

Open World Research Initiative (OWRI) FAQs

Q. Can an RO submit more than one expression of interest?

The AHRC will not preclude ROs from submitting more than one EOI to OWRI. Institutions should, however, bear in mind that AHRC does not intend to fund more than one application led by the same institution; i.e. an RO may submit multiple bids but can only receive funding for one. It is at the discretion of ROs to determine how this process is managed internally.

Q. How do we communicate with other institutions whilst preparing EOIs?

AHRC does not have the resources to provide a brokerage role before EOI submission and it is the responsibility of ROs to foster collaborations with other institutions and wider partners. Applicants are encouraged to make use of links to subject associations and other networks to assist in the formation of partnerships.

Q. What support will be provided if our bid is successful at EOI stage?

In consultation with the Advisory Group and EOI assessment panel, the AHRC will offer feedback to shortlisted applicants prior to their submission of a full bid. This will include a development surgery in March at which project teams will be able to discuss their proposals in detail.

Q. Given AHRC is aiming to ensure that each funded programme is distinctive in its focus and does not anticipate funding multiple programmes 'involving substantially the same set of languages', what will happen if there is significant overlap / duplication across multiple programmes that are ranked highly in the shortlisting process?

In such a scenario AHRC would seek input from the OWRI Advisory Group and Assessment Panel before reaching a final decision. If appropriate and feasible, it is possible that where there is significant overlap across two (or more) highly-ranked bids that AHRC would seek to facilitate collaboration across the programmes in question with a view to creating one, combined bid. It should be reiterated that the creation of a balanced portfolio of programmes is a key aim of the OWRI initiative and that, in order to minimise the risk of such scenarios occurring, collaboration and communication across existing centres of excellence and between networks such as subject associations is strongly encouraged.

Q. Is language training an eligible cost?

Whilst programmes must be based around language-led research it is acknowledged that, in the context of OWRI's contribution to capacity building and health of the discipline, that training options – including support for PhD students and early career researchers – will be integral to programmes. In order to ensure they reflect the focus

and activities of a given programme, AHRC does not intend to be directive in expressing how such components are integrated into an application.

Q. Why is PhD funding not supported?

Direct funding for Masters and PhD students is not permitted through OWRI as the AHRC has recently made a substantial long term investment into doctoral training through its Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) and Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs). Proposals should consider how they might work with DTPs and CDTs in order to support the delivery of language training and encourage student engagement with the programme outlined.

Q. What is the difference between a project partner and a collaborating organisation?

Please see page 43 (section 3.2.8) in the [AHRC Research Funding guide \(opens in new window\)](#) for a full explanation of the terms project partner and collaborator and how these should be included in your projects.

Q. What international costs can we claim for?

Some costs for International Co-Investigators and partners are eligible; please see the [AHRC Research Funding guide \(opens in new window\)](#), for full information (page 32).

Q. Can International partners be outside of academia?

Yes. Please follow the guidance as above.

Q. Will the AHRC be able to comment on a draft EOI before it is formally submitted?

Where resources and time allow it, AHRC is willing to (but cannot guarantee) provide brief feedback on EOIs, or abstracts thereof. This will be on a fit-to-call basis only; we cannot comment on the research quality of an EOI. Details such as costs and Investigator time will also not be checked (this will be done at the point of submission), though we are able to answer specific questions relating to such details. Draft EOIs or abstracts for comment should be submitted to: owri@ahrc.ac.uk.