

Collaborative Funding Opportunity: The AHRC-NSF/SBE Memorandum of Understanding

In September 2006, the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK and the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) of the US National Science Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the peer-review and parallel funding of UK-US collaborative research in areas at the intersection of the two agencies' missions. As the missions of the AHRC and SBE overlap but are not congruent, interested parties should consult the websites of the two (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx> and <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=SBE>) for a sense of the themes of relevant core programs. Collaborations may include scientific work in fields such as Political Science, Sociology of Religion, Linguistics, Cultural Anthropology, Archaeology and Geography as well as Science and Technology Studies or Ethics and Values in Science.

In order to achieve more efficient and better coordinated evaluation of collaborative research proposals, one agency will lead on the peer review process. In this instance, NSF peer review processes will be used to assess collaborative proposals under this scheme. AHRC will nominate one UK-based reviewer for each proposal, whose input will be formally incorporated into the peer review process. Should you have any questions, please contact [Pippa Craggs](#), International Development Officer, or [Dr. Mark Weiss](#), Division Director, Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences.

Guidance on Collaborative Research Opportunities with the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK (AHRC)

1. Applicants from the UK and the US must satisfy their respective agency's eligibility criteria. In order to ensure that proposed research is appropriate to both agencies, applicants should first contact their respective funding agency with a 1-1.5 page "AHRC-NSF MOU Letter of Intent." This should be a joint document from both the US and the UK researchers and should provide a clear statement of the project they wish to undertake and identify the key research personnel participating in the project. The US-based principal investigator (PI) should send the statement to Mark Weiss. He will then discuss appropriateness of the topic with relevant program officers and respond. The UK-based PI should transmit the same document to Pippa Craggs. This Letter of Intent must be submitted at least six weeks in advance of the relevant target date or deadline. (Note that some NSF programs have flexible target dates for submission while others have firm deadlines. Further information for specific programs is available on the web or by inquiry.) Having received clearance from their respective agencies, the applicants should then decide on a particular NSF program for submission and prepare a single proposal to be submitted to the NSF conforming to the relevant program's target date or deadline.
2. The proposal must be submitted by the US PI through NSF's FastLane system at <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp>. The proposal should be clearly identified as a collaborative proposal under the AHRC/NSF Memorandum of Understanding by indicating this in the project title field. The text "AHRC-NSF MOU:" should precede the project title.
3. The costs of the UK and US partners need to be clearly differentiated in the proposal. AHRC will fund 80% of Full Economic Costs (FEC), up to a limit of £1M FEC. **The UK partner must submit a full breakdown of the UK costs associated with the project.** A standard AHRC budget form - indicating the financial costs associated with the UK component of the project - is available from Pippa Craggs. The US partner's request must conform to the budgetary guidelines described in NSF's Grant Proposal Guide at:

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg and to any additional requirements as stipulated by the program to which the application is submitted.

4. In all other respects the information in the proposal should relate to the entire project (both UK and US components).
5. The AHRC budget form should be forwarded to the US partner in advance of the US submission. The US partner **must** include this AHRC form as one of the supplementary documents submitted with the NSF proposal. The US partner must also explain how the two budgets are linked in the Budget Justification section of the NSF proposal.
6. The proposal should be submitted directly to the NSF by the US principal investigator (PI) by the US target date or deadline. Once that proposal has been received by the NSF, the US PI must create a PDF copy of the proposal using the NSF web-based system (FastLane). This copy of the proposal should be sent to the UK partner.
7. The UK partner must forward this PDF copy of the proposal directly to Pippa Craggs **within 48 hours of the deadlines outlined above**.
8. To ensure that the funding agencies properly identify joint UK-US proposals, an email with the relevant proposal numbers should be sent by the applicant to Mark Weiss or his designee noting that these are submitted under the AHRC-NSF Memorandum of Understanding.
9. The financial limits for the NSF grants are unaffected by the amount of funding sought by the UK partner.
10. If recommended for funding, the US component of the project and the UK component of the project will be supported by NSF and AHRC respectively. Grantees from the UK and US will be subject to the respective agency's conditions of awards and the parameters agreed in the AHRC-NSF Memorandum of Understanding.
11. US-based applicants need to obtain IRB approval if the research involves human subjects (please see <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/human.jsp>). If the research conducted by the UK partner involves human subjects, then the UK partner must obtain equivalent approval. An example is compliance with guidelines consistent with the World Medical Assembly Declaration (Declaration of Helsinki amended 1989) or by an organization whose function for the protection of human research subjects is internationally recognized.