency, the whole project will be rejected by both agencies. UK researchers must comply with the requirements of full economic costing (fEC) and proposals must be approved and submitted by a UK Research Organisation eligible to apply to the AHRC. German researchers from non-university research institutions must comply with their duty to cooperate (Kooperationspflicht). This duty to cooperate is not met if these researchers only cooperate with a UK partner.

If an application has previously been submitted to any other call 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.

III. Applicants

Each joint research project must consist of two (UK and German) national teams. Each team must be led by one Principal Investigator (PI), who may be the only member of the team. The UK team must be led by an arts and humanities researcher who falls within the remit of the AHRC and is based at a research organisation eligible to apply to the AHRC. The German team must be led by a humanities, including law and linguistics, researcher eligible to apply to the DFG. German scholars from other disciplines should contact the DFG head office.

DFG regulations concerning First Time Applicants will not be taken into account for this call.

AHRC’s provision to include (where relevant) international co-investigators will apply to the UK component of projects. However, we would not expect costs relating to
international co-investigators based in Germany to be included within the costs for the UK component as we would expect investigators in Germany to be included within the DFG-supported component of the collaboration. In the same vein, funding for Mercator fellows based in the UK may not be requested from DFG in this call.

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

IV. Resubmissions
The immediate resubmission of unsuccessful proposals from the first call under the AHRC-DFG MOU to the second call is not permitted but may be acceptable for future calls. Applicants unsuccessful under the first call may submit different proposals for this call.

V. Budget and eligible costs
All costs must be eligible according to applicants’ national eligibility requirements.

A detailed justification of the requested budget will be required. Only UK costs should be included in the “Je-S” application form and explained in the mandatory Justification of Resources document. All costs relating to the German component should be included in the Non UK Component (German Budget) document which is available from the call page on the AHRC website and should not be entered into the Je-S form.

For more information please see the Information for Applicants document.

VI. Project scale and duration
The duration of the project must not exceed 36 months. The grant must start between 01/12/2020 and 01/02/2021.

Awards will not exceed, on the UK side, £350,000 (at 100% fEC of which the AHRC will fund 80%) per project.

Projects 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, but we would expect the work packages to be delivered reasonably equally.

VII. Submission of proposals
The AHRC is leading the administration of this second call and should therefore be the first point of contact for general enquiries relating to the call.

A single integrated proposal, with separate financial sections for each national agency, must be submitted by the UK PI via AHRC/UKRI's submission system “Je-S” by 4pm (UK time) on Wednesday February 26th 2020. The UK PI must provide a PDF copy of the Je-S submission to the German PI to upload to the DFG’s submission “elan” by midnight (German time) on Wednesday February 26th 2020.

Given that there are only a few hours outside office hours between the UK JeS deadline and the deadline for submission to elan, applicants are strongly advised not to leave submission until close to the UK deadline in order to allow sufficient time for the final application pdf documents to be produced and submitted by the German PI to elan.

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 document.
AHRC/UKRI submission
The UK PI should submit the joint proposal using the Research Councils’ Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/).

To prepare a proposal form in Je-S:
• log-in to your account and choose ‘Documents’ from the menu;
• then select ‘New Document’;
• ‘AHRC’ as the Council,
• ‘Standard Proposal’ as the Document Type;
• ‘Development Grants’ as the Scheme;
• ‘AHRC DFG Research Grants 26 February 2020’ as the Call/Type/Mode; and
• ‘Create Document’.

Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the ‘Help’ link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form.

Please note that selecting ‘Submit document’ on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation’s administration, not to AHRC. Please remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation’s submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the Call closing date.

Please note that when submitting the proposal via “J-eS”, the German Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator(s) must, for technical reasons, be entered as “co-investigators”.

All Investigators who will be named on the application form, whether based in the UK or Germany must have a Je-S account. Where this doesn’t already exist, it can be easily set-up, but please note that it can take a number of days so it is strongly recommended that the process be started well before the application deadline. Je-S accounts can be created on the Je-S site here. During account set-up an account type of ‘An Applicant on a Standard/Outline Proposal’ must be selected. If you require assistance with the process please contact the Je-S Helpdesk at JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org or +44 (0)1793 44 4164.

German applicants will be required to submit their costings and justification of resources on the DFG finance form provided as an attachment (Non UK Component) to the integrated proposal submitted to the AHRC. UK applicants should include their costs in the J-eS budget table.

It should be noted that the only information relating to applications that will be used in the peer review assessment process will be that submitted through the UK J-eS system; information submitted through elan will not be used as a part of the peer review process.

To download a pdf format document of the Je-S application follow these instructions, please note that a complete document including all attachments can only be generated once the application has been submitted to AHRC.

• Open the application (you may need to first tick the “Show documents submitted to Council” at the top of the screen)
• Select Document Actions at the top of the screen
• Select Print Document
DFG submission

Once the UK Principal Investigator’s Research Organisation has submitted the joint proposal through Je-S, the downloaded pdf proposal documents should be submitted by the German Principal Investigator to elan by midnight (German time) on Wednesday February 26th 2020. No changes to documents submitted via J-eS can be made at this stage prior to submission to elan.

- Funding scheme: Individual Grants Programme/Research Grant (Einzelförderung/Sachbeihilfe)
- Call to select: DFG/AHRC Call 2020
- Acronym: Please do NOT fill in an acronym, use it to state the ‘AH/X000000/I’ number from your proposal submission to Je-S. The funding agencies need this information to link the different submissions.
- Title and Summary: You do not have to translate either from English into German. Instead copy/paste your English title and summary into the boxes that call for the information in German.
- PIs and Co-Is from the UK are to be added as “Participating Individuals” in the role of “Cooperation Partner”.
- All documents submitted to Je-S are to be uploaded to elan as well (one pdf).
- 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 Je-S.
- The CVs are included in the pdf of the documents uploaded to Je-S, but elan is set up to reject any application that does not have at least one CV uploaded in the appropriate spot. Thus, please add the CVs here as well.

By submitting a proposal you are giving your permission to the AHRC and DFG to process and disclose the data you provide, including processing of personal data. The AHRC and DFG may publish on publicly available websites the details of funded projects such as the project title, project summary, impact summary, names of all investigators, project dates, amount awarded, names of project partner organisations etc.

VIII. Assessment procedure

The applicants’ and projects’ eligibility will be checked by both AHRC and DFG for the UK and German sides, respectively. As this call is being led by the AHRC, the assessment process will follow that used by the AHRC and will have three key stages:

In the first stage each proposal will be assessed by at least 2 external expert peer reviewers including at least one nominated by the AHRC and one nominated by the DFG.

In the second stage, once the proposal has been reviewed, the Principal Investigators will be given a 10 working day PI response opportunity. The peer review comments will be communicated to the UK PI through the Je-S system, and it is important that they share and discuss the feedback with the German PI and jointly agree on the PI response. The response should only be used to respond to, or provide clarification on, issues which have been raised by reviewers and should not be used to propose substantial changes to the proposal. If the applicants wish to submit a response, the agreed response will then need to be submitted to AHRC by the UK PI through the Je-S system by the stated deadline (normally 10 working days). [Please note that whilst we will make every effort to provide
applicants with an opportunity to respond to reviewers’ comments as outlined above, where the submission of completed reviews is delayed, it may not be possible to give an opportunity to respond or may only be possible to provide an opportunity to respond to one rather than two reviews. In some circumstances the period given to provide a response may be reduced.

In the third review stage, each proposal will be assessed by a joint expert panel in light of the reviews and PI response obtained in stages 1 and 2. The panel will consist of recognised researchers from various fields of the Humanities, Law and Linguistics, and from both the UK and Germany, who are familiar with the relevant decision-making systems at the national level.

The funding recommendations of the joint expert panel will be subject to approval by the AHRC and DFG, including by the relevant DFG decision making board, taking into account the availability of funds.

XI. Criteria
All project proposals will be assessed against three sets of criteria:
1) expertise of the research team members,
2) academic quality of the research project,
3) feasibility of the project

1) Expertise of the research team members
- Research portfolio of the research team
- Relevant preliminary work

2) Academic quality of the research project
- 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

3) Feasibility of the project (budget, research facilities and management arrangements)
- Feasibility of the project
- Appropriateness of 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

X. Call Timeline

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Call opens</td>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call closes</td>
<td>26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February 2020-4pm (UK time) for UK PI Je-S submission and midnight (German time) for German PI elan submission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>March to July 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>PI response stage</td>
<td>June to August 2020</td>
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<td>Assessment panel</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
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Decisions expected to be released | November 2020

UK-projects will be required to start within 3 months of the acceptance of the awards. German projects are expected to follow a similar schedule.

**XI. Call Documents**
- Call Text
- Information for Applicants
- DFG Financial Form

**XI. Contact Information**
The AHRC is leading the administration of this second call and should therefore be the first point of contact for general enquiries relating to the call.

**AHRC**
For queries about this call, such as eligible activities and costs or remit of the call:

enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org
Please put DFG in the subject heading
+44 (0)1793 416060
(available Monday to Friday 08:30-16:30).

Dr James Davies, International Partnerships and Engagement Manager

For queries on using Je-S such as creating and submitting the application form or Je-S account creation, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk Monday to Thursday 08.30am - 17.00pm UK Time and Fridays 08.30am - 16.30 pm UK time (Excluding Bank Holidays and Other Holidays)

**DFG**
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