

Funding opportunity

AHRC–DFG Research Grants: Round Eight (2025 to 2026)

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Co-funders:	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£5,900,000
Maximum award:	£420,000
Publication date:	16 October 2025
Opening date:	16 October 2025 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	11 February 2026 4:00pm UK time

Last updated: 21 October 2025 - [see all updates](#)

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

You must be:

- proposing research within the remit of Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- based at a research organisation eligible to apply to AHRC
- working with a German team led by a researcher eligible to apply to DFG

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

The full economic cost of the UK-component of your project can be up to £420,000. Your project can last between 24 to 36 months.

Who can apply

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

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' place of work and, in general, according to the funding rules of each individual agency.

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 (PL). 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 which 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 to apply to DFG. 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.

In line with standard AHRC funding rules, PhD students cannot be funded by UK research team budgets for this funding opportunity.

International applicants

As all applications to this funding opportunity will involve international applicants, we encourage prospective applicants to visit [UKRI's trusted research and innovation](#) for more information on effective and equitable international collaboration.

If 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. Researchers 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.

Please refer to the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#) for further information on AHRC's international project co-lead policy and which costs are eligible within a UK budget.

Researchers based in Germany can submit a joint proposal to fund domestic (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 funding opportunity to the next is not permitted. As such, resubmission of unsuccessful applications from the seventh round to the eighth round is not permitted. However, applicants involved in unsuccessful applications under the seventh round may submit, or be involved in, different or new applications for this funding opportunity.

A reworked resubmission from all DFG and AHRC funding opportunities prior to the seventh round will be allowed to submit to this funding opportunity, where the application 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 on 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 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.

Supporting early career researchers and technicians

UK Research and Innovation (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 the inclusion of early career researchers and technicians in applications to this funding opportunity. The suitability of support and management mechanisms for these members of project teams will be specifically considered as part of the assessment criteria for this opportunity as part of the feasibility of the project.

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 our 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. This includes guidance on our 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 integrating early career researchers or technicians into your project team, please refer to the documents linked above for more information.

Under this funding opportunity the application of early career researchers on the German side for [a temporary position for project lead \(Eigene Stelle\) \(PDF, 91.6KB\)](#) is possible.

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. Accordingly, 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
- to 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. If you are uncertain as to whether your application would be eligible you 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 bringing together UK arts and humanities researchers whose research falls within the remit of the 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 \(PDF, 87.9KB\)](#)

Both single-disciplinary and interdisciplinary applications can be considered provided that 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 provided that they fall primarily within the remit of the 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 and 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 provided that 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, as well as 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. Stand-alone projects, infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible.

If you are in doubt about the eligibility of your research proposal, please 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 by 1 February 2027. 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).

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. You must note that AHRC and DFG retain the right to reject applications 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 German costs, this should be included in the mandatory DFG budget form located at the bottom of this page.

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

AHRC is running this funding opportunity in collaboration with DFG.

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. Only the lead UK research organisation can submit an application.

The UK Project Lead (PL) is responsible for completing the application process on the Funding Service, but all team members and project partners are expected to contribute to the application.

Only the UK project lead needs to register with the Funding Service directly. Project co-leads (both domestic and international) will receive an email notification when the project lead has entered their details into the system. This email will guide individuals to create an account on the Funding Service by verifying their details. This will allow them to view and read the application.

Please note that for administrative purposes, all named researchers from the German team must be listed as 'project co-lead (international)'.

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 funding opportunity, that 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.
7. Save a PDF copy of your application and share this file with the German project lead, who then needs to submit this to DFG via 'elan' (instructions below).

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.

Deadline

AHRC must receive your application by 11 February 2026 4:00pm UK time.

The UK project lead must provide a PDF copy of the Funding Service submission to the German project lead. Once the application has been submitted:

1. Go to the 'read application' tab.
2. Click 'print this page'.
3. Save the file as a PDF.
4. Send this PDF and any other attachments (including project partner letters and Head of Department letters where applicable) to the German project lead.
5. The German project lead then needs to upload this PDF to the DFG's submission portal 'elan' by 11:59pm German time on 11 February 2026.

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.

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 DFG so that they can participate in the assessment process. For more information on how DFG uses personal information, read [the DFG Privacy Policy](#).

Sensitive information

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

Include in the subject line: [AHRC-DFG; 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 via [UKRI's news page](#) in November 2026. DFG will publish the outcomes for this funding opportunity on [their page for the AHRC-DFG funding initiative](#). You can also find the outcomes from previous rounds on this page.

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

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
- grant manager
- professional enabling staff
- research and innovation associate
- technician

Only list one individual as project lead. This must be the UK project lead for the purpose of submission.

Please note that for administrative purposes, all applicants and co-applicants (Antragstellende und Mitverantwortliche) from the German team must be listed as ‘project co-lead (international)’ in this section. This will not determine the status of researchers within the German team, which must still have a project lead and can optionally include additional team members.

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: 1,000

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 innovative
- is of excellent quality and importance within or beyond the field(s) or area(s)
- has the potential to advance current understanding, or generate new knowledge, thinking or discovery within or beyond the field or area
- is timely given current trends, context, and needs
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment
- advances UK-German academic research collaboration and international collaboration

Within the Vision section we also expect you to:

- give a concise description of your project's research objectives
- explain briefly and precisely the research context or state of the art in your field as it relates to your project
- make clear in which context you situate your own research and in what areas you intend to make a unique and innovative contribution

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.

Approach

Word limit: 4,000

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
- has an integrated approach, maximising the added value of UK-German research collaboration
- has appropriate management arrangements of the project.

- 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

Within the Approach section we also expect you to:

- describe in detail the proposed cooperation between the partners involved and the expected added value of this international working
- outline the steps which you have taken to ensure that your project team and research are informed, as appropriate, by equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) considerations
- demonstrate access to the appropriate services, facilities, infrastructure, or equipment to deliver the proposal, including any assistance needed from outside your own group or institute
- provide a detailed and comprehensive project plan including milestones and timelines in the form of a Gantt chart or similar
- if proposing cross-disciplinary, practice-led research or both, evidence how your work fulfils the funding opportunity's eligibility criteria

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.

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

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

The word limit for this section is 1,650 words: 1,150 words to be used for R4RI modules (including references) 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 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. 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 1,000 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).

Complete this as a narrative. Do not format it like a CV.

References may be included within this section.

Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Word limit: 500

What are the ethical or 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
- the relevant legal and ethical considerations of collecting, releasing or storing data
- how you will manage these considerations

This set of criteria plays a role in the assessment and can be the deciding factor between otherwise equally strong projects.

Research data are defined for the purpose of this section as information relevant to, or of interest to researchers, either as inputs into or outputs from research. They are research materials resulting from primary data collection or generation, or derived from existing sources intended to be analysed in the course of a research project. As such, all projects are expected to outline:

- the types of data which will be used and/or generated
- proposed methodology for data management
- how the data will be stored in the short term
- how the data will be stored in the long term
- how the data will be shared
- any legal and ethical considerations of collecting, releasing or storing the data including consent, confidentiality, anonymisation, security and other ethical considerations and, in particular, strategies taken to not preclude further re-use of data
- existing standards and data repositories or archives in your disciplines and in UK or German national and international contexts where appropriate
- formal information standards (within the UK, Germany, and further afield where relevant) with which study will be compliant

Please note that, where relevant, German applicants may need to include an ethics committee vote from the institution within which their research will be carried out. For more information about the conditions under which an ethics committee vote is necessary, please refer to [DFG, German Research Foundation frequently asked questions: Humanities and Social Sciences](#).

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

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

Use the resources and cost summary table to enter the full UK costs only. The German project costs should be outlined and supported in the separate DFG budget document and justification of resources. This can be downloaded from the Additional information section of this funding opportunity and must be submitted through the 'DFG budget and justification of resources' section of the application.

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

- all project staff (including non-Germany based project co-lead/s (international) where applicable)
- significant travel for field work or collaboration (but not regular travel between collaborating organisations or to conferences)
- 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'
- any costs related to consultancy, sub-contracting and facilitation of project partner participation

Projects should be integrated but do not have to be financially symmetrical. However, work packages must be delivered reasonably equally.

In this section:

- outline your justifications by breaking resources down into the summary fund headings: directly incurred, directly allocated and exceptions
- do not justify estates and indirect costs
- AHRC cannot support the funding of individual items of equipment costing more than £10,000 (including VAT).
- List £0 costs against German research team members. These costs should be included in your separate DFG budget, with their correct time contribution

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

Discipline classification: primary

Word count: 5

Please provide the primary research area of your proposal.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

You must select from one of these research disciplines.

This information will be used for the purposes of processing your proposal and in the selection of appropriate assessors.

- archaeology
- area studies
- classics
- cultural and museum studies
- dance
- design
- development studies
- drama and theatre studies
- education
- history
- human geography
- information and communication technologies
- languages and literature
- law and legal studies
- library and information studies
- linguistics
- media
- music
- philosophy
- political science and international studies
- social anthropology
- theology, divinity, and religion
- visual arts

Discipline classification: secondary

Word count: 50

Please describe, using keywords, the research area of your proposal and where relevant the approach, time period or geographical area. This will further help with the selection of appropriate assessors.

DFG budget and justification of resources

Word count: 2,000

Outline the budget and financial justifications for the German component of your proposed project.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Complete the DFG budget and justification of resources document (available from the Additional information section) and paste it into the Funding Service application.

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

Using the DFG budget **template**, you should:

- explain why the indicated resources are needed, taking account of the nature and complexity of the research proposed (note that it is not sufficient merely to list what is required)
- not list indirect costs, the lump sum (Programmpauschale) will be added automatically to each funded project by DFG
- not request the module 'Mercator fellow' for a UK partner
- justify each item for each applicant

Carefully check the guidelines for the different modules. Some of them, for example the 'replacement module' or the 'temporary position for principal investigators', require additional documents.

You may delete positions from the **template** that are not applicable to your application.

Follow the outline given in the [relevant guidelines \(Leitfäden\) for the requested modules on DFG's Research Grants Programme \(Sachbeihilfe\)](#).

Note that there are both general guidelines (50.01) as well as specific guidelines for each individual module (52.01 to 52.07). Please make sure to submit all necessary documents for the requested modules.

See also the information on personnel rates (60.12) as well as the information on the payment of doctoral students (55.02).

Once you have completed this **template**, please copy and paste all of the content into this textbox.

Eligibility: resubmission and multiple submissions

Word count: 500

Have you reworked your proposal from a previous submission, or submitted it to multiple funding opportunities?

If your application is not a resubmission or has not been submitted to any other funding opportunities enter 'N/A' into the Funding Service.

AHRC and DFG will use this information to determine if the application is eligible for the opportunity. It will not form part of the assessment criteria.

What AHRC and DFG are looking for in your response

- clear evidence that this application has been significantly developed since its previous submission, for example through changes to research questions, methodology and/or the project team (where applicable)
- clear evidence that this proposal is not ineligible in relation to each national agency's rules regarding submission of a project to more than one funder or scheme

You only need to complete this section if you:

- are submitting a reworked submission from the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, or sixth round of the AHRC-DFG funding opportunity
- have submitted this application to any other funding opportunity or funding stream of any other funding agency

If your application is a resubmission, please state which year your original application was made and include the original grant application reference.

If this application has been submitted to any other funding opportunity or funding stream of any other funding agency, state this here.

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 of A4 per partner

For the file name, use the unique Funding Service number the system gives you when you create an application, followed by the words 'Project 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.

International collaboration

Word limit: 100

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.

How we will assess your application

Assessment process

We will assess your application using the following process.

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

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

Please be aware that following the submission of your application to the UKRI Funding Service, 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.

Expert review

We will invite experts from the UK and Germany to review your application independently against the specified criteria for this funding opportunity. You will not be able to nominate reviewers for applications on the new Funding Service. AHRC and DFG will continue to select expert reviewers.

Once your application has been reviewed, the project lead will have the opportunity to give a written response. The applicants will receive access to expert review comments through the Funding Service. This feedback must be shared and discussed with the German project lead, with both project leads jointly agreeing on the response.

The project lead response allows you to correct any factual errors or conceptual misunderstandings, or to respond to any queries highlighted in the comments from the peer reviewers. It is not intended to be an opportunity to change or reconstitute an application in the light of the reviewers' comments.

You are not obliged to submit a response, but it is recommended that you do so as your responses are forwarded to the moderation panels and are taken into account in the grading and prioritisation of proposals.

You are given 14 calendar days to respond to reviewers' comments.

Panel

Following expert review, we will invite experts from the UK and Germany to use the evidence provided by reviewers and your applicant response 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 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

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 as well as carrying out the processing of personal data in accordance with applicable UK and EU Data Protection legislation.

Further information on how UKRI processes personal data can be found in the [UKRI privacy notice and data protection policy](#). For more information on how DFG uses personal information, [read the DFG Privacy Policy](#).

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

Assessment areas

The criteria for the AHRC-DFG bilateral are organised under the headings:

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

These criteria have been reorganised and mapped against the sections:

- vision
- approach
- applicant and team capability to deliver
- resources and cost justification
- ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Impact is not a criterion for this funding opportunity. UK and German reviewers and panel members will not be assessing or moderating based on impact and any reference to impact in reviews will be disregarded.

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

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.

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

DFG enquiries

For questions specific to the German component of your application, please contact DFG.

Email: ahrc-ausschreibung@dfg.de

Sigrid Claßen, DFG

Telephone: +49 (0)228 885-2209

Dr Nora Böttcher, DFG

Telephone: +49 (0)228 885-2693

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

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

This is the eighth funding opportunity in a series of annual bilateral opportunities under the UK-German Funding Initiative in the Humanities programme. Following the renewal of the bilateral programme between DFG and AHRC in May 2025, there will be thirteen annual joint funding opportunities in total.

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 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

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.

Supporting documents

[DFG budget and justification of resources \(DOCX, 32KB\)](#)

Updates

21 October 2025

Updated sentence about justification of German budget costs under the 'Funding available' heading in the 'What we're looking for' section.

Timeline

○ **16 October 2025 9:00am**

Opening date

○ **11 February 2026 4:00pm**

Closing date

○ **September 2026**

Moderation panel

○ **mid-November 2026**

Outcomes issued

Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

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<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ahrc-dfg-research-grants-round-eight-2025-to-2026>