



**Details of the call for applications to the
Religion and Society Programme – Youth Call
for Networks and Workshops**

June 2008



**Arts & Humanities
Research Council**



Introduction

The Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council invite proposals for Networks and Workshops under the Religion and Society Programme – Youth call. This document must be read in conjunction with the *AHRC Funding Guide* (version 1.5) which provides an overview of the general Networks and Workshops Scheme. It details the eligibility criteria, assessment criteria, information on how to apply, eligible dates and terms and conditions of awards. You should also ensure that you have read the Religion and Society Youth call *Programme Specification* document before submitting a proposal.

The following exceptions/amendments apply and refer to paragraphs in the AHRC Funding Guide 2007/8 (version 1.5).

*** Where the Funding Guide says AHRC, please read "AHRC/ESRC".

Additionally, where the Funding Guide says arts and humanities, please read "arts and humanities and social sciences". ***

Number and Value

Successful applicants will be supported to run *either* a series of workshops over one year (up to £15,000 fEC), *or* a network of researchers over two years (up to £30,000 fEC). Proposals - with full economic costs of up to £30,000 for workshops or £60,000 for networks - that seek to develop international partnerships with colleagues outside the UK from areas targeted in the AHRC's International Strategy will also be eligible. Further information on what activities are supported through networks and workshops awards is provided at paragraphs 42 and 43 of the *AHRC Funding Guide*. It is expected that approximately 7 grants will be awarded under this call.

Background

The Religion and Society £12.3million trans-disciplinary programme was launched in October 2006 and will run for approximately 6 years from early 2007. This will be the first UK research programme to foster collaborative endeavours across the arts, humanities and social sciences in order to understand the interrelationships between religion and society. Therefore, the primary aim is to maximise the participation of scholars from a wide range of arts and humanities and social sciences disciplines in researching, reflecting upon and discussing issues relating to religion and society and youth. Under the Youth call 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 Networks and Workshops are invited under the Religion and Society Programme Youth call.

How to apply?

In order to apply for the Religion and Society – Youth call Networks and Workshops scheme, you must submit your application electronically through the [Je-S system](#).

To prepare your proposal in Je-S choose 'Add New Document', then specify Council: AHRC, Document Type: Standard Proposal and Scheme: Research Networks – Religion and Society or Research Workshops – Religion and Society, and 'Create Document'. Je-S will then create a 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*. In order to apply your organisation must be eligible to the AHRC and/or the ESRC.

Aims of the Religion and Society Programme Networks and Workshops

In addition to the aims of the Networks and Workshops scheme outlined in paragraphs 44-45 of the *AHRC Funding Guide*, the following aim applies to the Religion and Society Youth call:

- to support networks and workshops that address the aims and themes of the Religion and Society Youth call (see *Programme Specification* document, pages 3-5 and the annex)

The scheme is primarily aimed at the development of new networks and interactions. Exceptionally, funding will be available for developing an existing network, provided that the proposal can demonstrate that a network will be significantly enhanced through AHRC/ESRC support, in other words that there is added value.

Whether you are applying for a *workshops* or a *networks* award, the participants **must be drawn from a number of different higher education institutions**, in order to achieve the kind of intellectual interaction and exchange envisaged. The inclusion in the networks and workshops of people from beyond the academic community is particularly encouraged, as is the involvement of new researchers and research students.

Preparing a proposal

You should complete the appropriate Networks or Workshops proposal for this Programme 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: Preparing an Application of the *AHRC Funding Guide* concerning electronic submission.

Ethical section

The AHRC/ESRC expects that full consideration is given to any ethical matters in the research they fund under the Religion and Society programme. Applicants are asked to complete two sections requesting information about the ethical issues that may be involved in the proposed research projects. If you don't consider there to be any ethical implications or issues arising from your proposed research you are asked to explain your view. Please refer to the guidance in the Je-S helptext for this section.

Panels

When reading paragraph 147 – 149 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 Religion

and Society Youth call 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 (www.ahrc.ac.uk/religion):

1. Meaning, Defining and Being
2. Identity, Community, Welfare and Prosperity
3. Religion, Violence and Conflict Resolution
4. Religion, Media and the Arts
5. Texts, Spaces, Rituals and Objects
6. Education and Socialisation
7. Law, Politics and the State

Classification of Research / Disciplines

The AHRC/ESRC have two separate subject classifications and these have been retained under the Religion and Society Programme – Youth call. The information that you provide concerning these will be used to assist in the selection of the most appropriate reviewers for your proposal.

AHRC Subject 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. Even if there is not an appropriate subject area for you to select, please check the box “Church History and History of Theology” under the Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies section, such applicants should also complete the ESRC Disciplines section.

ESRC Disciplines

You may also indicate what you consider to be the prime and up to 2 other disciplines contributing to your research from the Disciplines list.

Proposal deadlines

Paragraphs 183 and 184 do not apply for this competition. Unlike the scheme in responsive mode there is only one deadline by which proposals for Networks and Workshops can be submitted under the Religion and Society Programme – Youth call. In addition to the content of paragraph 184, the earliest permissible start date for all successful projects will be 1 March 2009. All awards must begin within six months of the offer of funding.

Proposals for this call must be submitted electronically via the Je-S system by **4pm on 2 October 2008**. Proposals received after the above deadline will be considered ineligible and returned to the applicant.

Assessment Criteria

Applications for Networks and Workshops under this programme will be assessed according to the aims of the general Research Networks and Workshops scheme (see paragraph 189 - 190).

In addition, the following assessment criterion will apply

- the extent to which the proposal demonstrates a fit to the aims and themes of the Religion and Society Programme – Youth call

Assessment Process

With reference to paragraph 213, the **principal investigator response (right of reply) week will be the week commencing 24 November 2008**. You

should ensure that you are available during that week to undertake the right of reply process.

As there will be a Religion and Society Commissioning Panel, paragraphs 216-217 about peer review panels do not apply to this competition. All paperwork associated with your proposal will be reviewed by this specially convened Commissioning Panel. Details of panel membership can be found at <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/religion>. The Commissioning Panel will be made up of peers from a range of subject areas and organisations relevant to the Religion and Society programme, so you are advised to address your proposal to as broad an audience as possible.

The Commissioning Panel will consider the overall range of proposals and coherence of the programme when making decisions about funding.

Grading Scale

Due to the nature of the call for applications to the Religion and Society Programme there will not be an opportunity to resubmit proposals. The RS grade referred to in paragraphs 210, 223 and 228 will not, therefore, be used when assessing proposals under this competition.

Award Announcements

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in February 2009.

Please note that with regard to paragraph 228, since there is no RS grade for this competition, feedback will not be given.

Resubmission Policy

Paragraphs 234-242 do not apply for this competition. Due to the nature of the call for proposals to the Religion and Society Programme, there will not be an opportunity for applicants to resubmit.

Attachments

Case for Support

Your proposal 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 **2000 words (you should use a font size 12)** your application 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.

While you should aim to make the Case for Support as concise, specific and clear as possible, the work to be undertaken should nonetheless be fully explained, as failure to provide adequate detail on any aspects may seriously prejudice your application. In short, you are advised to focus your application and to provide sufficient evidence to enable members of the Commissioning Panel to reach a considered judgement as to the quality of your proposal, its significance, its feasibility and value for money.

In your Case for Support, you must outline clearly the rationale for the interdisciplinary networks/workshops and the research context in which they will operate, and the fit to the programme's aims and themes by answering the following questions: what is the central theme of the proposed network or workshop series? Why is it important that this theme be explored? How will the proposed activities lead to advances in understanding? You should also give details of the aims and objectives, the timetable for any activities proposed, proposed participants and key speakers, and plans for management and co-ordination, including the membership of any proposed advisory group or steering committee.

Provided that the principal investigator meets the eligibility criteria, additional participation can be as broad as is needed to achieve the aims of the interdisciplinary network or workshops (within the budget available), and additional members can be brought in during the course of the award. The inclusion in the networks and workshops of people from beyond the academic community is particularly encouraged, as is the involvement of new researchers and research students as well as international partners. As well as any named participants, an indication of the subject interests to be represented should be provided.

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

Headings to be used:

Rationale and research context

You should describe clearly the rationale and research context of the interdisciplinary network/workshops. You should also ensure that it is clear to the reader how the research network/workshops address the **aims and themes** of the Religion and Society Programme (see pages 3-5 and the annex of the Programme Specification). Why are the proposed activities necessary to address this theme at this time? To what extent do the proposed activities generate fruitful and novel interaction? What is the research context in which the research network/workshops will operate and how will it advance knowledge and

understanding in the fields concerned? To which audiences/disciplines will the research network/workshops and its outcomes be of interest?

Aims and Objectives

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

Timetable of Activities

You should give a clear timetable of activities for events such as workshops, symposia, conferences meetings of the advisory group.

Key speakers or participants

If there are specific speakers or participants who would be central to the success of research networks/workshops, these should be listed together with their expertise, in addition to some indication of their availability.

Management and co-ordination

How will the research network/workshops be managed? Will there be an advisory group or steering committee? If so, who are the proposed members and does the membership reflect the constituencies the research network/workshops intends to reach? What will be the roles of the principal investigator and other members of the research network/workshops?

Dissemination and Exploitation

What are your plans for dissemination of the outcomes of the research network/workshops? You should give an indication of the intended audiences, beyond those directly connected with the research network/workshops, and how you envisage presenting and disseminating those outcomes to them. Details of any plans to ensure that collaboration continues once the award period has ended should also be entered in this section. In the case of network awards, priority will be given to proposals which can demonstrate that the network will have a lifespan beyond the award period (see the assessment criteria in the *AHRC Funding Guide, Section G*).

Summary curricula vitae

A summary curriculum vitae should be attached for the Principal Investigator. This 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. These should be no more than one side of A4 paper and in a font no smaller than size 10.

Justification of Resources

This statement should be used to justify the resources required to undertake the research project and is a mandatory attachment.

Please submit a single side of A4 attachment to the proposal entitled "Justification of Resources". This statement should be used to justify the resources required to undertake the research project and is a mandatory addition. Applicants should:

- Explain why the indicated resources are needed, taking account of the nature and complexity of the research proposed. 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 some cases, such as investigator time, use of internal facilities and shared staff costs (all likely to be Directly Allocated costs), the basis of the costing need not be justified, but the need for the resources does need justification.
- Try to be explicit about the need for the level of investigator time sought, bearing in mind the complexity of the research, the need to manage the project and supervise staff and any wider considerations such as collaboration or facilities usage.
- If you have included additional international costs these must be clearly identified within the proposal budget and you must provide a detailed breakdown of costs which clearly shows the international element and justify them here.
- Estates and indirect costs do not need to be justified.

Visual Evidence

Applications 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.

Contacting Us

Enquiries about the scholarly content of the Religion and Society Programme, its aims and themes, should be directed to Linda Woodhead at the contact address below:

Religion and Society Programme Director

Programme Linda Woodhead Email: l.woodhead@lancaster.ac.uk
Tel: 01524 592416

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

Research Awards Officers

Laura Milne-Day e-mail: l.milne-day@ahrc.ac.uk Tel: 0117 987 6685

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