UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities Research Grants Call: Frequently Asked Questions

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Primary Changes
1.0		AHRC	

Overview:

This FAQ document is intended to support the <u>UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities Research Networking Call</u> funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Irish Research Council (IRC). It should be read in conjunction with the Call Guidance Document. It is anticipated that these FAQs will be a 'living document' that will be regularly updated in response to questions received by the AHRC and IRC. Changes will be recorded in the version control table above. It is therefore recommended that applicants refer back to the document regularly during the application process.

Where the information provided below or in the Call Guidance Document raises further questions, applicants should contact the AHRC or IRC. In the first instance, questions relating specifically to the eligibility of Irish applicants should be directed to the IRC at digital.humanities@research.ie. Any questions from UK applicants, should be directed to the AHRC at fic@ahrc.ukri.org.

1. Focus & framing

a) *Our theme does not fit into one of the 4 priority themes, does that mean we cannot apply?*

Yes. The 4 themes have been specifically identified due to the manner in which they build on the workshop held in October 2019 and as priorities identified by the AHRC and IRC. The workshop report can be found here. It is acceptable to include activity that sits across or outside of these themes where there is a clear rationale to do so, but projects must be principally framed around one single theme (to be clearly indicated in the case for

support). Applicants are encouraged to recognise the breadth and inclusivity of the themes.

b) *I did not attend the workshop in Dublin in October 2019, can I apply?*

Yes, applications to the call are welcome from all researchers, regardless of whether they attended the scoping workshop in October 2019.

c) *I did not apply for/receive a Networking Award, can I apply?*

Yes, application to or receipt of a Networking award is not a condition of application to the call.

d) *Should I include costs for the planned AHRC-IRC Awards Conference?*

The AHRC and IRC plan to hold an Awards Conference for the successful UK-Ireland research grants in 2024. The conference will bring together the award holders, digital humanities experts and stakeholders including non-academic partners from the UK and Ireland. £500/ €600 euros per person for attending this conference should be included in your proposal. The attendance of the co-PIs and the postdoctoral researchers/research assistants is mandatory (4-6 people per national team).

e) *I am a PI on an existing award, can I apply as a PI under this call?*

Yes. Please note that, in the event of an Irish applicant, who is already a PI in another project, being successful in this call, at award acceptance stage they will be asked to submit a time-management strategy, to be approved by the IRC before the award's commencement. For AHRC award holders, standard rules apply, as they can hold another award subject to being able to demonstrate they have the time available for the new project, should it be successful.

2. Eligibility and assessment

a) *Why does the Irish PI need to be recorded as a Co-Investigator in Je-S?*

The Je-S submission portal allows for only one Principal Investigator to be included in a proposal. For this AHRC-IRC call, there is to be one Principal Investigator from the UK and one from Ireland. On the Je-S form the Principal Investigator is therefore the UK PI and the Irish PI needs to be recorded as a Co-Investigator. Such terminology must be considered as a built-in system feature and does not challenge the equal status and co-leadership of the UK and Irish PI.

b) *How should the UK and Irish budgets be submitted?*

UK expenses should be included in the standard Je-S form. No costs should be included on the Je-S form that will be incurred by the Ireland-based members of the project team - only costs incurred by the UK team should be included. The Irish budget must be included in the 'Budget Form for Irish Costs' (http://research.ie/funding/uk-ireland-collaboration-in-the-digital-humanities-research-grants%e2%80%af/?f=principal-investigator-led) and attached separately to the proposal as a non-UK component attachment.

c) *Is it possible for HEIs, IROs and industry partners to be involved in more than one application?*

Yes. It is acceptable for a HEI or IRO to be involved in more than one bid. Investigators can be involved in more than one application where they can clearly demonstrate that they have the capacity to do so, should more than one be successful. However, academics both in the UK and Ireland can be named as Principal Investigator on one bid only. It is also acceptable for a project partner to be named on more than one application, but only where it can be demonstrated that there is capacity to undertake responsibilities as defined for all projects, should more than one be successful, and where there is a clear commitment to the partner's role within each separate project.

d) *Can subcontractors/consultants be included?*

This is allowed but you will need to justify the cost (explaining why there is a need to charge their time rather than listing them as an in-kind project partner), and explain why it is essential to have their expertise on the project and delivery of certain activities.

e) *What international activities are eligible costs?*

Due to the UK-Irish focus of the programme, eligible events organised by the consortium must take place in one of the two countries. Requests for exceptions must be clearly justified in the proposal and their merit will be assessed by expert evaluators. Travel costs to attend relevant worldwide events (e.g. conferences, top-class workshops) are eligible.

f) *Can Irish Investigator time be charged against the UK grant?*

Given the matched funding from the IRC, investigator time for Irish Investigators cannot be charged against the UK grant.

g) *Why are Irish investigators suggested to give benefits in kind?*

Due to different funding procedures, the IRC will not compensate for items such as researchers' time and use of venues. However, Irish participants are invited to list out these items (in the budget form for Irish costs), so to formally quantify the extent of their contribution. Irish awardees will not be required to provide in-cash matching contribution.

h) *Is there any provision in place for sharing costs between UK and Irish institutions?*

No, the totality of each cost must be included either on the Irish or UK budget.

i) *Will the ongoing issue of Coronavirus/COVID 19 have an impact on the timetable for review or mean a delay in projects starting?*

As things stand, both funders consider the timeline feasible and realistic. However, as a contingency measure against uncertainty, applicants are advised to consult the IRC and UKRI websites on a regular basis to ensure they are up to date on how each funder is responding to this issue.

j) *How should applicants account for the uncertainty surrounding the impact of the current COVID-19 situation in their proposals, and will this have an effect on how applications are assessed?*

AHRC and IRC recognise that the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on international research collaboration are difficult to predict and unlikely to be fully resolved at the point of application. For example, the point at which restrictions on travel, physical meetings and access to collections and archives might be relaxed remains unclear. Where applicable, applicants should take account of the pandemic in planning their research timetable, but are encouraged to proceed with the methodologies and activities that are most suited to the delivery of the best possible research within the respective field. However, where this involves activity that would currently not be possible due to COVID-19, and which might continue to be impacted in the future, applicants should demonstrate how they will embed flexibility into their plans. For example, if there are plans to use physical collections, applicants should demonstrate how they will adapt their timelines and/or methods if access remains impossible. Similarly, if a workshop or conference is planned, applicants should consider how alternative options, such as digital conferencing, might be used if physical meetings are not viable. AHRC and IRC will work together to explore options to facilitate flexibility for project teams where required and within the rules and capacity of the agencies. Reviewers will receive instructions to assume that changes that arise from the COVID-19 pandemic, post-submission, will be resolved and complications related to COVID-19 should not affect their scores. AHRC and IRC will also brief the review panel to ensure that any issues raised relating to the impact of COVID-19 during the review process are considered in a consistent, reasonable and equitable manner. Where an application is successful, any changes in circumstances that affect the proposal will be managed as a post-award issue.

Finding Researchers to Collaborate With - JISC Email List

In order to help researchers or interested partners to find partners in the UK and Ireland, an email group (called DH-UKIreland) has been set up so that researchers can subscribe to receive such requests, and to post requests themselves.

To use this service, you need to subscribe at the following link: www.jiscmail.ac.uk/DH-UKIRELAND

Once you have subscribed to the service, you can then click on 'post new message' to send a message to all subscribers.

When sending a message please include the following information:

• your contact details

• what type of researchers/partners you are seeking

• a short summary of your idea (maximum 200 words).

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We ask you use this format because it will make it easier for subscribers to quickly see if a request/post is relevant to them.

When responding to a post please use the contact details provided in the post and do not reply to the whole group.

This email group is only being used to support researchers or interested partners to find partners in either country for the Networking and Research Grants Calls. It will, therefore, be closed shortly after the deadline of the Research Grants Call in 2021.

Common Questions

1. *Who can subscribe to the DH-UKIreland email group?*

Anyone interested in the AHRC-IRC Digital Humanities programme can join the email group.

2. *Who can send messages to the list?*

Anyone who has subscribed to the email group.

3. *How can I find the list?*

You can use the link at www.jiscmail.ac.uk/DH-UKIRELAND or you can search on the JISC website at www.jisc.ac.uk.

4. *How do I reply to a post?*

Please use the individual's contact details on their post to reply, rather than replying to the whole email group.

5. *If someone replies to a message on the email group, who will see it?*

Replies are sent to everyone on the email group so we would ask you use the individual's contact details to reply.

6*. Who can view the subscriber names/emails?*

Only the email group owner(s) – in this case AHRC, UK.

7*. Can I send messages with attachments/documents via the email group?*

No.