



FAQ's - changes to AHRC funding schemes

Why is AHRC taking these steps?

In 2010 AHRC will be undergoing major organisational changes as it moves to its headquarters from Bristol to Swindon in June and prepares to transfer some of its finance and grants processing functions to the RCUK Shared Services Centre. Whilst there will be considerable long-term benefits for the AHRC from being co-located with the other Research Councils in Polaris House Swindon and from working with the SSC, in the short term there will be some disruption as we adjust our internal structures and processes to reflect the new planned ways of working with SSC and as we support our staff through the process of moving to Swindon between April and June. In order to maintain our quality of service over this period of change we need to make some temporary changes to arrangements for applying to some of our schemes.

I have already submitted an application – how will this be affected?

We will continue to process applications which have already been received over this period of change and the decision not to accept applications for some schemes between March and May will enable us to focus on processing applications already received. However, the move to SSC and Swindon has required us to extend some timetables for processing grants and to reschedule some panel meeting dates which may result in longer processing times than normal.

What happens if I do not receive a decision before my requested start date?

If your application is successful and your requested start date has already passed we will contact you to agree a later start date for your award.

How will this reflect success rates? Will I be better off submitting my application before or after the periods outlined?

We do not anticipate that these short-term temporary measures will have any long-term impact on application numbers or overall success rates. We recognise that they will affect the pattern of applications submitted in the short-term and we are re-scheduling panel meetings and re-profiling our budgets to reflect anticipated patterns of applications as far as these can be predicted. We are seeking to manage our budget as flexibly as we can to manage the impact of



short term fluctuations in application rates on success rates, whilst recognising that success rates may change over time as a result of longer-term trends in application rates, priorities and budgets. Therefore, your chances of success should not be significantly affected by whether you apply before or after the periods when applications are not being accepted.

How will this affect the studentship schemes including the 2010 studentship competition and 2010 nominations process?

The measures we have announced will enable us to focus resources on delivering the 2010 studentship competition and nomination process and do not affect these schemes. We have already announced that the nominations process will run to an earlier timetable in 2010 (closing date 29 June for BGP and end July for CDAs). Apart from this already announced change these schemes will run as planned in 2010, although there may be some changes in staff contact details which will be announced nearer to the move.

How will these changes affect budgets for schemes?

AHRC will be re-profiling budgets over the next few years to take into account the revised pattern of applications which we anticipate will result from these changes. The overall budgets for schemes are not affected by these changes, which are designed to manage our workload effectively over a period of considerable change and are not intended as a way to reduce budgets.

Will there be changes to the AHRC staff contact details I already have?

There are likely to be changes to staff responsibilities and contact details will change as some services are taken on by the SSC in April and AHRC's office moves to Swindon in June. We will keep our website as up to date as possible with relevant contact details. Please continue to use relevant enquiry lines / addresses and if necessary we will redirect you to the most appropriate person as quickly as possible.

Who should I contact for more information?

Please continue to liaise with your current contacts / scheme contacts until informed otherwise. AHRC's website will be kept as up-to-date as possible with appropriate contact details.



Arts & Humanities
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Are there likely to be further changes to applications processing later in 2010?

The changes which have been announced primarily relate to the first phase of transition to the SSC in April and AHRC's move to Swindon in June. The second and final phase of the transition to the SSC for grants processing is scheduled for autumn 2010 and some further measures may need to be taken around this time. A further announcement will be made about this later in 2010.

If you have any further queries, please contact: p.pothen@ahrc.ac.uk