

Funding opportunity

Cultural heritage and climate change networks to drive policy change

Opportunity status:	Upcoming
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Co-funders:	Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£300,000
Award range:	£45,000 - £60,000
Publication date:	24 July 2025
Opening date:	5 August 2025 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	14 October 2025 4:00pm UK time

Apply for Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) funding to maximise the international partnership brokering and networking policy opportunities of UK arts and humanities research, as a step towards the Horizon Europe Resilient Cultural Heritage Partnership.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funding.

The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £60,000. AHRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

Projects will be funded up to a maximum of 12 months and must start on 1 February 2026 and must be completed by 31 January 2027.

Who can apply

To lead a project, you must be based at an eligible organisation. [Check if your organisation is eligible](#).

Who is eligible to apply

Applications from early career researchers are particularly encouraged. We recognise the important pipeline for growing researcher capacity in the UK. Support for leadership from early career researchers and showing that you have the right skills at the right level should be clearly explained in your application.

If the project lead is an early career researcher, as [defined by AHRC](#), a mentor can be included within the application. This mentor must be clearly outlined in the resources and cost justification section of the application form.

This funding opportunity is part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. This is a form of government aid.

Employment

The project lead and any project co-leads must be employed and supported by an eligible organisation for at least the duration of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) support; it is not a requirement that a contract be in place at the point of application submission. It is also not a requirement to have a permanent employment contract to apply for funding.

Skills and qualifications

You must have the appropriate skills to lead the project in line with UKRI's terms and conditions. There are no specific qualification requirements, and you do not necessarily need a qualification such as a PhD. During your project, you must be primarily based and permitted to work in the UK.

You do not need to hold an academic research or teaching post to apply; applications are welcomed from those working as archivists, curators, librarians, technicians, practitioners.

Project co-leads

Project co-leads are permitted and encouraged for interdisciplinary applications or where a co-lead would provide specific technical expertise that is essential to the project. This can include international co-leads as per the guidance below. However, it must be clear that the project lead is responsible for leading the project. There is no maximum number of Co-Leads that can be included on the application. However, the inclusion of each Co-Lead needs to be fully justified in the application.

Other roles

Other roles that are supported by this funding opportunity are listed in the How to Apply section below.

Resubmissions

You cannot resubmit a previous UKRI application to this funding opportunity.

Who is not eligible to apply

- researchers who don't have a PhD or equivalent experience
- we do not support project studentships (funding PhD study) within this funding opportunity

International researchers

As AHRC is a lead funder for this funding opportunity, international researchers can apply as 'project co-lead (international)'. You should include all other international collaborators (or UK partners not based at approved organisations) as project partners.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are [committed to achieving equality of opportunity](#) for all funding 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

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

Find out more about [AHRC's equality, diversity and inclusion policy](#).

What we're looking for

Aim

This funding opportunity will fund new networks comprised of UK institutions working with European partners, in-country partners in Official Development

Assistance (ODA) countries, community practitioners, researchers, and policymakers for twelve months, to explore opportunities for widening cultural heritage and climate change engagement and policy across both the UK and international communities. We welcome applications that:

- work with local communities to co-create solutions
- connect the stories, turning local narratives into global relevance
- work across disciplines and intergenerationally
- ground a project in a place to extract learnings that are transferable to other cases or policy frameworks

For more information on the background of this funding opportunity, go to the Additional information section.

Scope

In the wake of human-made disasters, and the increasing risks posed to cultural heritage by climate change, the need for improved preparedness measures is a key priority for the global heritage community.

Funded as a part of UK ODA and working collaboratively with other partners such as the British Council since 2020, this partnership programme with DCMS has explored preventive and reactive measures, methods and practices that cultural heritage (and the broader arts and humanities) can provide in response to climate change threats across a broad range of communities in ODA countries (via in-country partners).

This has produced two main research outputs. The first is into safeguarding cultural heritage at risk from climate change and the second, research into how cultural heritage can support net zero and biodiversity preservation ambitions, for example through local and indigenous knowledge derived solutions.

Following the success of the original cohort, and the impacts of the programme to date, it was acknowledged that there were other programmes and funders working in this space.

To coordinate and collaborate across programmes, we held several meetings with the British Council, DCMS and UNESCO-UK. These discussions culminated in a joint AHRC-British Council-DCMS-UNESCO-UK Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Event in February 2025. The event encouraged further collaboration across programmes and projects through interactive sessions.

This new funding opportunity is designed to encourage and support the forging of new or the strengthening of existing partnerships and networks with the aim of promoting the contribution of cultural heritage research to climate change policy.

It also provides a platform for all projects in the heritage sector to incorporate new and strengthen existing partnerships maintained by projects (with European partners) in ODA-eligible countries, offering networking and knowledge exchange opportunities.

It will do this through the offer of a policy workshop to generate continued collegiate discussion. A facilitated policy workshop will be arranged for September 2026 once awards have been made and project have started.

The longer-term ambition is to enable UK researchers, their overseas partners, heritage professionals and organisations, and policy makers to engage with and seek funding from a new Horizon Europe '[Resilient Cultural Heritage Partnership](#)', that AHRC, British Council, DCMS and UNESCO-UK will all be partners in.

Duration

The duration of this award is 12 months.

Projects must start by 1 February 2026.

Funding available

The FEC of your project can be up to £60,000.

AHRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

Our standard international project co-lead (international) and international funding policy applies but with some additional provisions for the costs of equitable partnership work undertaken at an overseas organisation in low or middle Income countries (LMIC) (meaning all countries on the Development Assistance Country list).

Costs associated with international project co-leads should be claimed at 100% under exceptions. Please see page 20 of our [Research Funding Guide](#) for further information.

Key variations to the standard AHRC policy on international project co-lead (international) policy for this ODA funding opportunity are:

There is no 30% limit on the total costs for overseas project co-lead (international) for individuals based in developing countries (on the DAC list), although a 30% limit applies to costs associated with overseas project co-lead (international) who are not based in developing countries on the DAC list. Please refer to sections two and three of the [AHRC research funding guide](#) for details on eligibility of such costs.

In addition to the costs for overseas academic project co-lead (international), costs for third sector/NGO partners may also be funded at 100% FEC, normally subject to 30% overall limit of the total cost of an award at 100% FEC; where

the 30% limit is exceeded a full justification in terms of the intellectual and practical contribution to the research of the third sector partner should be provided. In addition, staff salaries at third sector/NGO organisations are not expected to exceed one FTE each year.

A contribution towards indirect and estates costs can be made for overseas organisations within DAC list (LMIC) countries, calculated at up to 20% of the total eligible direct costs charged to the grant directly relating to the activities of the LMIC project co-lead (international). However, in line with the standard AHRC project co-lead (international) policy, estates/indirect/overhead costs cannot be requested for international project co-lead (international)'s employed by academic organisations which are not based in a DAC list country (meaning research organisations located in developed countries and their subsidiaries).

LMIC indirect and estates costs must be included within the overall £60,000 limit (at 100% FEC) for applications under this highlight notice. Please note that as indirect costs can be claimed for overseas project co-lead (international) s it is not possible to request direct costs to cover basic office and facilities (for example, library access etc.) and minor/day-to-day consumables (for example, photocopying, telephone calls, etc.) although major additional research related costs (for example, linked to specific research methods such as survey/fieldwork costs or development of project-specific digital resources) may be requested as direct costs where appropriate.

However, please note that project co-leads (international) and other partners from countries due to graduate from the DAC list may be included in applications but will be expected to be costed in line with our standard project co-lead (international) policy and not the enhanced funding available to other project co-lead (international)/partners from DAC list countries.

Please ensure budget breakdowns between high income, LMIC researchers and partners are justified and appropriate in respect to the equitable partnership aims of this ODA funding scheme.

The UK has committed to aligning ODA spending with the [Paris Agreement](#), which in practical terms means:

- using an appropriate carbon price in relevant bilateral programme appraisal
- ensuring any investment support for fossil fuels affecting emissions is in line with the Paris Agreement temperature goals and transition plans
- implementing a proportionate approach to climate risk assurance
- ensuring that relevant programmes do not undermine the ambition in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and adaptation plans

In implementing the project, you agree to adhere to these requirements, working with officials in AHRC and DCMS in applying these rules. To comply with these requirements, we are looking for:

- projects willing to forge new or enhance existing collaborations and partnerships through universities, European partners and in-country partners to support research-related knowledge exchange and policy impact activities, capitalising on cross-pollination of ideas from the event. Projects must have at least one European partner, alongside their ODA in-country partners
- projects that are interested in driving cultural heritage research into meaningful policy impacts in combating climate change
- projects which collaborate on policy to enact meaningful change
- project networks with scalable and sustainable funding plans. Projects with existing partnerships must explicitly demonstrate how they will grow/expand these partnerships to include European and ODA partners

Where mentoring is included, salary costs to cover the mentor's time can be claimed from the grant. Mentor's time should be built into the budget as a directly allocated cost and entered in the application form in the other directly allocated costs section.

Costs may be included to support inclusive participation in development impact activities, for example in terms of translation costs or support for carers. These may be incurred by either the UK or LMIC partners as appropriate.

Where possible accessible venues and facilities should be selected; please note that infrastructure costs cannot be requested for example to make structural alterations to venues/sites for improved accessibility.

What we will not fund

We will not fund:

- projects that propose a continuation or duplication of their original research and do not collaborate with other projects
- UK only focused projects – projects must have existing and/or create new European and in-country partnerships
- research that does not promote a DAC list country
- provision of direct development aid or emergency assistance, supplies or equipment

Supporting skills and talent

We encourage you to follow the principles of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#) and the [Technician Commitment](#).

Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)

UKRI is committed in ensuring that effective international collaboration in research and innovation takes place with integrity and within strong ethical frameworks. Trusted Research and Innovation (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

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service so please ensure that your organisation is registered. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

The project lead is responsible for completing the application process on the Funding Service, but we expect all team members and project partners to contribute to the application.

Only the lead research organisation can submit an application to UKRI.

To apply

Select 'Start application' near the beginning of this Funding finder page.

1. Confirm you are the project lead.
2. Sign in or create a Funding Service account. To create an account, select your organisation, verify your email address, and set a password. If your organisation is not listed, email support@funding-service.ukri.org. Please allow at least 10 working days for your organisation to be added to the Funding Service. We strongly suggest that if you are asking UKRI to add your organisation to the Funding Service to enable you to apply to this opportunity, you also create an organisation Administration Account. This will be needed to allow the acceptance and management of any grant that might be offered to you.
3. Answer questions directly in the text boxes. You can save your answers and come back to complete them or work offline and return to copy and paste your answers. If we need you to upload a document, follow the upload instructions in the Funding Service. All questions and assessment criteria are listed in the How to apply section on this Funding finder page.

4. Allow enough time to check your application in 'read-only' view before sending to your research office.
5. Send the completed application to your research office for checking. They will return it to you if it needs editing.
6. Your research office will submit the completed and checked application to UKRI.

Where indicated, you can also demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant.

When including images, you must:

- provide a descriptive caption or legend for each image immediately underneath it in the text box (this must be outside the image and counts towards your word limit)
- insert each new image on a new line
- use files smaller than 5MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format

Images should only be used to convey important visual information that cannot easily be put into words. The following are not permitted, and your application may be rejected if you include:

- sentences or paragraphs of text
- tables
- excessive quantities of images

A few words are permitted where the image would lack clarity without the contextual words, such as a diagram, where text labels are required for an axis or graph column.

For more guidance on the Funding Service, see:

- [how applicants use the Funding Service](#)
- [how research offices use the Funding Service](#)
- [how reviewers use the Funding Service](#)

References

References should be included within the word count of the appropriate question section. You should use your discretion when including references and prioritise those most pertinent to the application.

Hyperlinks can be used in reference information. When including references, you should consider how your references will be viewed and used by the assessors, ensuring that:

- references are easily identifiable by the assessors

- references are formatted as appropriate to your research
- persistent identifiers are used where possible

General use of hyperlinks

Applications should be self-contained. You should only use hyperlinks to link directly to reference information. You must not include links to web resources to extend your application. Assessors are not required to access links to conduct assessment or recommend a funding decision.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Use of generative AI tools to prepare funding applications is permitted, however, caution should be applied.

For more information see our [policy on the use of generative AI in application and assessment](#).

Deadline

AHRC must receive your application by 14 October 2025 at 4:00pm UK time.

You will not be able to apply after this time.

Make sure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines.

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.

Personal data

Processing personal data

AHRC, as part of UKRI, will need to collect some personal information to manage your Funding Service account and the registration of your funding applications.

We will handle personal data in line with UK data protection legislation and manage it securely. For more information, including how to exercise your rights, read [our privacy notice](#).

AHRC, as part of UKRI, will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with DCMS so that they can participate in the assessment process. For more information on how DCMS uses personal information, read the [Government Digital Service Privacy notice](#).

Sensitive information

If you or a core team member need to tell us something you wish to remain confidential, email operations@ahrc.ukri.org

Include in the subject line: [the funding opportunity title; sensitive information; your Funding Service application number].

Typical examples of confidential information include:

- individual is unavailable until a certain date (for example due to parental leave)
- declaration of interest
- additional information about eligibility to apply that would not be appropriately shared in the 'Applicant and team capability' section
- conflict of interest for UKRI to consider in reviewer or panel participant selection
- the application is an invited resubmission

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

Publication of outcomes

AHRC, as part of UKRI, will publish the outcomes of this funding opportunity at [AHRC Board and panel outcomes](#).

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

Summary

Word limit: 550

In plain English, provide a summary we can use to identify the most suitable experts to assess your application.

We usually make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, therefore do not include any confidential or sensitive information. Make it suitable for a variety of readers, for example:

- opinion-formers
- policymakers
- the public
- the wider research community

Guidance for writing a summary

Clearly describe your proposed work in terms of:

- context

- the challenge the project addresses
- aims and objectives
- potential applications and benefits

Core team

List the key members of your team and assign them roles from the following:

- project lead (PL)
- project co-lead (UK) (PcL)
- project co-lead (international) (PcL (I))
- specialist
- professional enabling staff
- research and innovation associate
- technician

Only list one individual as project lead.

UKRI has introduced a new addition to the ‘Specialist’ role type. Public contributors such as people with lived experience can now be added to an application.

Find out more about [UKRI’s core team roles in funding applications](#).

Application questions

Vision

Word limit: 500

What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how your proposed work:

- is of excellent quality and importance within or beyond the field(s) or area(s)
- has the potential to advance current understanding, generates new knowledge, thinking or discovery within or beyond the field/area
- is timely given current trends, context and needs
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy or the environment
- will embed EDI considerations into, and how these will guide your aims, as well as other activities such as stakeholder engagement, events and networking

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

Within the Vision section we also expect you to:

- describe the concept, context and coordination function of your project
- if applicable, demonstrate the alignment of the application to the funding opportunity objectives
- clearly state the research challenges that you will address

Approach

Word limit: 2,000

How are you going to deliver your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how you have designed your approach so that it:

- is effective and appropriate to achieve your objectives
- is feasible, and comprehensively identifies any risks to delivery and how they will be managed
- if applicable, uses a clearly written and transparent methodology
- if applicable, summarises the previous work and describes how this will be built upon and progressed
- will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts
- describes how your, and if applicable your team's, research environment (in terms of the place and relevance to the project) will contribute to the success of the work
- will build EDI considerations into the formation, operation and governance of the hub, including how these will be operationalised

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

Within the Approach section we also expect you to:

- provide a detailed and comprehensive project plan including milestones and timelines
- include a detailed and appropriate plan for how you will acquire and manage data (additional one-page A4)
- explain how the partnership will be planned and managed, and how it will enable stakeholders to work together, network and build capability in a strategic area

- outline future plans for sustaining the partnership beyond this application, or for funding research which may develop from the partnership

Applicant and team capability to deliver

Word limit: 1,650

Why are you the right individual or team to successfully deliver the proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Evidence of how you, and if relevant your team, have:

- the relevant experience (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
- the right balance of skills and expertise to cover the proposed work
- the appropriate leadership and management skills to deliver the work and your approach to develop others
- contributed to developing a positive research environment and wider community

The word limit for this section is 1,650 words, 1,150 words to be used for R4RI modules and, if necessary, a further 500 words for Additions.

Use the Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) format to showcase the range of relevant skills you, and if relevant your team (project and project co-leads, researchers, technicians, specialists, partners and so on) have and how this will help to deliver the proposed work. You can include individuals' specific achievements but only choose past contributions that best evidence their ability to deliver this work.

Complete this section using the R4RI module headings listed below. Use each heading once and include a response for the whole team, see the [UKRI guidance on R4RI](#). You should consider how to balance your answer, and emphasise where appropriate the key skills each team member brings:

- contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge
- the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
- contributions to the wider research and innovation community
- contributions to broader research or innovation users and audiences and towards wider societal benefit

Additions

Provide any further details relevant to your application. This section is optional and can be up to 500 words. You should not use it to describe additional skills, experiences or outputs, but you can use it to describe any factors that provide

context for the rest of your R4RI (for example, details of career breaks if you wish to disclose them).

You should complete this section as a narrative. Do not format it like a CV.

The [roles in funding applications policy](#) has descriptions of the different project roles.

Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Word limit: 500

What are the ethical and RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work? If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Demonstrate that you have identified and evaluated:

- the relevant ethical or responsible research and innovation considerations
- how you will manage these considerations

If you are collecting or using data you should identify:

- any legal and ethical considerations of collecting, releasing and storing the data (including consent, confidentiality, anonymisation, security and other ethical considerations and, in particular, strategies to not preclude further re-use of data)
- formal information standards that your proposed work will comply with

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

International collaboration

Word limit: 500

Does the proposed work involve any international collaboration or engagement?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Provide details about your expected international collaboration or engagement, including:

- a list of the countries your international project co-leads, project partners, visiting researchers, or other collaborators are based in
- details of any subcontractors or service providers

If your proposed work does not involve international collaboration or engagement, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Official Development Assistance (ODA): compliance eligibility

Word limit: 500

How does your proposed work meet ODA compliance eligibility?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

To demonstrate how your proposed work meets ODA compliance criteria, please explain:

- which country or countries on the [DAC list](#) will directly benefit from this proposal
- how your proposal is directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries
- how you expect the outcomes of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list
- how the proposed activity is appropriate to address the development need
- the approaches you will use to deliver development impact within the lifetime of the project and in the longer term, considering the potential outcomes, the key beneficiary and stakeholder groups and how they will be engaged to enable development impact to be achieved

This funding opportunity is part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. This is government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its primary objective.

You should ensure that their proposal focuses on the challenges specific to the partner country or countries and not broader global issues, meaning those that are transboundary beyond low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It is accepted that ODA-funded research may have benefits to the UK or other high-income countries, however, these should be secondary to be development objectives of the project.

You should consider whether these countries are likely to continue to be eligible for the duration of the research, noting that ODA funding cannot be used to support research that does not promote a DAC list country. You should note there may be eligibility restrictions specific to the opportunity you are applying to. You and other applicants should refer to the Funding Finder to confirm eligibility before applying. When assessing whether an activity is eligible for ODA funding under this funding opportunity, AHRC will consider whether projects satisfy [OECD criteria on eligibility](#).

Your application must be fully ODA compliant to be considered for funding. Initial ODA compliance checks will be carried out by UKRI. Proposals that do

not meet the eligibility criteria may be rejected. Panellists will also be provided with this guidance and asked to comment on ODA compliance and likelihood of significant development impact.

ODA Gender Equality Statement

Word limit: 400

How does your proposed work demonstrate sufficient consideration of gender equality?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Provide a Gender Equality Statement that explains:

- how measures have been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project, including the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation and the beneficiaries of the research and innovation
- the expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond
- the impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power and so on
- how any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality will be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored
- if there are any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)

All ODA funding must adhere to the International Development (gender equality) Act 2014. To meet this, all applications to UKRI ODA funding opportunities must provide a gender equality statement. See [further guidance for equality, diversity and inclusion](#).

For funding opportunities under the International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF), all ODA funding must adhere to the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) gender equality policy. See [further information on this policy and the related guidance for considering gender equality in your research](#).

UKRI/AHRC and expert panellists will assess whether your proposal has demonstrated sufficient consideration of gender equality.

Resources and cost justification

Word limit: 1,000

What will you need to deliver your proposed work and how much will it cost?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Justify the application's more costly resources, in particular:

- project staff
- significant travel for field work or collaboration (but not regular travel between collaborating organisations or to conferences)
- any equipment that will cost more than £25,000
- any consumables beyond typical requirements, or that are required in exceptional quantities
- all facilities and infrastructure costs
- all resources that have been costed as 'Exceptions'
- international collaboration costs

You can request costs associated with reasonable adjustments where they increase as a direct result of working on the project. For further information [see **Disability and accessibility support for UKRI applicants and grant holders.**](#)

Assessors are not looking for detailed costs or a line-by-line breakdown of all project resources. Overall, they want you to demonstrate how the resources you anticipate needing for your proposed work:

- are comprehensive, appropriate, and justified
- represent the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes
- maximise potential outcomes and impacts

Project partners

Add details about any project partners' contributions. If there are no project partners, you can indicate this on the Funding Service.

A project partner is a collaborating organisation who will have an integral role in the proposed research. This may include direct contributions for example cash, donated equipment and resources, or staff seconded to the project, or indirect and in-kind contributions for example use of project partner's equipment, datasets, or facilities. Project partners may be in industry, academia, third sector or government organisations in the UK or overseas, including partners based in the EU.

Add the following project partner details:

- the organisation name and address (searchable via a drop-down list or enter the organisation's details manually, as applicable)
- the project partner contact name and email address
- the type of contribution (direct or indirect) and its monetary value

If a detail is entered incorrectly and you have saved the entry, remove the specific project partner record and re-add it with the correct information.

For audit purposes, UKRI requires formal collaboration agreements to be put in place if an award is made.

Project partners: letters (or emails) of support

Upload a single PDF containing the letters or emails of support from each partner you named in the project partners section. These should be uploaded in English or Welsh only.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Enter the words 'attachment supplied' in the text box, or if you do not have any project partners enter 'N/A'. Each letter or email you provide should:

- confirm the partner's commitment to the project
- clearly explain the value, relevance, and possible benefits of the work to them
- describe any additional value that they bring to the project
- have a page limit of 2 sides A4 per partner

The Funding Service will provide document upload details when you apply.

If you do not have any project partners, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Ensure you have prior agreement from project partners so that, if you are offered funding, they will support your project as indicated in the project partners' section.

For audit purposes, UKRI requires formal collaboration agreements to be put in place if an award is made.

How we will assess your application

Assessment process

We will assess your application using the following process.

Assessment panel

We will invite panel experts to review and individually score your application. They will then collectively assess the quality of your application and rank it alongside other applications at the panel meeting, after which the panel will make a funding recommendation. (Please note there is no pre-panel peer review stage under this funding opportunity).

Timescale

We aim to complete the assessment process within 5 months of receiving your application.

Projects must start by 1 February 2026.

Feedback

We will give feedback with the outcome of your application, in the form of comments from the Panel.

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 [UKRI principles of assessment and decision making](#).

Using generative artificial intelligence (AI) in expert review

Reviewers and panellists are not permitted to use generative AI tools to develop their assessment. Using these tools can potentially compromise the confidentiality of the ideas that applicants have entrusted to UKRI to safeguard.

For more detail see our [policy on the use of generative AI](#).

Sharing data with co-funders

We will need to share the application (including any personal information that it contains) with DCMS so that they can participate in the assessment process. For more information on how DCMS uses personal information, visit [Government Digital Service Privacy notice](#).

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

Assessment areas

The assessment areas we will use are:

- Vision
- Approach
- Applicant and Team capability to deliver
- Ethics and RRI
- Project Partner Letters of Support
- ODA eligibility
- ODA Gender Equality Statement
- Resources and costs

Find details of assessment questions and criteria under the 'Application questions' heading in the 'How to apply' section.

Contact details

Get help with your application

If you have a question and the answers aren't provided on this page

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Helpdesk is committed to helping users of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service as effectively and as quickly as possible. In order to manage cases at peak volume times, the Helpdesk will triage and prioritise those queries with an imminent opportunity deadline or a technical issue. Enquiries raised where information is available on the Funding Finder opportunity page and should be understood early in the application process (for example, regarding eligibility or content/remit of an opportunity) will not constitute a priority case and will be addressed as soon as possible.

Contact details

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

Primary AHRC contact: James Fenner, Senior Investment Manager, Histories, Cultures and Heritage team email: hch@ahrc.ukri.org

Isobel Guyver, Investment Manager, Histories, Cultures and Heritage team email: hch@ahrc.ukri.org

Primary DCMS contact: Joanne McCafferty, International Cultural Heritage Protection Programme Officer email: joanne.mccafferty@dcms.gov.uk

For questions related to this specific funding opportunity please contact hch@ahrc.ukri.org

Any queries regarding the system or the submission of applications through the Funding Service should be directed to the helpdesk.

Email: Email: support@funding-service.ukri.org
Phone: 01793 547490

Our phone lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm
- Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

To help us process queries quicker, we request that users highlight the council and opportunity name in the subject title of their email query, include the application reference number, and refrain from contacting more than one mailbox at a time.

For further information on submitting an application read [How applicants use the Funding Service](#).

Additional info

Background

In 2020 AHRC and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) launched a funding partnership, funded as a part of UK Official Development Assistance (ODA), to support research on how developing countries could respond more effectively to the challenges for cultural heritage resulting from natural disasters and climate change.

Proposals were sought which responded in an agile way to inform future research and policy in this area, ranging in scope from prevention and resilience; to preparedness and (emergency) response; to living with, and adapting to change and/or loss.

2021 and 2022 both saw time limited follow-on funding opportunities to support the extension of projects to enhance engagement and impact activities and support the sharing of learning across projects. While the programme has been successful in awarding a diverse range of projects to respond more effectively to the challenges for cultural heritage resulting from climate change, there has been little time to stop and reflect on the outputs, benefits and impacts. Following a pause/reflection of the programme and cohort to date to inform a future phase of the programme, and a subsequent commissioned research project on the programme in 2023, a [further open funding opportunity was launched in 2024](#).

However, this programme is not operating in isolation. Other programmes from other funders are also active in this space. Following discussions between AHRC, British Council, DCMS and UK Commission for UNESCO, a joint two-day event was held in February 2025.

The event encouraged collaboration across programmes and projects through interactive sessions. The goal is to maintain this collaboration, joining the dots between programmes and funders, as a coordinated UK national approach to engage in and provide funding for a new **Horizon** Europe 'Resilient Cultural Heritage Partnership'.

Funding for this funding opportunity, and indeed the entire programme, is 100% DCMS funding stemming from a three year grant agreement between AHRC

and DCMS (2022-25), specifically from the International Cultural Heritage Protection Programme.

This funding opportunity will be a step towards the Resilient Culture Partnership, providing a networking opportunity to prepare researchers to apply to future funding opportunities.

Resilient Cultural Heritage Partnership

Stemming from groundwork carried out over three years through the [Alliance for Research on Cultural Heritage in Europe \(ARCHE\) programme](#), [Resilient Cultural Heritage Partnership](#) will strengthen research on cultural heritage to develop and promote innovative solutions, assessment systems, adaptation and mitigation strategies and risk management models, for transmitting cultural heritage to future generations.

The aim is to make Europe more resilient and climate neutral, and by association through international development work and partnerships, the wider world more resilient.

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) outlines the thematic areas that the partnership will cover. [Call topics will be taken from this SRIA \(PDF, 600KB\)](#).

While the partnership is directed and shaped by European member states and funders, there is a global dimension to this also, with a firm commitment and alignment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) actively contributing towards this achievement through the official development assistance (ODA) globally.

In anticipation of the RCH Partnership requirement for three European country partners to be involved in a successful project, this funding opportunity requires all projects to establish networks that have at least one European partner, alongside their ODA in-country partnerships.

Research and innovation impact

Impact can be defined as the long-term intended or unintended effect research and innovation has on society, economy and the environment; to individuals, organisations, and the wider global population.

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

Assessment 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.

Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

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<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/cultural-heritage-and-climate-change-networks-to-drive-policy-change>