



Funding opportunity

Collaborate with German partners on arts and humanities research: round seven

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Co-funders:	German Research Foundation (DFG)
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£6,000,000
Award range:	£1 - £420,000
Publication date:	16 October 2024
Opening date:	16 October 2024 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	19 February 2025 10:59pm UK time

Apply for funding to conduct arts and **humanities** research projects with German partners.

You must be:

- based at a research organisation eligible for AHRC funding
- working with a German team led by a researcher eligible for DFG funding
- proposing research within the remit of AHRC

Research projects must be composed of two highly integrated national teams based in the UK and Germany. All applications must demonstrate the added value of international collaboration to research objectives.

The full economic cost of your project can be up to £420,000. Your project can last for 24 to 36 months.

Who can apply

Applicants in the UK must meet AHRC eligibility requirements. Applicants in Germany must meet the eligibility requirements of DFG.

Funding will be distributed among the research partners according to:

- the researchers' places of work
- the funding rules of each individual agency

Before applying for funding, check the [eligibility of your organisation](#).

For full details, visit [Eligibility as an individual](#).

Project teams

Each joint research project must consist of two national teams, one based in the UK and one based in Germany. Both teams must have a project lead. The inclusion of additional team members is optional.

The UK team must be led by a researcher who meets AHRC's individual eligibility criteria, proposing research that falls within the remit of AHRC. They must be based at a research organisation eligible for AHRC funding.

The German team must be led by a researcher eligible for DFG funding. German researchers from non-university research institutions must comply with [their duty to cooperate with a member of a German university \(Kooperationspflicht\) \(PDF, 98.1KB\)](#). This duty to cooperate is not met if a researcher from a non-university research institution only cooperates with a UK partner.

Applications to this funding opportunity are not considered as first proposals under DFG's regulations for first-time applicants. As such, applications submitted by a first-time applicant should not be labelled as a first-time proposal and will not be granted special consideration by reviewers.

PhD students cannot be funded through UK research team budgets for this funding opportunity in line with standard AHRC funding rules.

International applicants

As all applications to this opportunity will involve international applicants, we encourage prospective applicants to visit [UK Research and Innovation's](#)

[\(UKRI\) trusted research and innovation](#) for more information on effective and equitable international collaboration.

If you are undertaking research and innovation activities outside the UK and Germany, you must recognise and address the possible impact of contextual, societal and cultural differences on the ethical conduct of those activities.

You should evidence how partnerships are equitable, ethical, responsible and meaningful. You should also follow the [key principles of equitable partnerships](#) to address inherent power imbalances when working with partners in resource-poor settings.

AHRC's provision to include (where relevant) international project co-leads will apply to the UK component of projects, allowing for the inclusion of eligible researchers not based in the UK or Germany. Researchers based in Germany cannot be included within the UK budget, as these individuals must be included within the German team under the DFG-supported component of the collaboration.

You can include more than one international project co-lead. However, the total costs for all international project co-lead involvement cannot exceed 30% of the overall 100% full economic cost of your application. A head of department letter of support is not required if the intended international project co-lead is on a fixed-term contract or is an honorary or visiting fellow.

Refer to the [AHRC research funding guide](#) for:

- further information on AHRC's international project co-lead policy
- which costs are eligible within a UK budget

Researchers based in Germany can submit a joint proposal to fund German and international project costs with colleagues from a developing country.

Further information can be found on the [DFG website](#).

Resubmission

Immediate resubmission of unsuccessful applications from one opportunity to the next is not permitted. As such, resubmission of unsuccessful applications from the sixth opportunity to the seventh opportunity is not permitted. However, applicants involved in unsuccessful applications under the sixth funding opportunity may submit, or be involved in, different or new proposals for this funding opportunity.

A reworked resubmission from all DFG and AHRC funding opportunities prior to the sixth round will be allowed to submit to this opportunity, where the proposal has been revised, for example with changes to:

- research questions

- methodology
- the project team

Changes should be summarised under the resubmission heading.

A resubmission is only allowed once within the AHRC-DFG programme.

Multiple submissions

If your application has been submitted to any other funding opportunity or funding stream of any other funding agency, this must be clearly stated.

You need to also check the respective national agency's rules regarding submission of a project to more than one funder or scheme.

There is no limit to how many applications can be submitted to this funding opportunity from any one research organisation.

Individual researchers may be involved in multiple submissions to this funding opportunity as long as their overall time commitment is supported by their research organisation.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

Find out more about [equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI](#).

Supporting early-career researchers and technicians

UKRI and DFG aim to enable a dynamic, diverse and inclusive system of research and innovation in the UK and Germany that is an integral part of society, giving everyone the opportunity to participate and to benefit.

We encourage early-career researchers and technicians to apply to this funding opportunity. We will specifically consider the suitability of support and management systems for these project team members as part of the assessment criteria.

UKRI is a signatory to the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#), and AHRC has published its own [guidance on training and developing early career researchers in the arts and humanities](#).

UKRI has also published a [Technician Commitment Action Plan](#), which includes guidance on UKRI's expectations towards research organisations in recognising and valuing the full diversity of technically skilled people and technical roles working in research teams at all career stages across our remit.

If you are integrating early-career researchers or technicians into your project team, refer to the Technician Commitment Action Plan for more information.

Under this funding opportunity, early-career researchers on the German side can apply for [a temporary position for project lead \(Eigene Stelle\) \(PDF, 132KB\)](#).

What we're looking for

Aim

Both AHRC and DFG are aware that some of the best research can only be achieved by working with the best researchers internationally. The aims of the funding opportunity are to:

- support academic research of the highest quality in the **humanities** undertaken by UK-German teams, whose primary aim is to make fundamental advances in human knowledge
- deepen and strengthen cooperation between UK and German researchers in the **humanities** and to foster the growth of a transnational UK-German research culture

Scope

Only applications whose primary aim is to make fundamental advances in human knowledge in the relevant fields may be submitted in response to the funding opportunity. Applicants who are uncertain whether their application would be eligible should contact AHRC or DFG for clarification.

The funding opportunity will be open to applications addressing any research topic where there is significant potential to advance knowledge through collaborative research. It brings together arts and **humanities** researchers in the UK, whose research falls within the remit of AHRC, and **humanities** researchers in Germany.

For this funding opportunity, the field of **humanities** is defined by the AHRC's remit, not by the DFG's classification of **humanities**.

See a full specification of:

- [AHRC's subject classifications in the research funding guide](#)
- [DFG's subject classifications](#)

Both single-disciplinary and interdisciplinary applications can be considered if 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 if they fall primarily within the remit of AHRC and DFG.

Interdisciplinary applications must demonstrate how their project team fulfils the eligibility requirements.

This programme focuses on funding knowledge-driven research projects. However, AHRC also supports practice-led research. As such, the UK component of applications to this funding opportunity can include practice-led research, where creative output can be produced or practice undertaken as an integral part of a research process as defined in the [AHRC research funding guide](#).

DFG also allows projects to include practice-led research if these methods do not exceed one-third of the work proposed through the German component of each project.

Practice-led research must be accompanied by the documentation of the research process and some form of textual analysis or explanation to support its position and as a record of your critical reflection. If this is not provided, applications with substantive practice-led research are ineligible for funding through this programme.

All 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. Standalone projects, infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible.

If you are in doubt about the eligibility of your application, contact the respective organisation.

You should demonstrate the added value that cross-national collaboration will make to advancing the research topic by bringing together researchers based in the UK and Germany (and, where applicable, other countries). 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.

Please note that impact is not a criterion for this funding opportunity.

Duration

The maximum duration of this award is 36 months. The minimum duration is 24 months.

UK projects must start between January and mid-February 2026. German projects are expected to follow a similar schedule.

Funding available

The full economic cost of the UK component of your project can be up to £420,000. AHRC will fund 80% of the full economic cost (up to £336,000).

It is expected that 16 awards will be made under this funding opportunity (subject to applications meeting the criteria and quality standards). Funding will be granted from the core budgets of AHRC and DFG.

Standard AHRC funding requirements apply to the UK component as outlined in AHRC's research funding guide. Ineligible costs include funding for PhD students and items of equipment costing over £10,000. UK costs should be approved by an eligible UK research organisation in line with the requirements of full economic costing for applications to UK research councils.

In line with its Individual Research Grants Programme, DFG does not specify a maximum limit to the amount of funding that can be requested for the German component of applications to this funding opportunity.

Projects should be integrated but they do not have to be symmetrical. The sums and items requested do not have to be identical on the UK and German sides. However, we would expect the work packages to be delivered reasonably equally.

All budget items must conform to the national rules applicable to each applicant. Applicants must 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 an application is ineligible with one national agency, the whole project will be rejected by both agencies.

A detailed justification of the requested budget will be required. For UK costs, this should be included in the mandatory UK finance form (located at the bottom of this page and on the DFG elan application page) and submitted by the German project lead.

Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is committed in ensuring that effective international collaboration in research and innovation takes place with integrity and within strong ethical frameworks. TR&I is a UKRI work programme designed to help protect all those working in our thriving and collaborative international sector by enabling partnerships to be as open as possible and as secure as necessary. Our [TR&I principles](#) set out UKRI's expectations of

organisations funded by UKRI in relation to due diligence for international collaboration.

As such, applicants for UKRI funding may be asked to demonstrate how their proposed projects will comply with our approach and expectation towards TR&I, identifying potential risks and the relevant controls you will put in place to help proportionately reduce these risks.

See [further guidance and information about TR&I](#), including where applicants can find additional support

How to apply

DFG is leading the administration of this seventh funding opportunity. Therefore, they should be the first point of contact for general enquiries relating to this funding opportunity.

Deadline

A single integrated application with separate financial sections for each national agency must be submitted via DFG's submission system 'elan' no later than 19 February 2025 at 11:59pm (German time).

All applications must be submitted in English.

All text-based attachments should use an Arial font. Font size and margins are set in the template and should not be changed.

Applications received after the deadline will not be eligible. For details on the format of the applications and on the required documents, refer to the 'Information for Applicants'. Following the submission of your application to the funding opportunity, your application cannot be changed and applications will not be returned for amendment. If your application does not follow the guidance, it may be rejected.

See full information on how to apply on the DFG website. Refer to the DFG page and its linked documents for full details (including templates and guidelines) necessary for applying to this funding opportunity. You will also be required to submit your UK costings on the finance form provided as an attachment to the integrated application submitted to DFG.

Submissions to the UK Research and Innovation Funding Service are not required at proposal stage. Only those proposals that are successful will be required to submit via the Funding Service once outcomes are issued.

How we will assess your application

Assessment process

Applications will be assessed on the basis of their scholarly merit and the added value of UK-Germany collaboration through a joint two-stage process.

When received, applications will be checked by both funders for eligibility before proceeding to assessment.

Peer review

Experts from the UK and Germany will be invited to review your application independently using the specified criteria for this funding opportunity.

Panel

Following peer review, we will invite experts from the UK and Germany to use the evidence provided by reviewers to assess the quality of your application and rank it alongside other applications.

AHRC and DFG will make the final funding decision based on funds available.

Feedback

If your application is rejected before the peer review stage due to eligibility issues, the reason for this will be explained to you. If your application is discussed by a panel, you will receive a short piece of feedback outlining the reason for the decision reached and any of the panel's concerns. This will be sent with the outcome of your application.

Principles of assessment

We support the San Francisco [declaration on research assessment](#) and recognise the relationship between research assessment and research integrity.

Find out about the [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\) principles of assessment and decision making](#).

Sharing data with co-funders

Data, including personal data, is shared between UKRI and DFG to enable the efficient processing and assessment of applications via a secure transfer mechanism, as appropriate. Information shared will include applicant and reviewer information, application details and reviewing documents.

UKRI and DFG are committed to:

- maintaining data confidentiality, protection and privacy and intend to fully abide by their own applicable internal policies concerning the sharing of data in collaborative activities
- carrying out the processing of personal data in accordance with applicable UK and EU Data Protection legislation

For information about how UKRI handles personal data, read [UKRI's privacy notice](#).

For information on how DFG uses personal information, read [DFG's privacy policy](#).

We reserve the right to modify the assessment process as needed.

Assessment criteria

All project applications will be assessed against three sets of criteria:

- expertise of the research team members
- academic quality of the research project
- feasibility of the project

Expertise of the research team members

This criterion includes:

- research portfolio of the research team
- relevant preliminary work.

Academic quality of the research project

This criterion includes:

- 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, maximising the added value of UK-German research collaboration
- contribution of the project to deepening UK-German academic collaboration

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

This criterion includes:

- feasibility of the project

- appropriateness of the 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
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Contact details

Get help with developing your application

For help and advice on costings and writing your application, contact your research office in the first instance, allowing sufficient time for your organisation's submission process.

Ask about this funding opportunity

Opportunity administration alternates between AHRC and DFG.

DFG is leading the administration of this seventh opportunity. Therefore, they should be the first point of contact for general enquiries.

DFG enquiries

Email: ahrc-ausschreibung@dfg.de

Sigrid Claßen, DFG

Telephone: +49 (0)228 885-2209

Dr Nora Böttcher, DFG

Telephone: +49 (0)228 885-2693

AHRC enquiries

Frazer Singlehurst, International Partnerships and Engagement Manager, AHRC

Email: international@ahrc.ukri.org

Include 'DFG' in the subject line.

We aim to respond within five working days.

Additional info

Background

This is the seventh funding opportunity in a series of annual bilateral opportunities under the UK-German Funding Initiative in the **Humanities** programme. Following the renewal of the memorandum of understanding between DFG and AHRC in June 2021, there will be eight annual joint funding opportunities in total.

Publication of outcomes

AHRC, as part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), will publish the outcomes of this funding opportunity as a news story on the UKRI website in November 2025.

DFG will publish the outcomes for this funding opportunity on their [AHRC-DFG funding initiative page](#). You can also find the outcomes from previous rounds on this page.

If your application is successful, we will publish some personal information on the [UKRI Gateway to Research](#). DFG will publish information about funded projects on [GEPRIS](#).

Additional disability and accessibility adjustments

UKRI can offer [disability and accessibility support for UKRI applicants and grant holders](#) during the application and assessment process if required.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world's largest funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers.

The DAAD is the independent member organisation of German higher education institutions and their student bodies, devoted to internationalising the academic system. The DAAD offers a wide range of [individual scholarship and project funding-programmes](#).

Read the [DAAD funding guide](#) to learn about scholarship programmes and funding opportunities and how to apply.

Research disruption due to COVID-19

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities. We are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career, such as:

- breaks and delays
- disruptive working patterns and conditions

- the loss of ongoing work
- role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic

Reviewers and panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the capability to deliver and career development of those individuals included in the application. They will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant and their wider team to deliver the research they are proposing.

Where disruptions have occurred, you can highlight this within your application if you wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

Supporting documents

[AHRC finance form \(DOCX, 26KB\)](#)

Timeline

- **16 October 2024 9:00am**
Opening date
- **19 February 2025 10:59pm**
Closing date
- **March to June 2025**
Peer review
- **September 2025**
Assessment panel meeting
- **Early or mid-November 2025**
Decision outcomes

Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

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<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/collaborate-with-german-partners-on-arts-and-humanities-research-round-seven>