

AHRC specific guidance for the NSF/SBE Two way Lead agency Application process for which NSF/SBE is the Lead Agency

Note: this guidance applies only to applications where NSF/SBE is the lead agency. There is [a separate guidance document where AHRC is the lead agency \(pdf 430kb opens in new window\)](#).

Transnational teams (UK and US-based researchers) are invited to apply directly to the AHRC under the existing responsive mode research grants scheme via Je-S

Once confirmation has been received that the project is appropriate for submission under the agreement and that NSF/SBE is the appropriate lead agency, (details [Guidelines for submitting collaborative proposals \(pdf 77kb\)](#)), The proposal must be submitted by the US proposing organization through [NSF's FastLane system \(NSF website opens in new window\)](#) at or the [Grants.gov system \(.gov website opens in new window\)](#) to the relevant standing program within SBE.

Eligibility Requirements

Investigators

USA: Please note, US Principal investigators must be eligible for funding from the National Science Foundation

UK: The UK Principal Investigator must meet the AHRC's current eligibility criteria for standard and early career AHRC Research Grant proposals. Please consult the AHRC's Research Funding Guide for further information on eligibility.

International Co Investigators may be charged to the UK element of the proposal following the eligibility and costing guidance in the [AHRC Funding Guide \(pdf 648kb opens in new window\)](#).

Research Assistants

Research Assistants employed by the UK organisation need to meet the AHRC's threshold of being of postdoctoral standing (either having a PhD or equivalent research experience).

Note on research involving human subjects

The National Science Foundation supports research involving human subjects when the project has been certified by a responsible body (an Institutional Review Board or IRB) to be

in compliance with the US government's "Common Rule for Protection of Human Subjects". While a proposal can be reviewed without receipt of the IRB approval, projects involving human subjects cannot be funded until this certification or its equivalent is submitted to NSF (please see the [NSF Human Subjects Policy \(NSF website opens in new window\)](#)). If the research conducted by the UK partner involves human subjects, the UK partner must adhere to the [RCUK Policy and Code of Conduct on the Governance of Good Research Conduct \(RCUK website opens in new window\)](#) and provide details of where the UK Research Organization's ethical policy can be accessed. This approval should be submitted to both the AHRC and the NSF. An example is compliance with guidelines consistent with the World Medical Assembly Declaration (Declaration of Helsinki amended 1989) or by an organization whose function for the protection of human research subjects is internationally recognized. (Further questions regarding NSF and human subjects research can be directed to the NSF Human Subjects Officer, currently Dr. Kellina Craig-Henderson; (khenders@nsf.gov))

Costing

The costs of the US and UK partners must be clearly differentiated in the proposal.

USA: All costs relating to the US side of the project must be in accordance with the NSF's normal funding rules within the [NSF Grant Proposal Guide \(pdf 3.5mb opens in new window\)](#). Requested US costs must be commensurate with the scheme limits of the appropriate funding call

UK: AHRC will fund 80% of Full Economic Costs (FEC), up to a limit of £350,000 FEC for any single project and lasting up to 60 months. The UK partner must submit a full breakdown of the UK costs associated with the project, and a justification of UK resources.

Applying via *Fastlane*

The proposal must be submitted by the US proposing organization through [NSF's FastLane system \(NSF website opens in new window\)](#) or the [Grants.gov system \(opens in new window\)](#) to the relevant standing program within SBE. **The proposal should be clearly identified as a collaborative project under the NSF/AHRC Memorandum of Understanding by inclusion of the text "NSF-AHRC MOU:" prior to the project title.**

Applicants do not need to apply additional to RCUK

Supplementary application documents

The UK partner must submit a full breakdown of the UK costs associated with the project, and a justification of UK resources. UK Costs must be submitted on the standard [AHRC summary of resources form \(odt 144kb opens in new window\)](#) indicating the financial costs associated with the UK component of the project ().

The AHRC summary of resources form, and justification of resources, should be forwarded to the US partner in advance of the US submission. The US partner must include this AHRC

form as one of the supplementary documents submitted with the NSF proposal. The US partner also must explain how the two budgets are coordinated in the Budget Justification section of the NSF proposal.

In all other respects, the information provided in the proposal should relate to the entire project (both US and UK components).

Submission of the application

The proposal should be submitted to the relevant SBE standing program at NSF by the US deadline or, if the program has a target date, by the date agreed upon in consultation with the relevant program officer. Once the proposal has been received by NSF, the US PI must provide a PDF copy of the proposal to the UK partner.

The UK partner must forward this PDF copy directly to the portfolio manager overseeing the arrangement at enquiries@ahrc.ac.uk **within 48 hours of submission to NSF**.

To ensure that the funding agencies properly identify applications submitted under this collaborative activity, an email with the relevant proposal number should be sent to the current NSF lead, Dr. Mark Weiss (mweiss@nsf.gov), Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) Division Director, or designee, noting that these are submitted under the NSF/SBE-RCUK Memorandum of Understanding.

Peer Review

Proposals will be reviewed at NSF according to the procedures of the standing program to which the application was submitted (i.e. panel and/or mail review). AHRC will provide NSF with UK peer reviewer recommendations. The proposals will be taken to the relevant NSF panel for consideration along with other proposals submitted to that program.

Any financial limitations established for the US component of the proposal are not impacted by the amount of funding sought by the UK partner.

If recommended for funding, the US component of the project, and the UK component of the project, will be separately supported by NSF and AHRC respectively. Grantees from the US and UK will be subject to their respective agency's conditions of awards and the parameters agreed in the NSF/AHRC Memorandum of Understanding. Each agency will handle the administration and monitoring of awards in accordance with the respective agency's standard policies and procedures.

For enquiries concerning the AHRC implementation of this agreement please contact:

Enquiries; enquiries@ahrc.ac.uk