

External Projects Team



Enterprise and Commercial Development

Before making a funding application to an organisation it is worth getting to know the funder you are applying to. Grant providers always have targets for the types of projects they wish to support. The key to making successful bids is having a good understanding of what your grant provider wants to achieve and then making sure your funding application demonstrates how your project helps them achieve those targets

Quick Facts

Funding Body	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Overview of fund	The AHRC supports arts and humanities research. They use around £98m per annum to fund research among one quarter of the UK's research population. They award about 700 research grants each year, 2,000 postgraduate scholarships, and numerous knowledge transfer awards.
How are they funded	The AHRC is publicly funded through the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.
Frequency of calls	A number of calls are always open, these are called Responsive Mode Schemes. Plus other calls come out throughout the year based on current priorities.
Intervention Rate	Most grants are funded at 80% full economic costs
Application Procedure	Applications are mainly made using the Je-S system. You need to be registered on the system to be able to apply. https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk

More Details

The latest strategy 'The Arts and Humanities in Our Times, AHRC Strategy 2013-2018' is available here <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/News-and-Events/News/Documents/AHRC-Strategy-2013-18.pdf>

Priorities

Around 70% of the funding is distributed through the responsive mode grants. They leave the choice of subject open to the researcher.

Within the AHRC strategy, they outline their priorities. Within the priorities the AHRC emphasis a number of areas:

Collaboration and interdisciplinary work

Brining scholars together

Promote large and thematic projects

Encourage knowledge exchange

Engage with public, private and third sector partners

Enlarge contribution nationally and internationally

To explain the value and importance of research in the Arts and Humanities

The AHRC strategy acknowledges the benefit of research produced by individuals, but a lot of the content of the strategy stresses the need to collaborate, this suggests collaboration will greatly increase the chance of making a successful bid.

Funding Guide

The responsive mode funds which are open all the time are outlined in the Research Funding Guide, this provides information about costs, eligibility, application guidance, assessment criteria, peer review and award decisions. The funding guide can be accessed here: <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Research-funding/RFG/Pages/Research-Funding-Guide.aspx>

External Projects Team

More Details

Thematic Research

The AHRC runs a theme based research approach to encourage award holders to stand back and ask questions that cannot be asked by a single discipline alone.

AHRC has the following themes

- Care for the Future - understanding of the relationship between the past and the future and how we transmit and question our heritage.
- Digital Transformations – Addressing topics such as intellectual property, cultural memory and identity, and communication and creativity in the digital age.
- Science in Culture - dialogues in the relationship between sciences and the arts and humanities.
- Translating Cultures - understanding and communication across cultures, translation in the transmission of languages, values, beliefs, histories and narratives.
- Connected Communities -a cross-Council programme led by the AHRC. Arts and humanities researchers lead on areas related to creativity, sustainability, historical experiences and the cultural and belief frameworks through which communities self-identify and interact

Highlight Notices

Highlight notices are applied to existing AHRC Schemes in order to encourage proposals in specified areas of strategic interest to AHRC.

Highlight notices are applied for a set period of time, for example 12 months and the descriptions are usually intended

to guide inquiry rather than prescribe individual research topics.

Proposals relevant to the highlight notice can be submitted at any time while the highlight notice is in effect, and will be assessed alongside standard proposals using the same criteria. All proposals will be

assessed on their quality and individual merits. Although, proposals addressing the highlight notice will not be given priority in the assessment or ranking of applications, supplementary funding may be made available to support additional highly rated applications addressing the highlight notices that may not have otherwise been funded under the existing scheme budgets. As a result, applications addressing highlight notices may have an increased chance of funding, but only if they fully meet the excellence criteria for the scheme and high international standards of scholarship, originality, quality and significance as judged through peer review.

Peer Review

A great way to get a better understanding of what makes an excellent funding proposal is to join the peer review panel. This will give you the chance to read and review other grant submissions to the AHRC. When people are required to join the panel, the AHRC makes a call. You can request to be emailed when this happens by sending a message here peerreviewcollege@ahrc.ac.uk

Funded Research

To better understand the AHRC and it's grants, it is useful to look at what projects have already been funded under the scheme. This will help researchers understand a project idea may need to be adapted to increase its chances of successfully being funded. Funded projects can be seen here <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funded-Research/Statistics/Pages/Competition-statistics.aspx>

Application Process

If you are applying using Je-S, the final application will have to be electronically signed of by the Universities External Projects Team. It is therefore a good idea to let the team know in advance that you are submitting a bid so they can ensure a member of staff is available to do this.

Success Rates

Scheme success rates can be found on the AHRC website here <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funded-Research/Statistics/Pages/Competition-statistics.aspx>

Contact Us

(01785) 353774

BL178, Blackheath Lane
Stafford, ST18 0AD

externalprojects@staffs.ac.uk

Useful Links

<http://blogs.staffs.ac.uk/research>

On this site you can:

Get the latest on funding and research

Request a search for funding

Download a factsheet on how to use research professional

Get other information on finding funds for your project.

www.researchprofessional.com

www.ukro.ac.uk

Further Information

Website

www.ahrc.ac.uk

Email

enquiries@ahrc.ac.uk

Contact

01793 41 6000

Polaris House, North Star Avenue, SWINDON, SN2 1FL