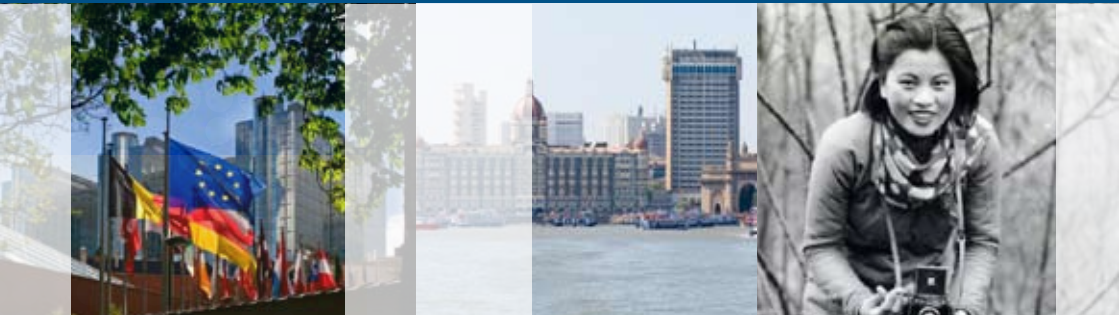


# AHRC International Strategy

## 2009-2012



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

To be a recognised world leader in advancing arts and humanities research, we must be active internationally.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council is committed to this vision and our International Strategy aims to enhance the quality of our research by ensuring that opportunities for international collaboration are embedded in our programmes.

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# Why international?

- **Quality:** Arts and humanities research benefits not only from engaging with aspects of different cultures but by harnessing the expertise of researchers around the world.
- **Impact:** International collaboration increases the economic, social and cultural impact of UK arts and humanities research worldwide.
- **Add value through partnerships:** Enabling researchers to collaborate internationally can lead to research of greater quality and vitality, whilst building relationships with international agencies and institutions enables the sharing of experience and best practice.
- **Influence:** By proactively supporting and encouraging arts and humanities research internationally we can raise the profile of UK research.
- **Training:** Building relationships with institutions abroad encourages the internationalisation of postgraduate studies and prepares the next generation of researchers to work in a global research environment.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** Encouraging the transfer of knowledge to industries, Government and wider society requires arts and humanities research to operate in an international context.

AHRC will seek to deliver and add value to its international activities by working with Research Councils UK (RCUK).

# Our five international strategic aims

**Add value to our research by encouraging collaboration between UK researchers and the best researchers from around the world**

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**Promote the movement of researchers to and from the UK**

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**Facilitate access to other funding sources, facilities and resources**

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**Influence the international research agenda**

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**Promote the UK as a world centre for research and innovation**

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Add value to our research by encouraging collaboration between UK researchers and the best researchers from around the world.



**THE AHRC will proactively work to remove barriers to, and provide more opportunities for, international collaboration.**

**We will:**

- Ensure our grant portfolio has the potential to be internationalised
- Capitalise on the opportunities offered by the RCUK Overseas Offices in Brussels, Washington, Beijing and New Delhi and fully participate in RCUK's international activities
- Avoid double jeopardy by continuing to develop co-funding agreements with analogue agencies internationally to create a single peer review process – a key innovation in our international agenda
- Provide opportunities for international collaboration for both postgraduate and postdoctoral research

## CASE STUDY

### **Irish and UK research network**

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Funding from the AHRC and the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) has enabled a network of Irish and UK political, legal, economic and social theorists, to come together to discuss 'Theories of Territory: Resource Rights, Global Justice and Self-Determination'. With implications across a range of issues including the effects of climate change, immigration and human rights, the aim of this network of Irish and UK researchers is to establish a ground breaking programme on theories of territory.

## CASE STUDY

### **UK and German collaboration**

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The AHRC and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) joined together to fund a project investigating what the common problems are that those learning German experience. Data will be collected and analysed to identify which linguistic structures cause frequent mistakes amongst learners of the language. It is hoped the findings of this project will not only offer an insight in to the learning of German as a foreign language, but also further understanding of how we learn foreign languages as a whole.

# Promote the movement of researchers to and from the UK



**SUPPORTING graduates and scholars with training or working overseas, particularly in the early part of their careers, enables them to not only build collaborative career-long relationships but also to develop new skills and ideas.**

## **We will:**

- Promote the UK as a place to undertake research
- Encourage our researchers to spend time overseas
- Equip them with the skills they need to thrive, in particular language skills, by continuing to support the AHRC-ESRC's five language-based area studies centres
- Build on the success of the Library of Congress scheme in the USA and National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) in Japan scheme to develop new initiatives with similarly prestigious institutions
- Continue to collaborate with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the British Academy (BA) to promote more widely the already successful Visiting Fellowships for South Asia and the Middle East, and where possible expand our collaboration with the ESRC and the BA



CASE  
STUDY

## Collaborating with the USA and Japan

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The success of AHRC collaborations with international research institutions have enabled postgraduate and postdoctoral students to take up opportunities abroad. Those awarded a scholarship to spend up to six months at the Library of Congress in Washington DC, are not only given access to the largest library and archive in the world, but have the opportunity to network with Kluge Fellows and scholars potentially creating career-long relationships. They are also able to present their research to, and receive feedback from, fellow Library of Congress scholars, whilst those with a scholarship to the National Institutes for the Humanities in Japan are able to spend up to six months working at one of five Inter-University Research Institutes. This gives them access to the world-class facilities and extensive collections as well as the provision of specialist expertise to help inform and develop their research.

# Facilitate access to other funding sources, facilities and resources



**AS national governments recognise the benefits of pooling research capabilities, so they devote more resources. The European Framework Programme (FP7) leads the way in bringing together and allocating substantial EU resources to the arts and humanities.**

## **We will:**

- Continue to actively participate in ERA-NETs (Net-Heritage, HERA and Co-Reach) and joint programmes that benefit UK arts and humanities research, and promote the development and internationalisation of arts and humanities research in line with the AHRC's strategic aims
- Continue to facilitate access to other pan-European funding sources (through the European Science Foundation and EuroHORCs)
- Build on existing relationships with key European institutions and expand our networks and influence to other international organisations

## **CASE STUDY**

### **ERA-NETs**

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The European Commission's ERA-NET Scheme aims to bring about the coordination and cooperation of national and regional research programmes. AHRC are part of three ERA-NETs:

#### **Net-Heritage**

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For this three year-long project the AHRC are leading on the creation of a European heritage research 'Observatory' (web portal) in order to disseminate contributions from European and national programmes; results and outcomes of heritage research; news on research issues and views and information about heritage science, to end users.

A key benefit to researchers will be a centralised online information site for accessing and disseminating European heritage research.

## **Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA)**

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Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA) is an ERA-NET partnership between a growing number of (inter)national humanities funding agencies across Europe with the objective of firmly establishing the humanities in the European Research Area and to engage the humanities in the Framework Programmes of the European Commission. The AHRC is HERA's representative in the UK, raising awareness and briefing academics on funding opportunities such as the HERA Joint Research Programme for trans-national Collaborative Research Projects. This programme focuses on two humanities research areas: 'Cultural Dynamics' and 'Creativity and Innovation' with the aim of developing new insights from humanities research in order to address major social, cultural and political challenges facing Europe.

## **The Co-Reach Programme**

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The AHRC is a partner in CO-REACH (Co-ordination of Research between Europe and China). This is a network of European Science and Technology (S&T) policy and funding organisations involved in promoting research co-operation with China. It is supported by the European Commission as an ERA-NET Co-ordination Action.

This network is intended to improve coherence and synergy in Europe's S&T relations with China; to develop opportunities for Europe-China teams to collaborate on joint topics of mutual interest; to explore the possibilities of future co-operation and to access research excellence in the fastest growing global economy.

# Influence the international research agenda



**THE AHRC is the principal UK funding body for the arts and humanities and a leading organisation in the European Research Area. To sustain excellence in UK arts and humanities research and training we must be proactive in encouraging international collaboration, in promoting and positioning the UK on the global stage, and in leading and contributing to major international research policy decisions.**

## **We will:**

- Build new relationships with key international institutions in order to facilitate access to funding, facilities and resources within and beyond the UK
- Position ourselves at the heart of EU research strategy therefore aligning EU and UK priorities in the arts and humanities
- Collaborate with national and international funding bodies to develop research programmes, enhancing their impact and reinforcing the strength of the UK's arts and humanities research

# Promote the UK as a world centre for research and innovation



**THE AHRC will actively promote UK arts and humanities research on the international stage with a combination of international and national activities, collaborations and strategy.**

**We will:**

- Enhance the impact of the UK's international activities and bolster the competitiveness of UK arts and humanities research on a European and global level
- Position UK arts and humanities researchers as partners of choice to the best research groups and creative industries in the world
- Work to ensure that the UK remains an attractive environment for research and innovation

## Priority countries

WORKING with RCUK we have identified four key areas in which to take a pro-active approach to building partnerships and developing funding opportunities. They are:

- **Europe**
- **United States of America**
- **India**
- **China**



However, quality remains the main factor in research we support and we endeavour to have an open and flexible policy; we will therefore welcome and be responsive to initiatives from countries outside these areas where there is collaborative research of the highest standard to be supported.

### Europe

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THE AHRC are a committed and influential partner in the European Research Area, and were active in shaping the European Commission's Framework Programme 7 (FP7). We intend to remain fully involved in any new EC initiatives such as the development of the Framework Programme 8 and Joint Programming.

#### **We will:**

- Work closely with the RCUK Research Office in Brussels (UKRO) ensuring the UK continues to benefit from collaborative activities across Europe
- Develop further collaborative activities with our partners in Germany (DFG) and Ireland (IRCHSS)
- Build new bilateral partnerships with other European countries

## United States of America

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RESEARCH links with the USA are already well established and the AHRC will continue to strengthen these important relationships, developing collaborations that benefit both partners.

**We will:**

- Work closely with the RCUK office in Washington ensuring that the UK continues to benefit from collaborative activities with the USA
- Develop relationships with major arts and humanities research funders, including federal and charitable bodies



## Priority countries

### India

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INDIA is a key emerging economy, expanding their higher education sector and developing world class research and training institutes.

#### **We will:**

- Work closely with the RCUK office in New Delhi ensuring that the UK continues to benefit from collaborative activities with India
- Develop positive, sustainable and influential relationships with key stakeholders
- Support the facilitation of high quality research collaborations between the UK and India

### China

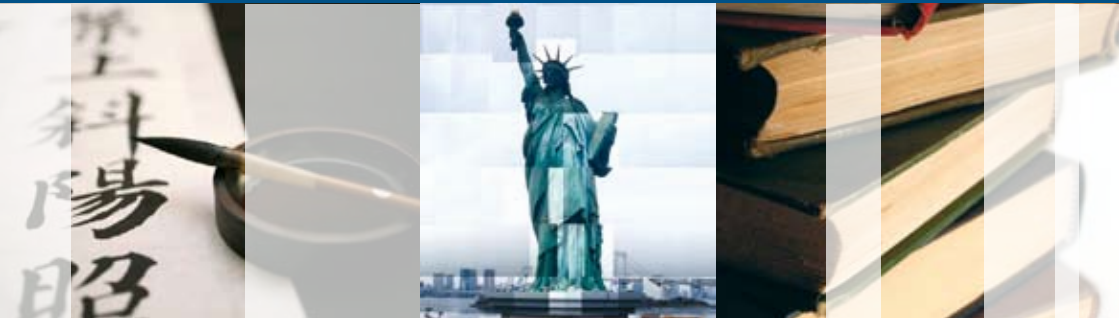
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CHINA'S growing importance in the world is clear, and the research relationship with the UK is strong. The UK already jointly authors more research papers with China than any of our EU neighbours.

#### **We will:**

- Work closely with the RCUK office in Beijing, ensuring that the UK continues to benefit from collaborative activities with China
- Support talented researchers in both countries to work on projects that advance knowledge, improve the quality of life and promote cultural collaborations by helping to remove barriers to research collaborations between the two countries





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