

AHRC-FAPESP Collaborative Funding Guidelines

Transnational teams (UK and São Paulo-based researchers) are invited to apply directly to the AHRC under the Research Grants Scheme. AHRC are now accepting proposals under this initiative.

The group of scholars should prepare a single application which must be submitted electronically by the UK-based Principal Investigator's Research Organisation to the AHRC Research Grant scheme via the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) System. If you need any assistance to use the system, please contact the JE-S helpdesk on 01793 444164 or on JesHelp@rcuk.ac.uk.

The [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#) provides an overview of the Research Grants scheme. It details the eligibility criteria, information on how to apply and terms and conditions of awards. In addition to the guidance outlined in the Funding Guide, the following guidelines apply:

Eligibility for UK-based element of project

Investigator

UK: The UK Principal Investigator must meet the AHRC's current eligibility criteria for standard AHRC Research Grant proposals. Please consult the *AHRC's Research Funding Guide* for further information on eligibility.

Brazil: Please note, only researchers formally associated to institutions within the São Paulo state are eligible to act as a Brazilian researcher under this initiative. For details of institutions supported by FAPESP, please contact FAPESP.

Brazilian researchers contracted to institutions outside of the state of São Paulo are not eligible under this scheme.

Co-Investigators are permitted under this initiative. Please note, it is expected that the UK and Brazilian side of the project should demonstrate fair balance.

Research Assistants

Research Assistants employed by the UK organisation need to meet the AHRC's threshold of being of postdoctoral standing (either having a PhD or equivalent research experience).

Project studentships

UK: Funding may be sought for one or two full-time (three years) PhD project studentships whose work will contribute to the project as a whole. PhD Project Students must be supervised by a Principal Investigator named on the proposal. The supervisor must be based at the HEI where the project student is registered.

The studentship must fall completely within the duration of the project. Funding cannot be sought to complete a PhD which has already started or will start prior to the start date of the Research Grant project.

Each studentship must provide added value to the project, but also allow the student sufficient independence to make their own original contribution to scholarship. The project should be a viable project without the contribution of the project student (i.e. it cannot be using the PhD student as a de facto research assistant), but the student(s) should benefit from working within the structure of the project as a whole. Project studentships may, on the advice of reviewers, be removed from a project before funding is confirmed.

In order to be eligible, the student must meet certain conditions relating to residency and academic qualifications. Please refer to the *AHRC Postgraduate Studentships: Guide to Student Eligibility* for detailed information.

You should contact the AHRC if you are unsure about your eligibility.

Brazil: FAPESP encourages requests for PhD project studentships within the project framework. For more information, please contact FAPESP.

How to apply

Once the applicants have decided that the AHRC is the most appropriate UK Research Council, a single integrated project proposal should be submitted according to the procedures and processes used in applying to the AHRC's Research Grants scheme. The group of scholars should prepare a single application which must be submitted electronically by the UK-based Principal Investigator's Research Organisation to the AHRC Research Grant scheme via the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) System.

To prepare a proposal form in Je-S, log-in to your account and choose '**New Document**', then select **AHRC** as the Council, **Standard Proposal** as the Document Type, **Research Grants - Standard** as the Scheme then select **Research Grants Sao Paulo Research Foundation FAPESP (Open Call)** as the Call/Type/Mode and then 'Create Document'. Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form.

Applicants do not need to apply additional to FAPESP.

Case for Support and Justification of Resources

The case for support and justification of resources should outline all elements of the project and provide justification of all resources that are requested.

Proposal Language

Applications should be written in English.

How to identify the proposal is submitted under this scheme

Each application should be identified clearly as a collaborative proposal under the AHRC/FAPESP bilateral scheme by indicating this in the project title field. The text "**AHRC-FAPESP MoU**" should precede the project title.

How to identify the details of the Brazilian researcher involved

The applicant will need to complete Brazilian details in the "project partner" section of the form. Under Name of Partner Organisation, please state the name of the Brazilian Institution. Under Name of Contact, please indicate the Brazilian researcher's details.

Costing

AHRC will accept proposals with a total full economic cost (fEC) of between £20,000 and £1,000,000 for the UK component of the project. If the application is successful, the AHRC will contribute 80% of these costs. FAPESP will accept proposals of up to the Brazilian equivalent of £1,000,000 for the Brazilian component of the project; bringing the total of the whole proposal up to an equivalent maximum of £2,000,000. Please note, only the UK component is costed under fEC.

The UK applicant must detail the UK component (the costs being incurred by the UK Research Organisations) of the costs according to AHRC financial guidelines on the appropriate section of the form.

The applicant must submit the Brazilian breakdown of costs as an attachment to the application. The Brazilian breakdown of costs (the costs being incurred by the Brazilian/São Paulo organisations) must be attached to the application using the attachment type: Non-UK Components. The following FAPESP budget template must be used in this section: [FAPESP consolidated budget form](#).

Applicants must also attach a summary of the proposal for FAPESP purposes. This document must also be attached to the application using the attachment type: Non-UK component. The following FAPESP Proposal Form must be used: [FAPESP Proposal Form](#).

In addition the UK applicant must attach a Letter of Support from the Brazilian institution agreeing to the Brazilian partner's involvement. The document must be attached to the application using the attachment type: Project Partner's Letter of Support.

Duration

Projects can be up to a maximum of 60 months.

Closing Date

This scheme operates to open deadlines.

How the application is assessed

In line with current AHRC practices, the assessment of application is a two-stage process: a written peer review followed by moderating panel.

All applications submitted to the AHRC will be assessed by peer reviewers selected by AHRC. In addition, for each application, FAPESP will nominate at least one peer reviewer to provide a written assessment. Peer reviewers will use the criteria and procedures applicable to AHRC. These comments will be formally incorporated in the AHRC's peer review processes. For the second stage, applications will be sent to an AHRC peer review moderating panel. The peer review moderating panel will determine a final grade for each application and will rank proposals in order of priority for funding. The panel will consider only the expert peer reviews, technical review (where applicable) and the PI's response to these reviews to reach its decision. Final funding decisions for UK-Brazilian applications will rest with the AHRC and FAPESP.

Applicants should be aware that this will require that applications are processed by both AHRC and FAPESP officers. Applicants should provide written consent to the joint processing of the applications by AHRC and FAPESP at the end of the Case for Support under the heading of "Consent to Joint Processing".

For enquiries concerning the AHRC implementation of this Agreement please contact:
Julie Warrington: J.Warrington@ahrc.ac.uk