UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities Research Grants Call

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II.   Introduction

The Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK (AHRC), part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and the Irish Research Council (IRC) are collaborating on a new funding programme that aims to deliver a transformational impact on Digital Humanities research in the UK and Ireland. The programme will exploit complementary strengths in the Digital Humanities between centres of excellence in the UK and Ireland, leading to new partnerships and cross-disciplinary projects, building capacity and enhancing the integration of humanities and technology in Digital Humanities development.

This Research Grants Call is intended to support large, collaborative UK-Ireland research projects. These joint projects are expected to have a transformational impact in the Digital Humanities through innovative, multidisciplinary research that engages extensively with wider partners.

The call builds on the 'UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities' scoping workshop that took place in Dublin from 22nd-23rd October 2019, and the UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities Research Networking Call which launched in November 2019.

Please note that attendance at the Digital Humanities Networking Workshop (October 2019) and/ or an award from the Research Networking Call is not a pre-condition of application to this call.

This call features the following distinctive elements:

- • The maximum amount that can be applied for by UK applicants is £400,000 (fEC) paid at 80% (up to £320,000), and €270,000 for Irish applicants (paid at 100%).
- • Only UK costs can be costed into the requested Je-S budget, Irish costs should be included in the non-UK Component attachment ('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);
- • The formal grant start date is **1st August 2021**;
- • The proposal must have a duration of **up to 36 months**;
- • Project Principal Investigators must meet standard AHRC and IRC eligibility rules (see Section VI);
- • There must be a Principal Investigator from each country; the inclusion of additional Co-Investigators is permitted.

This call will close for applications on Thursday 18th March 2021. Applications should be submitted by the UK PI through the Je-S system by **4pm on Thursday 18th March 2021,** and will need to go through the appropriate institution submission process prior to this. **Applicants failing to complete the outlined submission process will be automatically disqualified. While the UK PI will be responsible for the submission process, both PIs are expected to work together on the application, in the spirit of equal partnership and project leadership.**

The J-eS 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 J-eS 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.

All Investigators named on the Je-S application form, whether based in the UK or Ireland, must have a Je-S account. Where a named investigator does not already have a Je-S account, one can be easily set up, but please note that the process can take a number of days. It is therefore strongly recommended that the process is started well before the application deadline.

Please also refer to the FAQs document for this call as this contains additional information and will be regularly updated by the UK and Irish funding partners.

It is expected that 4-6 awards will be made under this call, with the aim of achieving a balanced portfolio of awards across the four thematic areas (subject to proposals meeting the criteria and quality standards detailed above).

III. Context

Background, Aims and Objectives:

In the UK, the programme is supported by £4 million of funding secured by the AHRC through the UKRI (UK Research and Innovation) Fund for International Collaboration. The Irish component of projects is supported by funding from the IRC.

The UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities programme seeks to exploit complementary strengths by establishing new research partnerships that will deliver a transformational impact on Digital Humanities research in the UK and Ireland. It is anticipated that enhanced collaboration will achieve a broad range of academic, social and economic impacts, for example by:

- Fostering new partnerships with the creative industries sector;
- Enhancing diverse and inclusive public access to and engagement with cultural heritage;
- Creating new standards in open access; and supporting new learning, educational and professional skills.

More specifically, it is expected that closer collaboration between Ireland and the UK will yield transformative step-changes in Digital Humanities scholarship including:

- The continued critical problematisation of digital humanities, its pro-social values and relevance to contemporary digital discussions of democracy, and engaged citizenship in a networked world;
- The integration of innovative technologies and interpretative methodologies such as Big Data and AI systems within the field of the humanities;
- The strengthening of world-class research capacity for interdisciplinary challenge-based research;
- A skills pipeline that produces digital humanists who are able to work across the humanities and technology sectors.

This call for Research Grants is the third phase in a suite of activities that are being delivered through the programme and which comprises:

- A scoping workshop (see III C); (Dublin, 22-23 October 2019, see report here)
- A Research Networking call (all grants started on August 1st 2020)

- **The current call for joint Research Grants**

Research Grants Call: Aims

Building on the scoping workshop and the Research networking call, this call for UK-Ireland Research Grants aims to support large, collaborative UK-Ireland projects that achieve a long-term transformational impact in the Digital Humanities. Specifically, the call aims to support a diverse range of projects that:

- Build on the momentum of the research networks around defined thematic areas which generate new lines of enquiry and stimulate new debate;
- Build and consolidate new, inclusive partnerships between researchers and stakeholders in the UK and Ireland through collaborative research projects;
- Deliver innovative, interdisciplinary and integrated research projects that are appropriately tailored to the themes being addressed;
- Are genuinely inclusive and collaborative and involve a balance of Research Organisations and stakeholders in both countries which will result in a transformational impact;
- Promote the sharing of best practice and knowledge exchange between institutions in the UK and Ireland, and clearly demonstrate the specific added value of enhanced collaboration in the Digital Humanities.

IV. Research Grants Call: Themes, Key Issues and Assessment Criteria

A.   Themes

The projects should take innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to explore the following four broad and inclusive themes. At application stage, applicants are required to indicate in the case for support document which theme they are applying under.

i)   Digital Humanities, Emerging Technologies and Research Practices

Including engagement with areas which might include, but are not limited to:

- *Advanced technologies such as AI and machine learning*

  Research projects could address how the development of new technologies is bringing existing interdisciplinary digital humanities frameworks together with techniques such as AI and machine learning.

- *Innovative research methodologies and wider practices*

  Research projects could consider new methodologies for data collection, archiving, analysis and interpretation, as well as initiatives to enhance critical digital literacy across the digital humanities.

ii)   Digital Humanities and Engagement with Societies

Including engagement with areas which might include, but are not limited to:

- *Fostering innovation within and across British and Irish communities*

    Research projects could consider how research and innovation through Digital Humanities research may generate impact which benefits societies within and across local and national borders.

- *Resilient societies and inclusive practices*

    Recent developments have reaffirmed the importance of digital research as a means of enhancing inclusive access to, and understanding of, diverse culture and heritage. In light of this, research projects could consider the essential role that the Digital Humanities research plays in developing resilient societies and inclusive practices.

iii)   Digital Humanities and the Creative Industries

Including engagement with areas which might include, but are not limited to:

- *Creative industries and technological development*
    Research projects could consider the role of art/creativity and practice-led approaches in the age of Artificial Intelligence, Participatory and Immersive Technologies and Linked Open Data. Consideration could be given on the role of digital technologies in transforming the creative industries by providing remote and virtual access to content.

iv)   Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage

Including engagement with areas which might include, but are not limited to:

- *Uncovering, preserving and widening accessibility to hidden heritages.*

    Whilst considering how heritage has different meanings and takes various forms for different communities, research projects could explore how the digital humanities may release hidden resources/narratives in the cultural heritage sector through interdisciplinary collaborative partnerships. This reflects how Digital Humanities can equip Cultural Institutions for the future, for example by enhancing access to and engagement with Cultural Heritage.

Projects must be principally framed around one theme, although it is acceptable to include activity that sits across or outside of these themes where there is a clear rationale to do so. Applicants are encouraged to recognise the breadth and inclusivity of the themes but should clearly indicate their main thematic area in the Case for Support (see section V).

B.   Essential proposal elements

Research proposals must demonstrate engagement with the following elements:

- **Sustainability:** How will the project's impact and outputs last beyond the funding period and support long-term collaboration between the UK-Irish researchers and partners?

- **Inclusion:** Equality and diversity activities must be set out in the Case for Support (Key partners and participants), in order to demonstrate inclusion. Early career researchers should be included in the project's activities where appropriate and career development activities for them and technical staff involved in the project should be outlined.
- **Engagement and Impact:** Projects should generate new models of working together and bring together Digital Humanities researchers and non-academic partners, as well as user communities beyond academia (including, where appropriate, community-led and community-based research participants).
- **Interdisciplinarity: Interdisciplinary submissions to this call are encouraged, provided the focus of the project and its proposed activities fit within the remit of the Digital Humanities.** Interdisciplinary activities should advance knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned and be evident in the composition of the consortium and research methodologies.

These essential proposal elements are reflected in the assessment criteria **Further information on how these elements will be assessed as part of the call assessment criteria is set out in section V.**

Applicants are also encouraged to consider the environmental impact of consortium activities (i.e. lower carbon modes of transport and the use of digital methods of collaboration).

V. Assessment Process and Criteria

The panel will be asked to consider the following criteria when making recommendations to the AHRC and IRC for funding:

Excellence and Vision

• The extent to which the proposed project meets the specific aims of the call and fits within the chosen theme;

• The significance and importance of the project and the contribution it will make to enhancing or developing creativity, insights, knowledge or understanding of the digital humanities in a national and / or international context;

• Quality of research design: the appropriateness of the research context and the extent to which the research gaps, questions, and goals are defined and linked together including engagement with relevant literature and existing research projects (past and ongoing);

• The extent to which the proposed cooperation between UK and Ireland researchers and partners offers unique opportunities to generate research excellence and thereby enhance the Digital Humanities in both countries;

• The quality, innovation and appropriateness of the research activities;

• The quality and appropriateness of research approaches and methods;

• The strength and added value of the project's interdisciplinary focus.

People, Partnerships and Management

• The experience and leadership qualities of the UK and Irish Principal Investigators, the complementary expertise provided by the Co-Investigators, and the opportunities for Early Career Researchers and post-doctoral researchers;

• The quality of the opportunities which the project will make available to support the further training and development of research staff on the project;

• The relevance and added value of the other named participants, including cooperation with non-academic partners and communities;

• Whether the lines of responsibility and accountability within and across teams are clearly articulated;

• The extent to which the activities will provide balanced engagement with audiences in both countries, demonstrate the added value of UK-Ireland collaboration and fully justify international activities beyond UK and Ireland;

• Whether a realistic timetable, incorporating milestones, is presented which will achieve the project's aims and objectives;

• The extent to which the development of the consortium has taken equality, diversity and inclusion considerations into overall account.

Data Management

• Does the information in the Data Management Plan seem appropriate for the research project being proposed?

• Will the Data Management Plan enable the project's data creation, outputs and storage needs?

• Will data management include appropriate provisions and safeguards for data exchange (UK/Ireland) as needed?

• Does the data management plan outline how the project will make data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable?

• Are there any other areas that need more attention?

• Overall, does the plan for data seem feasible, sensible, appropriate and valid?

Value for Money

• The extent to which the likely research outcomes will represent value for money;

• Whether the resources requested are reasonable and justifiable in the context of the proposed research.

Outputs, Dissemination, Impact and sustainability

• The appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed dissemination methods, including knowledge exchange and engagement activities with wider stakeholders and communities;

• Whether the proposal demonstrates an appropriate strategy to ensure that the outcomes of the research can be utilised by the widest possible audience including non-academic audiences;

• The likelihood that the outputs and outcomes of the project will be highly valued, both in the research community and in wider contexts where they can make a difference;

• The sustainability of the research project, including the extent to which plans are in place to extend the collaboration once the award has ended.

VI.   Eligibility of investigators

Proposals must include at least one researcher from both the UK and Ireland and must have a Principal Investigator (PI) in each country. The Je-S submission portal allows for only one Principal Investigator to be included in a proposal. 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. The division of Investigator roles is only a technical requirement for the purposes of submission via the Je-S System. The UK and Ireland Investigators will otherwise officially be considered Co-Principal Investigators in the spirit of genuine collaboration. Co-Investigators should be listed on the Je-S form also. All named Investigators and project participants should be listed in the Case for Support. UK-based applicants' costs will be covered by the AHRC and Ireland-based applicants' costs will be covered by the Irish Research Council for funding, as per the respective funding rules.

An individual can only be named as Principal Investigator on one proposal but may be involved in others in a different capacity, subject to the feasibility of being involved in more than one project.

UK applicants

Standard eligibility criteria (please see section 2 of the AHRC's *Research Funding Guide*) will apply to this call for UK investigators and research organisations. This means that the UK Principal Investigator must be resident in the UK and based at a UK institution eligible to receive funding from UKRI. The AHRC expects the Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators to devote an average of at least 4 hours per week to the project.

The UK component must fall within the remit of the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Inter-disciplinary proposals are welcome but the majority of the methodologies, research questions and outputs must fall within AHRC's subject remit.

Full details of all project partner organisations should be included in the application and be accompanied by a Project Partner Letter of Support. Guidance on what needs to be included in a Project Partner Letter of Support is provided on page 71 of the AHRC *Research Funding Guide.*

Co-Investigators from other countries can be included within the UK costs in accordance with AHRC's International Co-Investigator policy where it can be demonstrated (in the Case for Support) that they will add value to the UK-Ireland collaboration. Please refer to the AHRC Research Funding Guide for further information on AHRC's International Co-I policy and which costs are eligible within a UK budget.

Irish applicants:

- **The Irish Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators can be active in all disciplinary areas as per the Irish Research Council's pan-disciplinary mandate, provided that the consortium's scope falls within the Digital Humanities field.**
- Irish PIs must be contracted by an Irish HEI, with a contract of sufficient duration to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date.
- In the event of an 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 Irish Research Council before the award's commencement.
- There are no restrictions on the eligibility of non-academic partners (museums, cultural institutions, private companies, NGOs etc.). Should they not be Irish-based, the rationale behind their inclusion must be clearly justified.

All details about Irish eligibility rules are included in the 'Eligibility rules for Irish participants' attachment: Irish-Eligibility-Rules.pdf (research.ie)

VII.   Guidance on Costs, activities and Project Timescales

The AHRC and IRC will jointly fund successful applications. As each funder will cover the costs of the respective research community (applying different rules and mechanisms), separate budgets are required for the UK and Irish costs. The UK budget should be entered onto the Je-S form and the Ireland budget should be included as an attachment (Non-UK Component, http://research.ie/funding/uk-ireland-collaboration-in-the-digital-humanities-research-grants%e2%80%af/?f=principal-investigator-led).

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 its merit will be assessed by expert evaluators. Travel costs to attend relevant worldwide events (e.g. conferences, top-class workshops) are eligible where the budget is clear.

The following eligibility rules for the UK and Ireland budgets apply:

Eligible costs for the UK budget (AHRC):

- Salary Costs for UK staff, full or part-time, who will work on the project including Post-Doctoral Research Assistants;
- Funds for travel and subsistence by UK staff who work on the project to attend project-related events both in the UK and Ireland;
- Organisation of seminars/conferences/networking events in the UK including budgeting for attendance of an AHRC-IRC awards conference in 2024 (TBC);
- Outreach / engagement events, e.g. public engagement activities, exhibitions, engagement with schools / community groups etc.
- Website management/data costs should be costed to the UK budget;
- Consumables, books, survey fees, purchase/hire of vehicles, or recruitment and advertising costs for staff directly employed on the project can be included under the 'Other Directly Incurred Costs' heading;

- Individual items of equipment up to £10,000 (including VAT) are permissible to be included in the FEC of the proposal and should be included in the 'Directly Incurred – Other' fund heading.
- Associated Indirect and Estates costs;
- Other costs that are essential for the delivery of the project and are eligible according to standard AHRC guidance (see section 3 of the AHRC's Research Funding Guide).

Please note that the AHRC will no longer provide funding in research grants for any publication costs associated with peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers. Publication costs associated with research outputs other than journal articles and conference papers, such as books, monographs, critical editions, catalogues etc. may, however, continue to be included in grants as a Directly Incurred Other Cost. Any request for such costs will of course need to be fully justified in the Case for Support or Justification of Resources attachments.

Please also note that funding for PhD or masters studentships cannot be included. However, involvement of students and early career researchers in research activities and/or related training or capability building activities is encouraged, and appropriate support costs (e.g. travel and subsistence) can be included within proposals.

UK applicants should follow the standard requirements for the Research Grants Scheme as set out in the AHRC Research Funding Guide, with the exceptions outlined in this call document.

Eligible costs for the Ireland budget (IRC):

As specified (in greater detail) in the 'Budget Form for Irish Costs', the following costs are eligible for Irish participants.

- Staff costs (to be based in the same institution as the co-PI)

- Travel costs

- Event organisation (dissemination; consortium meetings.)

- Teaching buy-out

- Materials, equipment & consumables

- Publication costs (except for peer-reviewed journals and conference papers, so as to align with the approach of the AHRC)

- Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange costs (other than events)

- Consultancy

- Access to research infrastructures

Also, overheads will be paid (further details in the Irish Budget form: http://research.ie/funding/uk-ireland-collaboration-in-the-digital-humanities-research-grants%e2%80%af/?f=principal-investigator-led).

VIII. Application Process and Format

The application process and format as published in the AHRC *Research Funding Guide* will apply for this call, apart from the specific requirements outlined in **Section IV Part B** of this document.

The PI in the UK will be responsible for submitting a joint UK-Ireland proposal via the Research Council's Joint Electronic System (Je-S).

Applications should be submitted through the Je-S system by **4pm on Thursday 18th March 2021,** and will need to go through the appropriate institution submission process prior to this.

Je-S submission

You should submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) System (https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/).

To prepare a proposal form in Je-S:

- log-in to your account and choose 'Documents' from the menu;
- then select 'New Document';
- 'AHRC' as the Council,
- 'Standard Proposal' as the Document Type;
- 'Research Grants' as the Scheme;
- 'AHRC UK-Ireland Digital Humanities Research Grants 18 March 2021' as the Call/Type/Mode; and
- 'Create Document'.

Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the Blue Question Marks and the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form.

All Investigators named on the Je-S application form, whether based in the UK or Ireland, must have a Je-S account. Where a named investigator does not already have a Je-S account, one can be easily set up, but please note that the process can take a number of days. It is therefore strongly recommended that the process is started well before the application deadline. Je-S accounts can be created on the Je-S site here. During account set-up, an account type of '**An Applicant on a Standard/Outline Proposal**' must be selected. If you require assistance with the process please contact the Je-S Helpdesk at JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org or +44 (0)1793 44 4164.

Please note that selecting 'Submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC.

Please remember to allow sufficient time for collecting materials from all of the consortium's participants (e.g. CVs, letters of support). Also, please consider your organisation's submission process, allowing time for internal deadlines before the Call closing date.

Please note that no staff costs should be included for the Irish PI/ Co-Is in the Je-S form. In the Investigator section, zero should be entered into the fields which ask for 'Salary Rate' and 'Total number of hours to be charged to the grant over the duration of the grant' for the Irish PI/Co-I. 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. Irish costs (and, if applicable, further in-kind contributions) must be listed in the 'Budget Form for Irish costs', to be uploaded in the 'Non-UK Component' section.

To download a pdf format document of the Je-S application, please follow the instructions below.

Please note that a complete document including all attachments can only be generated once the application has been submitted to AHRC.

- Open the application (you may need to first tick the "Show documents submitted to Council" at the top of the screen)
- Select Document Actions at the top of the screen
- Select Print Document
- Select the option "Download the PDF version including attachments"

Attachments

The following are a list of attachments that are permitted for this call. Please see Section 4 of the AHRC's *Research Funding Guide* for further information about these attachments:

Attachment	Requirement and maximum page limits (sides of A4)
Case for Support	Compulsory. Maximum of 7 sides of A4.
Curriculum Vitae	Compulsory for the PI, each Co-I and any named researchers, both in the UK and Ireland. Maximum of two sides of A4 for each researcher.
Publication Lists	Compulsory for the PI, each Co-I and any named researchers, both in the UK and Ireland. One side of A4 each for each researcher.
Justification of Resources	Compulsory. Maximum of two sides of A4.
Data Management Plan	Compulsory. Maximum of two sides of A4.
Project Partner Letter of Support	Compulsory for any Project Partners within the UK and Ireland consortium. Maximum of two sides of A4.
Non-UK Component (Irish Budget Form; http://research.ie/funding/uk-ireland-collaboration-in-the-digital-humanities-research-grants%e2%80%af/?f=principal-investigator-led)	Compulsory. Maximum of two sides of A4.

Letter of Support	No generic letters of support. Required for outlining contractual eligibility (UK applicants only). Institutional endorsement for the Irish PI and Co-I (where necessary) must be submitted by the Irish PI (all details included in the Irish budget form; http://research.ie/funding/uk-ireland-collaboration-in-the-digital-humanities-research-grants%e2%80%af/?f=principal-investigator-led). Maximum of two sides of A4.
GANTT Chart/Visual Evidence	Optional. Maximum of two sides A4.

All text-based attachments should use an Arial or other standard sans-serif type font no smaller than point 11 and using standard (2cm) margins.

Case for Support attachment (7 sides of A4)

This is the body of your research proposal. You must outline clearly the rationale for the activities, the approach/methods to be taken and the context in which they will operate. For further guidance, applicants should refer to the evaluation criteria (see section V).

The proposal should answer the following questions:

- What is the central research theme of the proposed activity?
- Why is it important that this theme is explored?
- How will the proposed research project generate genuine collaboration between the UK and Ireland with the potential to deliver international best practice in research and innovation?

Please use the following headings to structure your Case for Support:

Research theme to be addressed - the applicant must select one of the themes listed in section IV.

Research questions or problems
You should describe clearly the research questions, issues or problems that you intend to address. What are the issues that you will be exploring in the course of your research?

Research context
You should describe the research context for your project/programme of work. Why is it important that these questions or issues are explored? What other research is being or has been conducted in this area? What contribution will your project make to improving, enhancing, or developing creativity, insights, knowledge or understanding in your chosen area of study? To whom will the outcomes of your research be of particular interest? To what extent do the proposed activities generate fruitful and novel interaction?

Research methods

What research methods will you be using to address the questions or issues that you have set yourself, to solve the problems you have identified, or to explore the matters you intend to investigate? Why have you chosen these methods? Why are they the best way to answer the research questions or problems you have identified? What will your role be? If there are other people involved, what will their roles be and why are they the appropriate people to be involved?

In describing your research methods it is not sufficient to state, for example, that you intend to visit a particular archive, or an exhibition abroad. You must provide adequate details of sources to be consulted, and you should state briefly what kinds of material you will be consulting, why they are relevant to your programme of research, and how you will interrogate them. Depending on the approach you are using throughout your research, you may also need to explain clearly the creative and/or performative aspects of the work, explain how you will develop a new process, product or tool, or provide details of who you have consulted or will be involved in the process of research.

Interdisciplinary & International approaches

You will need to provide a clear explanation of how your research crosses both disciplinary and geographical boundaries, and how this adds value to your research project. How will you aim to take appropriate interdisciplinary approaches within your research project? You should outline the non-academic partners that the research project will engage with, and the value that intersectorality will add to the activities being undertaken.

Project management

How will the project be managed? What will be the roles of the members of staff involved (including the co-PIs and, if applicable, any Co-Investigator(s), and research assistants)? What is the timetable for the project (you can refer to your GANTT chart)? Does it include appropriate milestones/deliverables and is it realistic? When will the outputs of the project be completed? How will you ensure that they meet the needs of your audience? Can the costs be justified? How will you ensure good value for money? How will the complexities of working between the UK and Ireland be accounted for, for example through administrative support in both countries? How will communications be managed and input between partners coordinated?

If a postdoctoral researcher is to be employed, you must state clearly the nature of the work they will be undertaking and describe clearly the working relationships that are envisaged between all the members of the research team. You should describe fully the arrangements for supervising and managing the research assistant. If the researcher is unknown you should state the skills and qualifications sought. Similarly, if the project envisages members of the UK and Irish team visiting and/or being seconded at each others premises, you must state clearly what work they will pursue and describe the working relationships envisaged with other members of the team.

In terms of supporting the research staff funded on the project, you should clearly outline the professional development opportunities which the project will make available.

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 contingency plans are embedded in their plans.

Key partners or participants
You should identify the specific partner organisations or participants, both in the UK and Ireland, who will be central to the success of the project, along with their expertise and availability. Will the project include early-career researchers? If applicable, how does their inclusion meet the objectives of the research project? You should outline the non-academic partners that the project will engage with, and the value that they will add to the activities being undertaken. If applicable, you should spell out how the grant will be complemented by additional resources (either in-cash or in-kind).

For further guideline on eligibility criteria of UK and Irish partners, please refer to the sub-section: "Project Partner Letters of Support"

Impact, Dissemination and Communication
Please provide examples of the kinds of outputs and outcomes you propose to generate during the award and their proposed focus.

Please explain further how the research will be communicated to, and benefit, other researchers, cultural institutions and other relevant organisations, and how it will feed into future research and development activities between the UK and Ireland. How do you propose to maximise the value of the proposed research outputs? To which non-expert audiences (in both countries) will the activities and their outcomes be of interest and value? How will they be targeted?

For instance, applicants could consider mentioning the following sample research outputs (non-exhaustive list):

- Panel discussion;
- Seminar;
- Workshop;
- Conference presentation;
- Publication in academic journal;
- Public engagement and outreach activities;
- Publication in public policy document.

Considering the consortium-based nature of the programme, joint activities (involving both the UK and Irish team) are particularly welcome.

Under this heading, if relevant, you should also outline how you will address any copyright or intellectual property issues relating to the project and the production of any outputs.

Sustainability
You should identify how the research project activities will be sustainable, both in terms of activity outputs and the membership of the consortium. How will the consortium's participants keep cooperating beyond the lifetime of the project? Are any follow-up activities planned by the consortium for after the project has concluded? How will you ensure the sustainability of activity outputs (e.g. websites, social media) beyond the lifetime of the project?

This section should include the management of the digital and data management aspects of the projects, and should be coordinated with the information in the Data Management Plan. It should be clear what the milestones are for the completion of this element, and the work should be incorporated into the timetable for the whole project. The project management of the data management aspects of the project should include an assessment of risk in relation to the complexity and delivery of the project.

Justification of Resources attachment (2 sides of A4)

This statement should be used to justify the resources required to undertake the project. It should cover the **UK costs only.** The justification for Irish costs should be included in the Non-UK Component attachment (Irish Budget Form; http://research.ie/funding/uk-ireland-collaboration-in-the-digital-humanities-research-grants%e2%80%af/?f=principal-investigator-led).

Within the Justification of Resources document, you should:
- Explain why the indicated resources are needed, taking account of the nature and complexity of the research proposed. Please note that it is not sufficient merely to list what is required.
- Have regard for the breakdown of resources into the summary fund headings: Directly Incurred, Directly Allocated and (where appropriate) Exceptions.
- In the following cases, the basis of the costing need not be justified, but the need for the resources does need justification:
  - Investigator Time
  - Use of Internal Facilities
  - Shared Staff Costs
- Please attempt to be explicit about the need for the level of investigator time sought.
- Please do not justify estates and indirect costs.

Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 sides of A4 each)

A summary curriculum vitae should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator or named postdoctoral researchers, both UK and Irish. CVs should include basic information about education, employment history, and academic responsibilities.

Publication List (max. 1 side of A4 each)

Summary lists of publications/research outputs should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator. These should cover major peer-reviewed publications/outputs in the last five years. Brief articles, conference papers, etc. need not be included. You should asterisk those publications of particular relevance to your current research proposal and provide a short explanation for this (maximum two lines for each relevant publication).

Data Management (2 sides of A4)

All proposals should outline the Data Management processes and practices which are to be adopted for the project, including the handling of personal data (even if it is the case where the consortium does not expect to *generate* data as an output). Improving the management and handling of research data is a priority both for AHRC and IRC. Please consider current legislation, existing standards and data repositories or archives in your disciplines, and in UK / Irish national and international contexts where appropriate (including all data sharing implications).

Applicants should address the below points:

Generating Data
- Briefly introduce the types of data the research will create. Why did you decide to use these data types?
- How will different approaches to IP, copyright etc. in the UK and Ireland be accounted for?
- Give details on the proposed methodologies that will be used to create the data. Advise how the project team selected will be suitable for the data/digital aspects of the work, including details of how the institution's data support teams may need to support the project.
- Will the data need to be updated? Include future plans for updating if this is the case.

Storing Data
- How will the data be stored in the short term?
- What backup will you have in the in-project period to ensure no data is lost?
- How will the data be stored in the long term?
- Where have you decided to store it, why is this appropriate?
- How long will it be stored for and why? Will that be compliant with the relevant legislation?
- Costs of storage – why are these appropriate? Costs related to long term storage will be permitted providing these are fully justified and relate to the project. Full justification must be provided in Justification of Resources (JoR).

Sharing Data
- How the data will be shared and the value it will have to others.
- How the data will enhance the research area and how it could be used in the future.
- All implications relevant to international data sharing (UK/Ireland and if applicable, provisions relevant to international co-investigators).
- Releasing the data – advise when you will be releasing the data, and justify if not releasing it, in line with AHRC guidelines of a minimum of three years. If the data will have value to different audiences, how will these groups will be informed?

Project Partner Letters of Support (max. 2 sides of A4)
You should include letters of support from all organisations entered on the Je-S form as 'Project Partners'. A Project Partner, if included on the UK justification of resources , is an organisation which contributes in-cash or in-kind to the project.

As clearly stated in section VI with reference to Irish project partners: "*There are no restrictions on the eligibility of non-academic partners (museums, cultural institutions, private companies, NGOs). Should they not be Irish-based, the rationale behind their inclusion must be clearly justified"*. Should Irish partners be able to provide some form of in-kind contribution, they are expected to include it in the Irish budget form (in the dedicated table) and mention it in the letter of support. Please refer to the Irish budget form (http://research.ie/funding/uk-ireland-collaboration-in-the-digital-humanities-research-grants%e2%80%af/?f=principal-investigator-led) for further guidance.

Visual evidence (max. 2 sides of A4)

Applications may include no more than two sides of A4 non-textual, visual evidence in support of the proposal, to illustrate the proposed aims and objectives and/or research methods. A GANTT

chart/timeline can be included here. It is not permitted to include this material to supplement or replace your CV or publications list or to illustrate previous work in any way, nor should it be used to circumvent the page limit for the case for support.

Irish budget form

Irish applicants are required to fill out the 'Irish Budget form' (http://research.ie/funding/uk-ireland-collaboration-in-the-digital-humanities-research-grants%e2%80%af/?f=principal-investigator-led   ), clearly indicating the requested resources (broken down by year) and the in-kind contribution (e.g. PIs time, use of venues) provided by the PI, Co-Is and project partners (if applicable).

More information about the requirements of the attachments and submission process can be found in the AHRC [Research Funding Guide.](#)

IX.   Assessment Process

Following the deadline for submission, all proposals will be checked for eligibility. After the deadline for submissions, PIs will be informed of any outstanding return for amendment requirements. Proposals will be returned in limited circumstances such as:

- The absence of attachments such as CVs, publication lists and letters of support;
- Required clarifications concerning budget costs and the justification of resources.

Five working days will be given for the return for amendment process. More information about this process will be provided at the relevant stage of the call.

Eligible proposals will be reviewed by AHRC and IRC nominated peer-reviewers and there will a Principal Investigator response stage. The UK Principal Investigator will be contacted once the reviews have been obtained.

The Principal Investigator response allows applicants 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 re-constitute a proposal in the light of the reviewers' comments.

The PI Response should be submitted by the UK Principal Investigator in consultation with the Irish Principal Investigator. All PI Responses should be submitted through Je-S; please see the Je-S System Help - Peer Review (Applicant Response) for further information. The PI response for this call , must be no more than three pages of A4, in Arial or other standard san-serif type font, no smaller than size 11. Normal margin sizes of 2cm must be used.

A joint moderating panel will take place where the eligible proposals will be graded and ranked. The panel will be comprised of members of the AHRC's Peer Review College and academic reviewers nominated by the Irish Research Council. The panel will moderate the reviewers' scores for each proposal, agree a ranked priority list of applications and make funding recommendations to the AHRC and the IRC.

It is expected that 4-6 awards will be made under this call, with the aim of having a balanced portfolio of awards across the thematic areas, (subject to proposals meeting the criteria and quality standards detailed above).

X.   Call timetable

Activity	Date
Call opens	Friday 8th January 2021
Deadline for submissions	Thursday 18th March 2021
PI response	April/May 2021
Assessment Panel meeting date	w/c 14th June 2021
Funding decisions to be issued	Early July 2021
Formal Start date of awards	1st August 2021

XI.   Scheme Requirements and Post-Award Reporting

UK PI requirements

Research Grants scheme requirements and post-award reporting as stated in the AHRC *Research Funding Guide* will apply to this call.

Award holders will be required to submit outputs, outcomes and impacts that arise from AHRC's funding through the Researchfish system. Information can be added to Researchfish at any point once the award has started, but award holders will also be required to 'submit' this information to AHRC at one 'Submission Period' each year. Award holders will receive an email with log-in details shortly after their award has started. More details on Researchfish are available on the UKRI website here: https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/research-outcomes1/. While the UK partners will lead on the process, all consortium members are expected to give input to, and be timely informed about, the process. The UK PI can download the outcomes data from their researchfish® record. They can do this by going to the 'Personal Portfolio' section in the researchfish® website and clicking 'Download Personal Portfolio'.

Irish PI requirements

In the spirit of the consortium-based nature of this call, the IRC and AHRC have converged to similar reporting requirements. The Irish PI will be asked to submit annual progress reports to the IRC, following the same calendar as the UK PI. The reporting templates, to be circulated at post-award stage, will be based on the ResearchFish structure.

Contact Information

For queries about this call, such as eligible activities and costs or remit of the call:

UK applicants should contact AHRC at fic@ahrc.ukri.org

Irish applicants should contact the IRC at digital.humanities@research.ie

For queries on using Je-S such as creating and submitting the application form or Je-S account creation, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org (available 08:30 – 17:00pm Monday – Thursday and 08:30 -16:30pm on Fridays).