

**Details of the call for proposals to the
Beyond Text: Performances, Sounds, Images,
Objects Programme
for Large Research Grants**

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Version 1.0



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

Introduction

The Arts and Humanities Research Council invites proposals for Large Research Grants under the Beyond Text Programme. This document must be read in conjunction with the *AHRC Funding Guide version 1.1* (not subsequent versions) which provides an overview of the Research Grants scheme – standard route. If you need a copy of version 1.1 of the Funding Guide after mid-December 2007, please contact the AHRC office. The Funding Guide details the eligibility criteria, review criteria, information on how to apply, eligible dates and terms and conditions of awards. You should also ensure that you have read the *Beyond Text Programme Specification* document before submitting a proposal.

Number and Value

Funding is available for about nine Large Research Grant projects (depending on the value), each at a maximum full economic cost of £600,000 and for a maximum duration of 3 years. Grants may propose a single studentship in association with the project.

Background

The ideas informing the development of the Beyond Text programme were submitted in response to the AHRC's 2005 consultation regarding its strategic areas. The programme recognises that today's digital culture means that communication is more rapid and often more transitory than ever before; performances, sounds, images and objects circulate swiftly on a global scale only to be replaced by even newer versions. Who controls and manages this material and its dissemination is now a key political, economic and legal question. Yet these are not new problems but ones with long historical roots. Beyond Text will create a collaborative, multi-disciplinary research community to work with those outside Higher Education on these issues. The programme will help inform and inflect public policy and foster public understanding of the many oral/aural, material and visual forms in which creativity has been generated and used. Finally, in bringing together those who create works and those who preserve, display and study them, the programme will break down traditional boundaries between practice-led or practice-based research and other forms of investigation. The £5.5 million programme will run for 5 years until May 2012.

Several different schemes are being initiated to fund large and small scale research projects, workshops and networks and collaborative research studentships. Interdisciplinary engagement and collaborations with partners in the public sector, the cultural sector and the wider community are encouraged, as is the imaginative dissemination of the research. It is in this context that proposals for Large Research Grants are invited under the Beyond Text Programme.

The following exceptions/amendments apply and refer to paragraphs in the AHRC Funding Guide 2007/08. Please note that the closing dates listed on page to do not apply to this programme. Proposal closing dates for the Beyond Text programme are listed below.

How to apply?

In order to apply for the Beyond Text Large Research Grants scheme, you must submit your proposal electronically through the [Je-S system](#).

To prepare your proposal in Je-S choose 'Add New Document', then specify Council: AHRC, Document Type: Outline Proposal, Scheme: AHRC Outline, and 'Create Document'. Je-S will then create an Outline proposal, displaying appropriate section headings. Using 'Help' at any point accesses helptext within the Je-S system which provides context-specific guidance on how to complete the Je-S form.

Once complete, you should upload a Case for Support and other supporting information as attachments, and submit your proposal. Je-S will forward your proposal to your Research Organisation, who in turn will submit your proposal to AHRC. Please ensure you allow sufficient time prior to AHRC deadlines for your Research Organisation to be able to do this (note that some Research Organisations will have their own internal deadlines).

You should also ensure that you meet all of the eligibility criteria outlined in Section B: Applicant Eligibility and Commitment of the *AHRC Funding Guide*, (paragraphs 51 to 59). In order to apply your organisation must be eligible to the AHRC. The route for early career researchers does not apply to this programme, therefore paragraphs 61 – 62 are not applicable.

Aims of the Beyond Text Large Research Grants Scheme

The aims of the Research Grants scheme – standard route, paragraphs 18 – 22 do not apply for this competition. The aims of the Beyond Text Large Research Grants scheme are:

- to support well-defined research projects of the highest quality and standards that will lead to significant advances in creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding, of interest and value both in the research community and in wider contexts where they can make a difference
- to enable arts and humanities researchers to pursue, and to bring to completion in due time, collaborative research projects of the highest quality that demand the resources of more than a single scholar, (please note that the AHRC would not consider a project that only involved a Principal Investigator and a PhD Project Student to meet this criteria), and to enhance collaboration between researchers.
- to enable arts and humanities researchers to establish or enhance effective working relationships with fellow researchers - both within and beyond the arts and humanities and within and beyond the UK - practitioners and the wide range of individuals and organisations who may benefit from their research
- to provide opportunities for less experienced researchers to develop their expertise and their careers by working collaboratively with senior researchers on well-defined projects and by leading projects themselves
- to maximise the value of research outcomes by promoting their dissemination and, where appropriate, to facilitate the knowledge transfer of those outcomes, both to the research community and to other contexts where they will make a difference.
- to support Large Research Grants that address the aims and themes of the Beyond Text programme (see *Programme Specification* document, pages 2-4 and the annex)

The AHRC will make awards only where the proposed research meets the aims of the scheme and is considered to be of high quality. Large Research Grants awards are not intended to support individual scholarship.

Large Research Grants awards are intended to enable individual researchers to collaborate with, and bring benefits to, other individuals and organisations through the conduct of research. This collaboration may involve a Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator(s), a Principal Investigator and Research Assistant(s) or a Principal Investigator, Co-investigator and Research Assistants(s) and may involve a single institution or a combination of institutions. The collaboration may also involve people from different research areas, both between disciplines within the arts and humanities, or between an arts and humanities discipline and another subject area. It may involve researchers collaborating with researchers overseas or with colleagues within other sectors.

The collaboration proposed should be appropriate and necessary to the specific needs of the research project.

Paragraph 17 of the *AHRC Funding Guide* does not apply to this competition. Please see the guidance for **Number and Value** above.

Paragraph 22 of the *AHRC Funding Guide* does not apply to this competition. Please see the guidance for funding available under this programme above.

Specific route for early career researchers / route for speculative research, and a route for practice-led and applied research: Please note that these specific routes **do not apply** under the Beyond Text Large Research Grants scheme. You should therefore disregard paragraphs 14-16 and 23-37 in addition to paragraphs 18-22.

Justification of Resources

This attachment is **NOT** required at outline proposal stage, therefore paragraphs 110 – 112 should be disregarded.

Scheme Limits

Paragraph 113 does not apply for this competition. Proposals will be accepted under the Beyond Text Large Research Grants scheme with a minimum full economic cost of £100,000 up to a total full economic cost of £600,000, to which the AHRC will make an 80% contribution if the proposal is successful. If you choose to have a studentship attached to your project, the Research Councils will fund this in full (i.e. at 100%). Please note that the cost of the studentship will need to be included in the £600,000 scheme limit.

Preparing a proposal (for outline stage only)

The competition for the Beyond Text Large Research Grants scheme will be conducted in two stages: an outline stage, followed by a second stage where selected outline bids will be invited to submit a full proposal.

You should complete the appropriate Outline proposal and submit this along with a Case for Support and relevant appendices and they should be submitted electronically via the Je-S system, see **How to apply** above and Guidance in Section E of the *AHRC Funding Guide* concerning electronic submission.

When preparing a proposal you should consider the following:

- Proposals are encouraged from less established as well as established senior scholars, and from those wishing to undertake small scale innovative or shorter projects as well as large scale and more costly ones.
- In addition to assessing the quality of the proposed research, the commissioning panel will consider the spread of proposals across research themes and the programme aims and objectives when determining the number and range of outline bids that will be invited to proceed to full proposal stage.
- It is expected that a substantial number of outline proposals will not be invited to proceed to full proposal stage.

PhD Project Studentships (Guidance on costs for project studentships can be found at Annex B of the Funding Guide)

Paragraphs 167 – 168 differ for the Beyond Text Large Research Grants Scheme.

Paragraph 167 for this competition should read: Funding may be sought for **one full-time** (three year) PhD project studentship whose work will contribute to the Beyond Text Large Research Grants project as a whole.

Paragraph 168 for this competition should read: The period of the studentship must fall completely within the duration of the Beyond Text Large Research Grants project. Therefore, PhD studentships are only eligible if the proposal is seeking the maximum of three years funding.

Nominated Reviewer

Paragraphs 146 – 155 do not apply to the outline proposal stage. Nominated reviewer(s) are required only at the full proposal stage.

Technical Appendix

Paragraphs 162 – 166 do not apply to the outline proposal stage. The option of completing a technical appendix (if appropriate) is offered only at the full proposal stage.

Panels

When reading paragraphs 143-145 you should note that you are not required to indicate subject panels under this scheme.

Research Themes

This section of the form should be used to indicate a maximum of two research themes that best describe your research area and the project's fit to the Beyond Text programme specification. The research themes are as follows, a detailed outline of these themes can be found in the Annex to the Programme Specification document ([http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/beyond text](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/beyond_text)):

1. Making and Unmaking
2. Performance, Improvisation and Embodied Knowledge
3. Technology, Innovation and Tradition
4. Mediations
5. Transmission and Memory

AHRC Classification

You must select at least one and may select up to three of the available options to describe the subject area of your research proposal. Subjects are grouped under subject headings. A full list of subject areas is available in the *AHRC Funding Guide* (Appendix 5). Between 1 and 6 free-text Keywords may also be entered.

Proposal deadlines

Paragraphs 184-186 do not apply for this competition. Unlike the Research Grants responsive-mode scheme there is one deadline only by which outline proposals may be submitted to the Beyond Text Large Research Grants scheme.

In addition to the content of paragraph 181, the earliest permissible start date for all successful projects will be **1 January 2009**. Please note that awards must finish no later than **31 December 2011**. For proposals for projects that are less than 3 years duration, the guidance in paragraph 182 should be followed.

Outline proposals for this call must be submitted to the Council electronically by the Research Organisation via the Je-S system by **4pm on 14 February 2008**. Proposals submitted after the above deadline will not be accepted by the AHRC.

For those applicants who are invited to proceed to the second stage of the competition, the full proposals must be submitted electronically via the Je-S system by **4pm on 26 June 2008**.

(See **Award Announcements** below for outcome dates. Details of dates for the full proposal stage, are attached for information at Annex A of this document).

Review Criteria

Outline proposals will be reviewed according to the aims of the general Research Grants scheme – standard route (see paragraphs 192 and 193 in the *AHRC Funding Guide*). With reference to bullet point five of paragraph 193: at outline stage you are only asked to provide a brief timetable to allow the feasibility of the project within the proposed timescale to be considered: a more detailed timetable incorporating milestones will be requested at full proposal stage.

In addition, the following review criteria will apply

- the extent to which the proposal demonstrates a fit to the aims and themes of the Beyond Text programme

Paragraph 194 does not apply as the speculative route will not be separately offered under the Beyond Text Large Research Grants scheme.

Review Process

The review process outlined at paragraphs 200 to 213 is not applicable for outline proposals to the Beyond Text Research Large Grants Scheme.

The review process for the first stage of the competition (consideration of outline proposals) will be as follows:

- Outline proposals that meet the eligibility criteria will be reviewed by a specially convened Beyond Text Commissioning Panel
- Those applicants whose proposals are deemed suitable for further development will be invited to submit a comprehensive full proposal which will set out, in more detail, the programme of research, and the expected outcomes of the work, its potential impact and more detailed costs. Those invited to submit full proposals will need to spend considerable time on developing full proposals between May and June 2008. Applicants should bear this in mind when considering making a proposal.

Paragraphs 200 to 209 will be applicable for full stage proposals only. More information regarding the Nominated Reviewer(s), Principal Investigator Response, peer review process and technical review will be made available to those invited to submit a full stage proposal.

As there is a specially convened Beyond Text Commissioning Panel, paragraphs 210 - 213 and 221 about selecting panels do not apply to this competition.

Grading Scale

As this is an outline stage, proposals will be graded 'not shortlisted' or 'shortlisted'; hence paragraphs 217 – 220 and 222 do not apply.

Award Announcements

Paragraphs 224 – 227 are not applicable for the outline stage of the competition.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their outline proposal in early May 2008.

If you are **successful** at the outline proposal stage, you will receive a letter inviting you to proceed to the second stage of the competition, which is to submit a full proposal by the closing date of 26 June 2008. You may also receive brief feedback from the Commissioning Panel if there are any issues it would like you to consider prior to submitting a full proposal.

If you are **unsuccessful** at the outline proposal stage, you will receive a letter advising you that you have not been invited to proceed to the full proposal stage. Unsuccessful applicants to the outline proposal of the competition will not receive written feedback. AHRC staff are unable to provide further information on why your outline proposal was unsuccessful. If you are unsuccessful you may wish to consider submitting your proposal to the Council's responsive mode schemes, subject to meeting the scheme aims and eligibility criteria. You should note, however, that this would be in open competition, and there can be no guarantee of success.

Resubmission

Paragraphs 228 – 237 do not apply for this competition. Due to the nature of the call for proposals to the Beyond Text programme, there will not be an opportunity for applicants to resubmit proposals.

Preparing a proposal (full proposal stage only)

For those applicants who are invited to proceed to the second stage of the competition, the full proposal form will be available on the Je-S system in May 2008. Details on completing the full proposal form will be available as a separate document from our website in April 2008, for those applicants that are invited to submit a full proposal. At the full proposal stage,

applicants will be required to provide a detailed breakdown of the costings and a more detailed Case for Support (maximum of 3000 words).

Attachments

Case for Support

Please note that this guidance supersedes Appendix 1 of the Research Funding Guide and this guidance is to be used wherever the two differ.

Your outline proposal form must be accompanied by a **Case for Support**. It is extremely important that this includes the information described below and that you format the document as requested.

If your Case for Support exceeds the word limit of **1200 words** your proposal will be deemed ineligible for support. If you choose to include footnotes or a bibliography (you are not required to do so) these must be included within the word limit.

Within this word limit you should aim to make the Case for Support as concise, specific and clear as possible. Failure to provide adequate detail on any aspects may seriously prejudice your proposal. In short, you are advised to focus your proposal and to provide sufficient evidence to enable members of the Commissioning Panel to reach a considered judgment as to the quality of your proposal, its significance, its feasibility and value for money. If you are invited to proceed to full proposal stage then you will be given the opportunity to provide further details.

You should briefly describe your proposed project/programme of research using the headings below. The guidance below details what information should be included under each heading.

Headings to be used:

Fit to Beyond Text Programme

You should ensure that it is clear to the reader how your proposed research fits with the **aims and themes** of the Beyond Text programme (see pages 2-4 and the annex of the Programme Specification).

Aims and Objectives

You should describe clearly the main **aims and objectives** of the proposed research programme. What specific targets or outcomes will you have achieved by the end of the research project?

Research Questions

You should give a brief, clear description of the **research questions** that you intend to address through the project. What are the issues that you will be exploring in the course of your research?

Research Context

You should briefly 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 which audiences will the outcomes of your research be of particular interest?

Research Methods

You should briefly describe the **research methods** you will be using to address the questions that you have set yourself, or the matters that you intend to investigate. Why have you chosen this approach and why is this the best way to answer the research questions you have set? Will the research innovate or advance methods and techniques? What will be your role? If there are other people involved, what will their roles be and why are they the appropriate people to be involved?

Outputs and Dissemination

What are the plans for publication or other public output? Please provide examples of the kinds of outputs you propose to produce during the programme of research and their proposed focus. You should give an indication of the intended audiences for your research outputs and how you envisage presenting and disseminating those outcomes to them. You should indicate any likely impact on policy and practice.

Timetable

You should provide a brief timetable, to show the feasibility of the project within the proposed timescale.

Summary curricula vitae

A summary curriculum vitae should be attached for the Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators, named postdoctoral researchers or named project students. These should be no more than two sides of A4 paper and in a font no smaller than size 10.

Publications lists

A publication/research output list should be attached for the Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators or named postdoctoral researchers. These should be no more than one side of A4 paper and in a font no smaller than size 10.

Justification of Resources

This attachment is **NOT** required at outline proposal stage.

Visual Evidence

Proposals may include up to two sides of A4 of non-textual, visual evidence in support of the proposal to illustrate the proposed aims and objectives and/or research methods. It is not permitted to include this material to supplement or replace your curriculum vitae or publications list or to illustrate previous work in any way.

Technical Appendix

This attachment is **NOT** required at outline proposal stage.

Project Studentships (Appendix 4 of the Research Funding Guide)

Please note that part-time studentships are not eligible under the Beyond Text programme.

Contacting Us

Enquiries about the scholarly content of the Beyond Text programme, its aims and themes, should be directed to Evelyn Welch at the contact address below:

Beyond Text Programme Director

Professor Evelyn Welch

Email: E.Welch@qmul.ac.uk

Tel: 020 7882 7486

Enquiries about the proposal procedures, competitions and timetables, proposal forms and proposal process should be directed to one of the AHRC officers as detailed below:

Research Awards Officers

Patrick Lansley e-mail: p.lansley@ahrc.ac.uk Tel: 0117 987 6663

Julie Warrington e-mail: j.warrington@ahrc.ac.uk Tel: 0117 987 6677

Dylan Law e-mail: d.law@ahrc.ac.uk Tel: 0117 987 6682

Katie Baldock e-mail: k.baldock@ahrc.ac.uk Tel: 0117 987 6578

Senior Awards Officer

Katherine Barkwith e-mail: k.barkwith@ahrc.ac.uk Tel: 0117 987 6679

Programme Manager

Anne Sofield e-mail: a.sofield@ahrc.ac.uk Tel: 0117 987 6674

Annex A

Details of key dates for the Beyond Test Large Research Grants Scheme

First Stage (outline proposals)

Tuesday 16 October 2007	Call for outline proposals
Thursday 14 February 2008	Closing date for receipt of outline proposal forms
w/c 5 May 2008	Notification of outcome for outline proposals

Full stage (invited applicants only)

Thursday 26 June 2008	Closing date for receipt of full proposal forms
Mid November 2008	Notification of outcome for full proposals
1 January 2009	Earliest start date for Large Grants

Annex B

Project Studentships

Funding may be sought for one full-time project student whose doctoral work will contribute to the project as a whole. If you choose to have a studentship attached to your project, the cost of this is paid at 100% and will need to be included within the £600,000 scheme limit. Please note the eligibility criteria, as outlined in Appendix 4: Project Studentships Notes of the *AHRC Funding Guide*, with regard to the residency and qualification requirements for these students.

Please use the guide below to calculate the estimated cost of the project studentship. To calculate the estimated cost, you should add together the student's entitlement to maintenance, tuition fees and college fees (where applicable).

Maintenance

Full-time students' maintenance entitlement should be calculated using the rates in the table below.

	Full-time (HEI London)	Full-time (HEI outside London)
2008-9	£12,915*	£14,915*
2009-10	£13,240*	£15,240*
2010-11	£13,570*	£15,570*
2011-12	£13,910*	£15,910*

* These rates are projected and the actual amount paid may differ.

The rates provided are for academic years (i.e. academic year 2008-09 runs from 1 October 2008 - 30 September 2009).

Studentships under this programme are offered on a full-time basis only and will be 36 months in duration. As the period of the studentship must fall entirely within the period of the grant, the start and end dates of the studentship must be the same as those of the project as a whole. In order to fit within the dates of the programme, a three year award including a studentship must begin on 1 January 2009 and end on 31 December 2011.

For a studentship due to start on 1 January 2009, a pro rata amount of 9/12 of the rate for 2008-09 should be added to the full rate for the next two academic years (2009-10 and 2010-11) and a corresponding pro rata amount of 3/12 of the rate for 2011-12.

Tuition fees

The following amounts should be included for tuition fees:

Start date of studentship:	Full-time
16/12/2008-15/05/2009	£10,436.00

This figure represents the full amount for the length of the studentship and is an approximate value.

College Fees

The Council also makes provision for college fees at Oxford and Cambridge and these should be incorporated at current rates, approved by the DfES, for each year of the studentship.

Named students

If you have a candidate in mind for the studentship you will be asked to provide further details at full proposal stage.