



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

**A Guide for Applicants
AHRC Postgraduate Awards**

Block Grant Partnerships

Version 3

2008

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Arts and Humanities Research Council Mission Statement

The Arts and Humanities Research Council has an overarching **vision** to be a recognised world leader in advancing arts and humanities research through four **strategic aims**:

- To promote and support the production of world-class research in the arts and humanities
- To promote and support world-class postgraduate training designed to equip graduates for research or other professional careers.
- To strengthen the impact of arts and humanities research by encouraging researchers to disseminate and transfer knowledge to other non-academic contexts where it will make a difference.
- To raise the profile of arts and humanities research and to be an effective advocate for its social, cultural and economic significance.

Research Councils' Equal Opportunities Statement

The Research Councils aim to develop as organisations that value the diversity of their staff and stakeholders, enabling all to realise their full potential by valuing the contribution of everyone and recognising and harnessing the benefits that differences can bring.

The UK Research Councils are committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations across and between the defined equalities groups in all of their relevant functions.

Accordingly no eligible job applicant, funding applicant, employee or external stakeholder including members of the public should receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of: gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, race, colour, nationality, ethnicity or national origins, religion or similar philosophical belief, spent criminal conviction, age or disability.

The AHRC has also published a **Single Equality Scheme** which is available to download from our website www.ahrc.ac.uk

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SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

About this guide

1. **The information in this guide is intended for staff in those organisations that are submitting a proposal for funding through the Block Grant Partnership competition in 2008 for awards to start in 2009.**

What is the AHRC?

2. The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) is a UK-wide Non-Departmental Public Body. We receive public funding through the Science and Innovation Group which is part of the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). The AHRC came into existence on 1 April 2005 by virtue of the Higher Education Act 2004 and a consequent Royal Charter in 2005.
3. AHRC is unique in the world as a national funding agency supporting both arts and humanities research. We use public funding of approx £100m per annum (2008-08) to fund research among one quarter of the UK research population. Each year we provide some 700 research awards, 1,500 postgraduate studentships, and numerous knowledge transfer awards.

The AHRC's Strategy for arts and humanities

4. AHRC strategy is independent of Government initiatives, and is a term used to encapsulate AHRC strategic planning in terms of the Council's role in ensuring health of disciplines, satisfactory subject-area spread, effective responsiveness to the developing needs of the sector and adequate research training provision for postgraduate students. It also refers to the overarching AHRC Strategic Aims as detailed in the new 2007-2012 strategy. http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/images/strategic_plan_2007-2012.pdf
5. In particular please note Strategic Aim 2:
To promote and support world-class postgraduate training designed to equip graduates for research or other professional careers.
Objectives:
 - Work with stakeholders to ensure the provision of world-class training in research methods and in the key skills that postgraduates in the arts and humanities will need for research or other professional careers.
 - Encourage institutions to integrate their postgraduate programmes with their research and knowledge transfer strategies.
 - Maintain and promote the health and sustainability of arts and humanities disciplines, especially those that are emerging or endangered.

What support does the Council provide?

6. The Council supports the following major programmes:
 - Research
 - Postgraduate Research and Training
 - Museums and Galleries
 - Knowledge transfer activities.

What is the AHRC's subject domain and subject spread?

7. The AHRC supports work that seeks to improve, enhance or develop creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding in the artistic and creative activities, history, languages, literatures, and systems of thought and belief of human beings, both past and present. Please see [APPENDIX A](#) for further details.

What postgraduate funding is available from the AHRC?

8. The AHRC provides funding to enable students to study at eligible Research Organisations in the UK at Master's and doctoral level.
9. The Council has three established schemes for doctoral and Master's funding, currently used in the postgraduate open competition. These will remain unchanged but from the 2009-2010 academic year the allocation of funding for these will be made through either: a **Block Grant Partnership** (BGP) which will be awarded to an organisation for a period of five years; or, for those organisations who do not hold a BGP, individual studentships can be applied for through an annual **Studentship Competition**.
10. The **Block Grant Partnership** competition will require organisations to submit proposals for five years' worth of studentship allocations across the three schemes and will run every fourth year of the five-year cycle. Once awarded, organisations will be responsible for the recruitment of students for the available studentships, within set AHRC eligibility criteria, and for nominating them to the AHRC.
11. The annual **Studentship Competition** will provide students with the opportunity to submit an individual proposal for a studentship in one of the studentship schemes at an organisation that does not hold a BGP and will operate in a similar way to the current open competition. Proposals will be made through the organisation. The AHRC will set a cap on the numbers of proposals which an organisation can submit in any one year.
12. In selecting students either for nomination through a BGP or for entry into the Studentship Competition, organisations are expected to follow the rules of the three schemes and to select the highest quality students that meet the eligibility criteria.

13. The three schemes are:

- **Research Preparation Master's scheme**
The Research Preparation Master's scheme supports students undertaking Master's courses that focus on advanced study and research training explicitly intended to provide a foundation for further research at doctoral level. Studentships will normally be for one year full-time or two years' part-time or distance-learning study.
- **Professional Preparation Master's scheme**
The Professional Preparation Master's scheme supports students undertaking a Postgraduate Diploma or Master's course that focuses on developing high level skills and competencies for professional practice. Studentships will normally be for one year full-time or two years' part-time or distance-learning study.
- **Doctoral scheme**
The Doctoral scheme provides studentships to enable students to undertake and complete a doctoral degree in any area of the AHRC's subject domain. Studentships will normally be for up to three years for full-time study, or up to five years for part-time study. Distance learning study is not supported in the doctoral scheme.

Please refer to [Appendix B](#) for further information on these schemes.

What does an AHRC studentship currently provide?

14. A full award for a postgraduate studentship for full-time study provides funds to meet:
- payment of approved fees to the organisation
 - a maintenance grant, plus additional allowances for disabled students where appropriate
 - additional support towards the costs of fieldwork or study visits for students pursuing doctoral research or research-based Master's courses.
15. We also provide fees-only awards for eligible EU students. 'Fees-only' award holders are not eligible to receive a maintenance grant, but may be eligible for additional support towards the costs of fieldwork or study visits and for disabled students' allowances.
16. Awards for students who are studying on a part-time basis include:
- Payment of approved fees to the organisation
 - A maintenance grant up to a maximum of 60% of the equivalent of a full-time award for doctoral students or 50% of the equivalent of a full-time award for Masters students, plus additional allowances for disabled students, where appropriate.
17. The AHRC also pays postgraduate college fees for the Universities of

Cambridge and Oxford.

18. For doctoral students, an annual contribution will be made to organisations to enable provision of generic skills training.
19. All rates are set on an annual basis and published on our website. The rates for the 2007-2008 academic year can be found in our current 'Guide for Postgraduate Award Holders' available on the AHRC's website (www.ahrc.ac.uk). All payments are made directly to the institution's finance office.
20. Approved fees do not include the costs of residence, which the student must pay out of their maintenance grant. No separate payment will be made towards fees for any examination, caution money, or any deposit ultimately repayable to the student. Nor will we pay charges for typing or binding a thesis or any fees incurred for training courses.

A new postgraduate funding mechanism for the AHRC

21. Following the recommendations of the recent Postgraduate Working Group the AHRC is introducing two new postgraduate funding competitions for students starting in October 2009, to replace its current annual open competition which will run for the last time in 2008. These are the Block Grant Partnerships (BGP) Competition and the Studentship Competition. The BGP Competition will entail institutions submitting proposals for five years' worth of studentship award allocations and will run every fourth year of the five year cycle. The annual Studentship Competition will provide students with the opportunity to submit an individual proposal for a studentship at an institution which does not hold a BGP award and will be run in a similar way to the current open competition. Full details about the Postgraduate Working Group and the consultation process can be found on the AHRC website at:
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/university_staff/future_changes_pg_funding.asp

Main aims and principles of the new funding mechanism

22. The new funding mechanism is based on the following principles:
 - To provide two competitions of equal status to support the diverse needs of the sector
 - To continue to promote and support a strategy for producing world-class postgraduates
 - To continue to sustain and promote high-quality research and training
 - To continue to maintain the health and sustainability of arts and humanities disciplines
 - To extend and enhance opportunities for interdisciplinary research and training
 - To ensure resource-effective distribution of funding
 - To provide support to both endangered and emergent subjects

- To enhance and encourage interaction with the cultural, heritage and creative industries
23. Block Grant Partnerships will:
- facilitate long-term strategic planning in arts and humanities disciplines
 - fund Doctoral, Research Preparation Master's and Professional Preparation Master's studentships
 - enable an organisation to apply for an annual allocation of studentship awards over a five year period
 - be available to organisations with a current annual average of eight or more AHRC open competition offers
 - bid for a minimum of eight studentships per annum (please note that the number of studentships awarded may be fewer than this)
 - ask for number and type of studentships sought each year for each subject in the BGP proposal submitted by organisations
 - detail individual organisation's research strategies and provide evidence of excellence in supervision, research environment and postgraduate training
 - be monitored through student and institution reports
 - allow some flexibility in allocation and move away from AHRC assessment of individual student proposals.
24. Studentship Competition will:
- aim to provide funding for pockets of excellence in organisations which do not hold BGPs
 - fund Doctoral, Research Preparation Master's and Professional Preparation Master's studentships
 - aim to allocate around 20% of the total annual allocation of postgraduate studentships
 - be run annually with proposals being made on behalf of individual students
 - be capped to ensure higher success rates for applicants
 - allow for capacity building
 - be monitored through student reports

Are all current funding schemes included in the new mechanism?

25. The Collaborative Doctoral Awards scheme (CDA) and Project Studentships (attached to Research Grants), plus the Collaborative Research Training scheme, Library of Congress scheme and Language-Based Area Studies scheme will continue to run separately to the BGP and the Studentship competitions. The studentship award offer numbers for these schemes will not be taken into account in defining an organisation's eligibility for the BGP competition.
26. CDAs and Project Studentships provide additional routes for doctoral study:
- **Project Studentships**
Funding for doctoral students is also available through the Council's

scheme of research grants, where funding is provided to support large-scale collaborative research projects. Academic members of staff applying for such grants may include in their costings support for up to two doctoral students whose work will be closely related to the research project. For further details please see the Research Funding Guide, available to download on our website.

- **Collaborative Doctoral Awards/Studentships**

This AHRC scheme aims to encourage, promote and develop collaboration between research organisation departments and non-academic organisations and to provide studentships that offer doctoral students the chance to conduct their research in collaboration with a non-academic body and gain experience of work outside the academic sphere. The scheme is run on an annual basis separate to the BGP and Studentship Competitions for postgraduate awards and is open to all eligible organisations.

Collaborative studentships are also sometimes offered as part of strategic research programmes such as Landscape and Environment and Religion and Society.

Proposals for CDA awards are made by an eligible academic department in collaboration with a non-academic partner organisation who devise a mutually beneficial research topic and set out the framework for the supervision and management of the project. Successful collaborators then recruit and nominate a suitable doctoral student to undertake the research and take up the AHRC studentship. For further details please see the Guide for Applicants for Collaborative Doctoral Awards, available to download from our website.

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING INFORMATION

What is the timetable for implementation of the new allocation system?

27. The current implementation timescale is:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Autumn 2007 | 1 st call for BGPs (guidance notes available) |
| 1 May 2008 | 2008 PG open competition deadline |
| 2 Sept 2008 | BGP Proposal deadline |
| w/c 23 Feb 2009 | BGP awards announced |
| *7 May 2009 | Studentship Competition deadline |
| *28 May 2009 | BGP nominations 'open' |
| *30 July 2009 | BGP nominations 'close' |

*exact date TBC

Who is eligible to apply for a BGP?

28. An organisation is able to submit a BGP proposal if:
- it is a UK based research organisation supported by one of the four UK Higher Education funding councils and who are currently eligible to apply for funding in the AHRC postgraduate open competition; **and**
 - it has achieved an average of eight or more award offers per annum in the 2003 – 2007 Open competitions.
29. The AHRC will write to all research organisations who have previously applied to the AHRC for postgraduate funding to inform them of their eligibility to submit a BGP proposal. The threshold only relates to awards offered through the 2003 – 2007 Open Competitions (inclusive), and will not take into account offers gained through any of the other AHRC studentship schemes.
30. A collaborative proposal will be eligible if it has a sound academic basis and if collaborating organisations have an average of eight or more offers collectively.
31. Organisations eligible for AHRC postgraduate funding who do not meet the threshold of eight awards offered per year will be eligible to apply for individual studentships through the new annual Studentship Competition.

What are collaborative BGP proposals?

32. A collaborative proposal for a BGP can be made by two or more

organisations where there is an appropriate academic and intellectual purpose behind the collaboration. Any such proposal must provide evidence of its viability and include details of the practical arrangements regarding shared responsibilities such as financial arrangements, student monitoring, and pooling of research and training resources.

33. Collaborative proposals must be made at institutional level, even though it may just be one department or one subject area collaborating. To be eligible the participating organisations must have achieved an average of 8 or more offers between them.
34. Any eligible organisation may choose to collaborate but only one proposal per organisation will be permitted either on its own or as part of a collaboration.
35. All collaborative proposals will need to nominate a lead organisation and will be required to provide a strong rationale for the collaboration.
36. There is no limit to the number of organisations that can enter into a collaboration as long as they can make a good academic case and explain why it is viable. Geographical proximity is not an eligibility criterion in itself.

What if my organisation has a joint programme with another organisation?

37. A BGP proposal can include a joint programme that is run in conjunction with another organisation. It should provide details of the programme and arrangements for delivery but should only include those studentships that will be held at that organisation (i.e. where the student will be registered).

What if I have existing links or partnerships with other academic or non-academic organisations?

38. An organisation may have existing or long established links and these can be described in the proposal. These might include collaborative research training courses, external links, or industry sector partners to support Professional Master's courses. Collaborations and partnerships can be used to support your case. A BGP would not in any way aim to discourage or diminish existing partnerships or stifle new ones

Why is the BGP competition only being run every five years?

39. The five year term of a BGP has been set to allow organisations time to build capacity and develop and implement their strategies across postgraduate research and programmes.

If an organisation is not eligible for a BGP in this round what might it do in preparation for the next round of BGP proposals?

40. The aims and objectives and the eligibility and assessment criteria for the second round of BGP proposals will be revised and reviewed in light of the outcomes of the first round. We will aim to let organisations know as early as possible what these will be to enable them to plan for the second round.
41. Organisations might wish to consider the following which could potentially strengthen their position for the future:
 - devise and develop their strategy for postgraduate study and training
 - implement strategies to foster growth
 - look at innovative ways of building capacity
 - investigate new areas or develop areas of excellence
 - demonstrate their own strategic investment in particular areas
 - select the highest quality students for entry to the studentship competition to improve success rates
 - establish or build on collaborative and partnership working across the subject sector and with external organisations.

What funding period is covered by the first round of the BGP competition?

42. BGPs will be awarded for a five-year term. All BGPs awarded in the first round will cover studentships starting in the 2009-10 academic year and will support the next four cohorts, up to and including studentships commencing in the 2013-14 academic year. A full time doctoral studentship commencing in October 2013 will continue to be funded under the BGP for the next two academic years, hence the period of the BGP will extend beyond the five academic years, 2009-2013.

What funding is an organisation applying for in a BGP?

43. BGP proposals are made for a **number of studentships** each year across all relevant subject areas in an organisation and across all three schemes. An award will be made to an organisation for a number of studentships in each scheme and against defined subject areas each year over a five year period. Organisations will not be provided with a flat-cash sum. Individual studentships attract set national rates for tuition fees and stipends and monies will be paid to organisations against a nominated student. Organisations must allocate the money to the individual student as designated by the AHRC and use it for the purpose for which it was provided. For example, you are not permitted to allocate lower stipends in order to provide additional studentships; nor can you raise the level of stipend above the set rate unless the organisation wishes to supplement it themselves.

44. Whilst the AHRC's funding schemes are still able to support both the 1+3 and the 2+2 model for postgraduate study, organisations should not offer studentships on that basis at the outset. The separate Master's and Doctoral schemes remain an integral part of the AHRC's BGP strategy. Students who have had a BGP Master's award and wish to remain at the organisation must re-apply to the organisation for doctoral funding, in competition with other applicants, following their Master's study. A student cannot be offered both a Master's and Doctoral award at the outset of their studies.

How many studentships can an organisation apply for in a BGP proposal?

45. The minimum number of studentships an organisation can bid for is eight per annum over a five-year period, making a minimum bid of 40 overall. However, please note that the number of studentships awarded may be fewer than this. For further information on the number of awards available, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document available to download from http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/images/pg_funding_faqs.pdf
46. An organisation which is eligible to apply for a BGP will receive data from the AHRC with details of their track record by subject and studentship type and they are strongly advised to give full consideration to this data. The five year data will be taken from the 2003-2007 Open Competitions across all schemes.
47. Organisations may bid for more or less than their average numbers of studentships in certain areas if they feel they can make a strong case for doing so. The AHRC has a static number of studentships available for each year so proposals must be for the same total number of doctoral studentships and total number of Master's studentships in each year. This means if an organisation wishes to bid for 25 doctoral studentships they must bid for 5 in each year and not, for example, 5 in year 1 and then 10 in year 3 and 5. The subject spread from year to year might, however, vary.
48. Assessors will be able to award less than the number of studentships bid for, depending on the strength of proposal submitted and taking into account the number of awards available across subjects nationally.
49. If an organisation is wholly unsuccessful in a BGP proposal they are then eligible to submit proposals in the annual Studentship Competitions. If an organisation is offered a reduced number of awards, organisations can decline the BGP award but they will not then be eligible for the AHRC Studentship Competition.

How can subject spread and spread of awards across schemes be maintained?

50. A table showing the estimated number of studentships the AHRC will aim

to make in each subject area is included in [Appendix C](#). This covers both the BGP and annual Studentship Competitions and details the distribution of studentships between the doctoral and the two Master's schemes. Taking into consideration the past performance of your own organisation, you are strongly advised to look at this data when compiling proposals. Please note that, since publishing this guidance in November 2007, the overall number of available awards will be reduced to 1325 for all years of the BGP, i.e. 2009-2013.
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/news/news_pr/2008/Success_rates.asp

51. The historic data provided by the AHRC detailing an organisation's previous subject and scheme spread of awards is offered only as guidance and is not intended to be regarded as absolute. Although the AHRC will supply this data to aid organisations in putting together their proposals, how the final proposal is configured is a decision for the organisation(s) concerned and the AHRC will not intervene. Due to reductions in the number of awards available, organisations are advised that the 'baseline' which will be provided to the panel as background for considering the bids will be an organisation's average number of awards minus 15%.
52. The AHRC has, however, taken the decision that, whilst allowing some flexibility, maintaining stability in the sector is an important driver in the first round of the BGP scheme. A strong rationale would need to be provided where an organisation is making a proposal that means significant changes to its established funding patterns across both subjects and schemes.
53. Organisations will be required to provide justification for all studentships requested in a proposal. Valid reasons must be given for excluding whole areas that have previously attracted funding (but may be justified, for example, if an organisation is investing in its own internal scholarships to fund a particular subject area or course, or where a reduction in one area is to strengthen an area of growth in another).
54. Over the last few years the AHRC has made a gradual shift towards a 50/50 balance between Master's and doctoral studentships this was achieved in the 2007 open competition. The AHRC wishes to maintain this ratio on a national level; it does not mean that organisation's BGP proposal should be submitted on a 50/50 ratio basis.
55. The AHRC will be mapping studentship allocations and monitoring the individual projects being funded to ensure it has an up-to-date national overview of where AHRC funding is being spent. We will issue post-award guidance on administering BGP awards, including information on viring studentships, once BGPs have been allocated.

How does a BGP cater for interdisciplinarity?

56. The BGP system will allow flexibility for interdisciplinary working as proposals will be made for studentships in very broad subject areas as opposed to specific research projects. The devolution of student selection to

organisations will allow studentships to be allocated to interdisciplinary projects as long as an element of that project matches the broad subject area in which the studentship has been awarded.

57. To give an example, an organisation which has been awarded a studentship in English Language and Literature may then be able to recruit a student with a project that covers English, History, Film and French; or, a Department of American Studies could recruit to studentships in the subject areas of English Language and Literature, History, or Cultural studies.
58. If an organisation has an interdisciplinary centre (e.g. a Centre for Medieval Studies) then it can be referred to in as many subject information statements in the proposal as is relevant. Subjects are not intended to map directly onto individual departments, allowing an organisation maximum flexibility in the allocation of studentships awarded.

What about the stated aims of the BGPs and the AHRC's emphasis on maintaining stability?

59. The AHRC has taken the decision that, in the first round of the BGP scheme, it should limit disruption within the sector whilst introducing an element of flexibility. Whilst evidence of innovative strategies in postgraduate provision, including those relating to emergent and endangered subjects and interdisciplinarity, will be welcomed in BGP proposals, bids that are built on past successful performance are equally important. Organisations must provide evidence that they can both provide support and deliver the studentship provision in the areas for which they are bidding.
60. This will be a new way of working for the sector and the AHRC is mindful that it will take some time to embed new funding structures. It is also mindful that there are reasons why students wish to study in particular institutions and those opportunities should not be removed. The expectation is that organisations will still fund to their strengths and the pattern of awards with regards to subject and spread across schemes will not be vastly different under a BGP. This does not, however, mean that organisations necessarily have to maintain their historic pattern of awards.

Will this be the same in the next round of BGP proposals in four years time?

61. The next BGP competition will not be announced until 2012 and in that time the AHRC will be reviewing the first round to evaluate if the aims of the BGP competition and the new funding allocation system as a whole have been met.
62. It is highly likely that eligibility and other criteria for the BGP competition will be amended for subsequent rounds, not least because using previous open competition success rates will no longer be a suitable metric. The

AHRC cannot make any guarantees of the future eligibility or otherwise of organisations to any future rounds of its postgraduate funding schemes.

How can an organisation maintain and build capacity?

63. Organisations will be expected to provide a robust argument for their proposed allocation of studentships and have a strong rationale for all departments or subjects included in a proposal. The same will be required for those arts and humanities subject areas or departments that have been excluded from a proposal where previously they have attracted AHRC funding.
64. Organisations must make a convincing case that they are able to provide the necessary support and are able to deliver in all areas where studentships are being bid for, both in existing and new or emerging subject areas.
65. Through gaining a BGP, an organisation will have known funding over a five year period. This will not only provide stability in terms of AHRC funding but, as the BGPs are designed to facilitate long-term strategic planning within organisations, the AHRC envisages that some institutions will, in line with their stated strategy for the arts and humanities, look at methods of strengthening their provision or of providing further investment. For instance, where appropriate, an organisation may decide to invest in or consolidate their own studentships or scholarships in the relevant areas, to form a more cohesive package for postgraduate training and funding for the arts and humanities across the organisation.

What about small departments and subject disciplines?

66. Institutions will be asked to justify the exclusion from their proposal of any arts and humanities departments/disciplines that previously have attracted funding. The BGP scheme is designed to facilitate long-term strategic planning within organisations, it can therefore encourage investment in capacity building for smaller departments and disciplines.
67. Support for small subject areas, especially those under threat or those that are emerging, can still be regarded as strategic even if numbers are small. Organisations should therefore bear in mind that it is perfectly acceptable to bid for just one or two awards in such areas as part of their overall proposal. In a particular subject, studentships do not have to be bid for in every year of the BGP.

What about Practice-led/based research?

68. If organisations have strengths in supporting practice-led research, AHRC

encourages organisations to continue this support in their BGP proposal. Any organisations intending to support practice-led research should address the particular training needs in the relevant subject sections.”

69. The Council’s definition of research is primarily concerned with the definition of research processes, rather than outputs. This definition is built around three key features, and research projects must address all of these in full in order to be considered eligible for support:
- it must define a series of **research questions** or problems that will be addressed in the course of the research. It must also define its objectives in terms of seeking to enhance knowledge and understanding relating to the questions or problems to be addressed
 - it must specify a **research context** for the questions or problems to be addressed. You must specify why it is important that these particular questions or problems should be addressed; what other research is being or has been conducted in this area; and what particular contribution your project will make to the advancement of creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding in the area
 - it must specify the **research methods** for addressing and answering the research questions or problems. You must state how, in the course of the research project, you will seek to answer the questions, or advance available knowledge and understanding of the problems. You should also explain the rationale for your chosen research methods and why you think they provide the most appropriate means by which to answer the questions.
70. This definition of research provides a distinction between research and practice per se. Creative output can be produced or practice undertaken as an integral part of a research process. The Council would expect this practice to be accompanied by some form of documentation of the research process, as well as some form of textual analysis or explanation to support its position and to demonstrate critical reflection. Creativity or practice which involves no such processes is not eligible for support from the Council and organisations should bear these points in mind when recruiting students involved in practice-led research.

SECTION 3: APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

How do you apply for a BGP?

71. Proposals must be submitted via the Research Councils' Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system which may be accessed at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>. Proposal forms will be available from **2 January 2008** and the **deadline for receipt of proposals is 4pm on 2 September 2008**. An interim guide to the proposal form is available at http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/university_staff/future_changes_pg_funding.asp
72. Proposals must be made at organisational level and should cover all subject areas for which they intend to bid for. Departments may not submit separate proposals and **only one proposal per organisation** will be accepted.
73. Organisations should appoint a BGP co-ordinator who will act as the main contact for any AHRC correspondence throughout the assessment and outcome process once a proposal has been submitted. The co-ordinator's details will be requested on the Je-S proposal form. It is expected that the BGP co-ordinator will also be AHRC's main contact during any subsequent award.
74. Organisations may find it helpful to identify an individual to coordinate the proposal and to liaise with the AHRC and Je-S Helpdesk when queries arise. This individual may or may not subsequently be the nominated BGP Co-ordinator.
75. To create a BGP proposal in Je-S choose 'Add New Document'; then select AHRC as the Council; Studentship Proposal as the Document Type; and Block Grant Partnership as the Scheme before selecting Create Document. Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying relevant section headings.
76. There is detailed, context-sensitive, Helptext within the Je-S system that provides information on how to complete each section of the proposal form. It is extremely important that you read this and it may be accessed by selecting 'Help' in the top right of any screen within the form. There is also a dedicated Je-S Helpdesk that provides telephone and email support with the proposal process. They are available between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, and can be contacted by email at jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk or by telephone on 01793 444164. The Je-S Helpdesk will also be providing training in the completion of BGP proposal forms early next year.
77. Once you have completed the form, you should upload a Case for Support and, where appropriate, additional information to support a collaborative proposal, then submit your proposal for organisational approval. Je-S will forward the proposal to the appropriate approver or submitter within your organisation, who in turn will submit your proposal to AHRC. Please ensure that you allow sufficient time prior to the deadline for the submission process to be completed. The AHRC will not accept late proposals.

78. Both the submitting organisation and the BGP Co-ordinator must be registered to use Je-S. If you are in doubt about your registration status or have any queries about the registration process, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk.

What information is required in a BGP proposal?

79. Organisations will be asked to provide qualitative and quantitative data relating to Strategy and Vision, Training and Environment, Spread of Studentships, Management and Monitoring and, where appropriate, data relating to Collaborative proposals. Information will be required for each subject included in the proposal in order to facilitate decisions regarding BGP awards and allocation of studentships by the moderating panel. The final decision on BGP awards and the specific studentship allocation will be based on academic peer review of the organisation's proposal.

What about the organisation's strategy for arts and humanities?

80. In order to make a successful proposal, an organisation must fully articulate their strategy for supporting postgraduate training and research in the arts and humanities. Although for this first BGP competition the AHRC has made the decision that stability is a key factor, organisations must still make a case to justify a continuation of funding in line with their past track record and present a coherent and convincing case as part of their strategy for maintaining similar levels of support.
81. BGPs are designed to facilitate long term engagement between organisations and the strategic aims of the AHRC, including the goals and principles of the new mechanism. The AHRC does not wish to prescribe or limit an organisation's strategy in any way but organisations are expected to engage with the AHRC's strategy as outlined in its Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan where this is appropriate. Organisations need to highlight in their proposals where their strategy aligns or where it specifically meets the strategic aims and goals of the AHRC. The AHRC recognises that an organisation's strategy will not necessarily cover all aspects of the AHRC's strategy.
82. Organisations will be asked to detail their strategy in their proposal and their plans for a BGP award should they be successful. This may be part of an existing institutional strategy that references the arts and humanities or a specific strategy for the Arts and Humanities Faculty or equivalent.

What other data can an organisation include as evidence in a proposal?

83. As part of the proposal form, institutions will be asked to provide data on

the following:

- Current studentships relating to the subject categories (appendix C), including numbers of doctoral and Master's students and how they are funded
 - Data on submission and completion rates for all arts and humanities doctoral students at the institution
 - Number of staff in a subject area with experience of doctoral supervision and who have successfully supervised to completion.
84. Other data can be referred to in a proposal, but this should be included as part of a response to a question or in the case for support. This data can be used as evidence for quality of research provision or training provided by that institution. Examples of data institutions might like to include are:
- Information on market demand for courses
 - First destination data for research careers
 - First destination data for relevant professional courses.
85. Organisations should not refer to web addresses in any of their text (except as references), as reviewers will be advised that assessment is based on information contained in the proposal and that they will not be expected to refer to further information.

What questions will be asked on the proposal form?

86. A separate document detailing the questions to be asked has been provided on the AHRC's website
http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/university_staff/future_changes_pg_funding.asp
This will be superseded by the electronic Je-S proposal form when it becomes available (2nd January 2008).

What is the assessment process for BGP proposals?

87. The BGP proposal will be assessed against specific criteria for the BGP competition by academic reviewers. These reviewers will provide full assessments of the proposals including grades and comments against the published assessment criteria.
88. Reviewers will have a good strategic overview of arts and humanities in the UK. They will be expected to have experience of postgraduate assessment; departmental level or above responsibilities; and appropriate subject expertise.
89. Every effort will be made to select reviewers with subject experience that covers the main areas of the BGP proposal and to ensure a range of reviewers from different subject backgrounds assess a proposal.
90. The organisation will be given the right of reply to reviews received. This

enables the organisation to correct any factual errors or conceptual misunderstandings, or to respond to any queries highlighted in the comments from the assessors. It is not intended to be an opportunity to change or re-constitute a proposal in the light of the reviewers' comments. Organisations are not obliged to submit a response, but it is recommended that they do so as responses from organisations will be forwarded to the moderating panel, and will be taken into account in the grading and prioritisation of proposals.

91. Please note the tight timescale for the organisation response (table below). It is the responsibility of the BGP co-ordinator to ensure that he/she is available during the scheduled response time to undertake the response process. If the organisation's response is not received by the applicable deadline, then the proposal will proceed without it.
92. A moderating panel will be convened to consider the BGP proposals, academic peer reviews, and the institution response. This panel will be responsible for grading and prioritising the proposals. They will then recommend specific subject allocations for each BGP proposal considering the reviewers' comments, numbers applied for, the published spread of subjects and historical data on previous award allocation.

Assessment Timetable

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 2 Sept 2008 | Proposal deadline |
| 3 Sept – 5 Dec | Proposals checked, reviewers selected, proposals sent to review, proposals reviewed by assessors, reviews returned to AHRC, reviews collated and sent to institutions |
| 8 Dec – 2 Jan 2009 | Institution response |
| 2 Jan | Deadline for institution response |
| 2 Jan – 15 Jan | Papers produced for panels and sent to panel members |
| 12 – 30 Jan | Panel members review paperwork |
| w/c 2 Feb | Panel members return moderated grades, AHRC collate grades |
| w/c 9 Feb | Moderating panel meet |
| w/c 16 Feb | Panel recommendations collated and checked |
| w/c 23 Feb | Results announced to institutions |

What are the assessment criteria for BGP proposals?

93. The reviewers will be looking at the overall institution proposal and the subject level information for the following:

Strategy and Vision

- evidence that, in its postgraduate programme, the institution has engaged with the AHRC's goals and strategy
- evidence that the institution has a coherent long-term strategy for

promoting and developing postgraduate research and training in the arts and humanities disciplines, and that the AHRC funding it requests will clearly support and build on this strategy

Spread of studentships

- evidence that there is a convincing rationale for the proposed spread and number of studentships (in terms of spread across subject disciplines, Master's and Doctoral level courses, research-based and professional courses)
- evidence that the spread of studentships supports the institution's and the AHRC's strategies for postgraduate funding, and that the proposed spread can be maintained by the institution's infrastructure
- evidence that the organisation is a priority to hold the requested number of studentships in each subject area

Training and Environment

- evidence that the students across the arts and humanities disciplines at the institution will be trained as high-quality researchers and/or practitioners.
- evidence that there is appropriate transferable skills training provision in place across the arts and humanities disciplines at the institution, both for research-based and professional courses at Master's and Doctoral level.
- evidence that effective supervisory arrangements are in place across the institution for all arts and humanities students where needed.
- evidence that an appropriate research environment is in place in the institution, and that all students within arts and humanities disciplines are encouraged to integrate with this environment.
- evidence that effective processes are in place across the institution to monitor students' progress and to support students whose circumstances may change
- evidence that there is appropriate training provision in place in each subject area, in terms of subject specific skills, both for research-based and professional modes of study at both Master's and doctoral level

Management and Monitoring

- evidence that appropriate mechanisms are in place to ensure transparent and effective use of the AHRC's block of funding over the period of the award
- evidence that the institution has proposed a fair, open, and transparent selection process to allocate AHRC funding to individual students; and that this process will seek to appoint the

highest quality students, considering equal opportunities and ensuring appropriate advertisement of studentship opportunities

Proposals from a Collaboration

- evidence that the collaboration is appropriate and viable, with mechanisms already agreed for shared responsibilities including financial arrangements, student monitoring, and pooling of research and training resources.
94. Further guidance on what applicants should include will be provided in the helptext accompanying the Je-S proposal form.

Will there be any help and guidance available from the AHRC during the period that organisations are putting together a BGP proposal?

95. The AHRC will be putting in place a programme of communication events and regional visits for organisations. Help and guidance on the proposal process will be available from AHRC staff by telephone and email correspondence. The Je-S Helpdesk will deliver some training sessions in the use of the Je-S System for prospective applicants and can provide support with completion of the proposal form and the Je-S proposal process.

Contacting the AHRC about the BGPs

Postgraduate Programmes
The Arts and Humanities Research Council
Whitefriars
Lewins Mead
Bristol
BS1 2AE

Tel: 0117 987 6636 or 0117 9876628

Fax: 0117 987 6544

Email: pgnewschemes@ahrc.ac.uk

SECTION 4: AWARDS AND STUDENT RECRUITMENT

What will the administration of a BGP entail for an organisation?

96. The AHRC will issue a post-award guide in 2008 which will provide further details and information about the administration of BGPs and individual studentships.
97. The organisation will be required to nominate a **BGP co-ordinator** who will be expected to be the point of contact for the AHRC during the assessment and outcome process. It is up to the organisation to decide which member of staff they wish to fulfill this role but it is likely that it would need to be a senior academic or a senior officer/administrator who has the relevant authority within the institution. The person nominated must be available throughout this time, and in particular has responsibility for the organisation's response to the reviewers' comments.

How will the money be allocated to successful BGPs?

98. Money will be allocated to organisations with Block Grants based on the individual students they nominate and according to nationally set rates. For example, if an organisation with a BGP award for 20 studentships in year one nominated 15 full-time full-award, 2 part-time full-award and 3 full-time fees-only students in their first year the AHRC will release funding according to these award types.
99. With effect from October 2007 the AHRC changed its payment mechanism so that **all** payments are made directly to organisations. The organisation is responsible for transferring maintenance payments to students at the start of each quarter.
 - Maintenance Grants: quarterly in October, January, April and July
 - Tuition Fees: bi-annually in December and May
 - Research Training Funds: annually in December
 - All other payments: ad-hoc.

What about student selection and nomination in a BGP?

100. Organisations that hold a BGP will be expected to have suitable student recruitment procedures in place and to follow best practice on recruitment and selection and equal opportunities policy. Such procedures should ensure that students are recruited to the available studentships in a fair, open and transparent way and that places are advertised nationally to ensure that the best quality eligible students receive AHRC funding.
101. The AHRC would expect that organisations comply with the Quality

Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) '*Code of practice for the assurance of academic quality and standards in higher education*' (*Code of practice*). For information on recruitment and selection please refer to Section 10: '*Admissions to higher education - September 2006*'. The document can be found by following this link:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/codeOfPractice/section10/default.asp>

102. Organisations must ensure that the students they recruit meet the aims of the relevant schemes for which the studentships have been awarded, whether in the Doctoral Award scheme, the Research Preparation Master's scheme or the Professional Preparation Master's scheme. Our aim is to maintain the same flexibility we currently offer, within the rules of the schemes, regarding length of studentships and minimum periods of study and whether awards are full-time, part-time or fees only. Please see **Appendix A** for more details on the schemes.
103. Organisations should not recruit students to pre-determined research topics through a BGP. The AHRC wishes to ensure that the BGP system is able to foster and encourage innovation and that students will still be able to approach an organisation with whatever project they want to undertake. Organisations will need to determine if a proposed project falls within a subject area awarded under a BGP.
104. The AHRC has issued a separate Guide to Student Recruitment and Nomination, which is available to download from the website. It will also be monitoring all student nominations and will reserve the right not to approve a nomination if the candidate does not meet the eligibility criteria, aims of the scheme or if the recruitment process appears to be unfair.
105. Given the number of high quality applications that the AHRC competition has traditionally received it is not envisaged that either student quantity or quality should be an issue. The AHRC will not penalise organisations who are unable to find a suitable candidate for a certain studentship and will be open to negotiation as to how best to utilise the studentship. We would not wish to pressure an organisation to allocate where it could lead to unsuitable candidates being given studentships.
106. BGP proposals and studentship allocations are made on a subject basis but details of the department in which the student is registered will be requested on the nomination form and will be used for monitoring and submission rate survey purposes.
107. The AHRC will only accept nominations for students who have **not** submitted an application to the Studentship Competition. Additionally, students will not be able to be nominated to a BGP or CDA place by withdrawing their application to the Studentship Competition. However, if a student is unsuccessful in the Studentship Competition, they will subsequently be able to be nominated to a BGP place.

Does a BGP still encourage innovative student-led research proposals?

108. Organisations will not be expected to provide specific details of student projects in their proposal but will bid for allocations in subject disciplines, not research projects or specific areas or themes. This should ensure that students will still be able to approach the organisation with whatever project they want to undertake and therefore maintain the level of innovation fostered in the current Open Competition. Organisations should not, in any case, recruit students to pre-determined research topics either through a BGP or the annual Studentship Competition.

Can EU and part-time students still be funded by a BGP?

109. Organisations will bid for, and be awarded, a BGP as a number of studentships not an amount of money. Therefore any 'type' of student would equal the same value in terms of success, i.e. one studentship. How much a studentship is worth in monetary value must not be a factor in recruitment.
110. Funding will be allocated based on the students nominated and not as a block of money to be spent by organisations as they see fit. Organisations will be expected to follow equal opportunities guidelines and to have transparent recruitment policies to be able to attract and fund the best eligible students regardless of their status. The AHRC will monitor the spread of awards given to fees-only and part-time students to ensure a fair balance is maintained.

Will the AHRC's submission rate policy still apply when the new funding system is introduced?

111. The AHRC's submission rate policy will continue to operate as at present. All doctoral students will be surveyed according to the department in which they have been studying at the relevant point, normally four years after the start of their studentship.
112. A two-year penalty will continue to be imposed for organisations that hold a BGP award and where the organisation or a department fails to meet the relevant submission threshold.
- If it is an entire organisation whose sanction covers 2009, it will be able to apply to the BGP competition for Master's studentships but will only be able to include doctoral studentships in their proposal from the year in which the sanction is lifted.
 - If it is a department within an organisation whose sanction covers 2009 their organisation will only be able to recruit doctoral students to that department from the year in which their sanction is lifted.
 - If it is an organisation which already holds a BGP (e.g. they fail to meet the threshold in 2010), they will lose their allocation of doctoral students

for the next 2 years; they will not be able to change them to Master's studentships

- If it is a department within an organisation which already holds a BGP (e.g. they fail to meet the threshold in 2010), they will not be able to recruit doctoral students to that department for the next 2 years and the BGP award will lose the number of doctoral studentships deemed appropriate by the AHRC.

113. The AHRC will check at the nomination stage to ensure organisations are not recruiting doctoral students to sanctioned departments. The BGP proposal will detail subject areas not departments, but the AHRC will query this with an organisation if it appears they are applying for doctoral studentships that are likely to be held in sanctioned departments, or if a student is nominated to a non-sanctioned department where that department does not clearly match the topic of the project.

What are the Terms and Conditions attached to a BGP?

114. Draft Terms and Conditions will be published on the website in January 2008.

What are the AHRC's complaints and appeals procedures?

115. For details of the complaints procedure or appeal process, please refer to the document 'Complaints and Appeals Procedure for Applications and Awards' which can be found on our website at www.ahrc.ac.uk/complaintsandappeals/default.asp

Glossary

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| BGP Co-ordinator: | An employee of the organisation who coordinates the proposal through the assessment and outcome process and subsequently is the key contact for the management of the BGP award to the organisation. |
| Organisation: | An institution that is recognised and funded by one of the four UK higher education funding councils, or an institution whose postgraduate courses are validated by a recognised organisation. Also referred to as 'organisation' or research organisation in Je-S |
| Award: | An award made by the AHRC to provide funding for studentships or training on a specific scheme, e.g. a BGP award, a CDA award, a CRT award. |
| Award Holder: | The organisation or the specified person who made the proposal for funding and who holds the rights to that award and is responsible for it as opposed to the holder of a studentship attached to that award. i.e. an organisation will be deemed to hold the BGP award not those in receipt of the studentships. |
| Studentship: | That granted by the AHRC to fund a selected or nominated student to undertake a course of study at Master's or Doctoral level. |
| Student: | The holder of a studentship |

APPENDIX A - The AHRC's SUBJECT DOMAIN AND SUBJECT CATEGORIES

What is the AHRC's subject domain?

- 1 The AHRC will support work that seeks to improve, enhance or develop creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding in the artistic and creative activities, history, languages, literatures, and systems of thought and belief of human beings, both past and present. Within that broad definition, there are inevitable overlaps and border territories that are shared with other award-making bodies. We seek to specify where such overlaps are likely to occur in the guidance given below.
- 2 Many areas of study in the arts and humanities overlap with other disciplines, and some are inherently interdisciplinary. It is not possible to define what falls within or outside the arts and humanities by reference to the methodologies used or by simple reference to the subject matter of the study. Rather, the Council takes into account whether or not the following could plausibly be regarded as falling within our subject domain:
 - the approach and methodologies to be adopted
 - the research questions or problems to be addressed
 - the wider context in which those questions or problems are located.

THE SUBJECT CATEGORIES

| | |
|---|----|
| Applied Arts and Crafts | 31 |
| Archaeology | 31 |
| Asian Language and Culture | 31 |
| Celtic Studies | 32 |
| Classics and Ancient History | 32 |
| Communications, Graphics and Photography | 32 |
| Conservation | 32 |
| Creative Writing | 32 |
| Cultural Studies | 33 |
| Dance, Drama and Performing Arts | 33 |
| Design | 33 |
| English Language and Literature | 33 |
| European Studies | 34 |
| Film, Digital and Media Production | 34 |
| Film Studies and Television Studies | 34 |
| Fine Art | 34 |
| French Language and Culture | 34 |
| German Language and Culture | 35 |
| History | 35 |
| History of Art, Architecture and Design | 36 |
| Iberian and Latin American Language and Culture | 36 |
| Interpreting and Translation | 36 |
| Italian Language and Culture | 36 |
| Journalism and Publishing Studies | 37 |
| Law | 37 |
| Librarianship, Archives and Records Management | 37 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Linguistics | 37 |
| Middle Eastern and African Language and Culture | 38 |
| Museum Studies | 38 |
| Music | 38 |
| Philosophy | 39 |
| Religious Studies | 39 |
| Russian, Slavonic and East European Language and Culture | 39 |

Applied Arts and Crafts

- 3 Includes craft, applied arts, jewellery and metalwork, ceramics, glass, wood, metal, plastics, technology studies,

Archaeology

- 4 Includes archaeological theory; archaeology of human origins; prehistoric and historic societies on a world-wide basis. This also includes early civilisations of near east; Egyptology; classical archaeology; medieval and post-medieval archaeology; colonial and industrial archaeology. Also included are landscape and environmental archaeology; public archaeology and archaeological aspects of heritage management and museum studies.
- 5 The Council shares responsibility for the funding of research in archaeology with the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), which supports primarily **science-based archaeology**. Where the focus of the work to be undertaken (in terms of the research questions or problems to be addressed, and the context for those questions, as well as the methodologies to be employed) is primarily archaeological, applications should be directed to the Council; and where it is scientific, they should more appropriately be directed to NERC.
- 6 The Council does not seek to discourage applications on the borderline of the humanities and science side of archaeology, but projects must address research issues and problems of substantive archaeological significance. If a proposal focuses on an archaeological question (for example about trade, cultural history or identity) that can be answered with science, then it falls within the domain of the AHRC. The AHRC will not normally support projects that are mainly concerned with technical or scientific questions that have an application within archaeology.

Asian Language and Culture

- 7 Includes studies in language and literature; critical and cultural theory; creative writing; cultural studies; gender studies; media studies; philosophy; and historical studies. Work must include a significant proportion of work on texts, documents or archives or fieldwork in a relevant language other than English and students must also demonstrate competence in that language at an appropriate level. In social, political, cultural and historical studies there are overlaps with the responsibilities of ESRC.
- 8 The following points should be noted:
- Work in **communication, cultural, media and gender studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on the study of texts or images, but the ESRC also supports work in communication, cultural, media and gender studies. Work in these areas may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts.
 - Work in **area studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on artistic or creative activities, history, languages, literatures, or thought and beliefs, but the ESRC also supports work in area studies and work on, for example, economics or politics, should be directed to ESRC. Work in

area studies may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts or any of the Art, Design and Media subjects.

Celtic Studies

- 9 Includes studies in language and literature; critical and cultural theory; creative writing; cultural studies; gender studies; media studies; philosophy; and historical studies. Work must include a significant proportion of work on texts, documents or archives or fieldwork in a relevant language other than English and students must also demonstrate competence in that language at an appropriate level. In social, political, cultural and historical studies there are overlaps with the responsibilities of ESRC.
- 10 The following points should be noted:
- Work in **communication, cultural, media and gender studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on the study of texts or images, but the ESRC also supports work in communication, cultural, media and gender studies. Work in these areas may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts.
 - Work in **area studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on artistic or creative activities, history, languages, literatures, or thought and beliefs, but the ESRC also supports work in area studies and work on, for example, economics or politics, should be directed to ESRC. Work in area studies may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts or any of the Art, Design and Media subjects.

Classics and Ancient History

- 11 Classics and ancient history may include: the language, literature and thought (including ancient science and philosophy) of Greece and Rome from the earliest times to late antiquity; Latin language and literature of the middle ages and subsequent periods; the history, art and archaeology of Greece from the Mycenaean period to the Roman empire; the history, art and archaeology of Rome, Italy and the Roman provinces from the pre-Roman period to the late Roman empire; the language, literature, history, culture, art and archaeology of the Byzantine world; Latin and Greek philology and linguistics; the reception of classical antiquity and the classical tradition.

In addition, this subject would include:

- **ancient philosophy and religion** which may also fall under *Philosophy or Religious Studies*
- **other ancient languages**, such as Sumerian
- **Byzantine studies** which may also fall under *History of Art or History*
- **The classical tradition and its reception**

Communications, Graphics and Photography

- 12 Includes graphic and communication design, photography, animation: communication studies, including electronic communications

Conservation

- 13 Includes conservation of art and textiles.

Creative Writing

- 14 Includes studies at both doctoral and Master's level

Cultural Studies

- 15 Includes cultural, theoretical and historical studies where this is principally contextual to contemporary practice and culture within art and design. Also some aspects of **cultural geography**, covering matters such as the iconography and interpretation of the cultural landscape; cultural constructions of nature and environment; creative and imaginative aspects of geographical thought and practice, including the arts of mapping; relationships between space, place and cultural identity. The Council does not support work that is clearly anthropological in nature and where the focus of the proposed work is on social or economic issues as these are more appropriately in the domain of the ESRC.

Dance, Drama and Performing Arts

- 16 Includes drama, theatre, dance and performance analysis; drama, theatre, dance and performance history; drama, theatre, dance and performance practice; film, TV and video analysis; film, TV and video practice; dramaturgy and theatre translation; gender and performance; scenography; new technologies and performance; theatre performance; performance documentation and reconstruction; live art; choreography; dance education and health; community performance; performance anthropology; drama and dance/movement therapies; and related specialist areas.
- 17 The following points should be noted:
- Practice-based courses may fall in either the Professional Preparation Master's Scheme or the Research Preparation Master's Scheme depending on the aims and focus of the course and the student's pathway
 - **Dance ethnography** (including dance anthropology, ethnochoreology, and performance studies which adopt fieldwork techniques) does fall within the AHRC's domain but responsibility for **dance ethnography** and **theatre anthropology** is shared with ESRC.

Design

- 18 Includes fashion design, printed textiles, woven textiles, constructed textiles, knit, three-dimensional design, art and design in the landscape, interior and environmental design, theatre design, exhibition and events design, automotive design, product design, furniture, pedagogy in art and design

English Language and Literature

- 19 Includes Old and Middle English language and literature; Old Norse and Icelandic; Renaissance literature; 17th and 18th century literature; romantic literature; Victorian literature; 20th century literature; American literature; colonial and postcolonial literature; comparative literature; women's writing; children's literature; critical and cultural theory and history; gender and gay studies; bibliography, textual criticism and history of the book; Irish literature in English; Scottish Literature in English and Scots; and Welsh Literature in English.
- 20 This subject area also includes:
- the history of the **English language**, and stylistics and discourse analysis. Other English language studies, including studies of speech and pragmatics, lexis and grammar, may be directed to Linguistics.
 - **critical theory and cultural or communications studies** where the focus of the study is on the interpretation or analysis of texts in English. The ESRC also supports work in cultural and communication studies

European Studies

- 21 Includes studies in language and literature; critical and cultural theory; creative writing; cultural studies; gender studies; media studies; philosophy; and historical studies. Work must include a significant proportion of work on texts, documents or archives or fieldwork in relevant languages other than English and students must also demonstrate competence in that language at an appropriate level. Dutch and Scandinavian languages and Modern Greek will fall under this subject. In social, political, cultural and historical studies there are overlaps with the responsibilities of ESRC.
- 22 The following points should be noted:
- Work in **communication, cultural, media and gender studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on the study of texts or images, but the ESRC also supports work in communication, cultural, media and gender studies. Work in these areas may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts.
 - Work in **area studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on artistic or creative activities, history, languages, literatures, or thought and beliefs, but the ESRC also supports work in area studies and work on, for example, economics or politics, should be directed to ESRC. Work in area studies may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts or any of the Art, Design and Media subjects.

Film, Digital and Media Production

- 23 Includes screen and broadcast productions, virtual reality, multimedia, digital and interactive art and design, fine art digital media, software design for visual artefacts,

Film Studies and Television Studies

- 24 Includes film, television and media studies where the focus is aesthetic or practice-based and on images or narrative and also the history of film and television. Where the focus of the proposed work is on social or economic issues, applications may be more appropriately addressed to ESRC.

Fine Art

- 25 Includes painting, illustration, public art, social art practice/art in the public realm, sculpture, performance art, installation, time-based art, printmaking. The Council may support courses in **Arts therapy** where the predominant focus of the study is based in the arts and humanities, rather than in medicine and psychology.

French Language and Culture

- 26 Includes studies in language and literature; critical and cultural theory; creative writing; cultural studies; gender studies; media studies; philosophy; and historical studies. Work must include a significant proportion of work on texts, documents or archives or fieldwork in a relevant language other than English and students must also demonstrate competence in that language at an appropriate level. In social, political, cultural and historical studies there are overlaps with the responsibilities of ESRC.
- 27 The following points should be noted:
- Work in **communication, cultural, media and gender studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on the study of texts or images, but the ESRC also supports work in communication, cultural, media

and gender studies. Work in these areas may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts.

- Work in **area studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on artistic or creative activities, history, languages, literatures, or thought and beliefs, but the ESRC also supports work in area studies and work on, for example, economics or politics, should be directed to ESRC. Work in area studies may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts or any of the Art, Design and Media subjects.

German Language and Culture

28 Includes studies in language and literature; critical and cultural theory; creative writing; cultural studies; gender studies; media studies; philosophy; and historical studies. Work must include a significant proportion of work on texts, documents or archives or fieldwork in a relevant language other than English and students must also demonstrate competence in that language at an appropriate level. In social, political, cultural and historical studies there are overlaps with the responsibilities of ESRC.

29 The following points should be noted:

- Work in **communication, cultural, media and gender studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on the study of texts or images, but the ESRC also supports work in communication, cultural, media and gender studies. Work in these areas may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts.
- Work in **area studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on artistic or creative activities, history, languages, literatures, or thought and beliefs, but the ESRC also supports work in area studies and work on, for example, economics or politics, should be directed to ESRC. Work in area studies may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts or any of the Art, Design and Media subjects.

History

30 The AHRC shares responsibility with ESRC for the support of postgraduate work in history. The AHRC supports work in **all periods of history** from ancient times to the recent past, and in all parts of the world although applications in ancient history should normally be directed to Classics & Ancient History. Similarly ESRC has a funding interest in the social and economic history of all periods and in all parts of the world. The AHRC is primarily responsible for: biography; administrative, cultural, diplomatic, legal, military, political and religious history; the history of science, of medicine, and of ideas; and historiography.

31 The AHRC funds work in 'modern history' which it defines as ending in the late twentieth century. It does, of course, recognise that 'contemporary history' is a valid field of study. However study which focuses primarily or exclusively on the last two decades of that century will need to show how and why the focus is indeed predominantly historical (rather than contemporary, cultural or political etc) for example, how the study will focus on change over a defined period of time or will make predominant use of historical modes of analysis. Study which is focussed on contemporary or near-contemporary political theory or analysis or on economic or geographical themes should normally be directed to ESRC, since these studies form part of its remit. Study which is focussed exclusively or predominantly on the early twenty-first century will not normally be admissible.

32 This subject area also includes:

- **historical or cultural geography** and the **history of geography**, where there is a demonstrable historical focus

- **history of science and medicine** and the **history of ideas** except in those cases where the philosophical focus of the proposed study is so dominant that it would be more appropriate to direct it to Philosophy. The Wellcome Trust also supports research in the history of science and medicine
- **area studies** where the main focus of the proposed work is historical. The ESRC also supports work in area studies
- **diplomatic history** and the **history of international relations**. The AHRC does not support work in *contemporary or near-contemporary international relations* (see chronological definitions given above) or *contemporary or near-contemporary political theory or analysis* as these are in the domain of the ESRC.

History of Art, Architecture and Design

33 Includes history of art, architecture, and design, in the widest chronological and geographical framework; theory and aesthetics of the visual arts; history of photography, and visual media; work in cognate fields such as cultural and gender studies, archaeology, and anthropology, where these relate to, or are grouped with, study of the visual arts. The Council will also support research in architecture that concerns building design (but not structural or civil or other aspects of engineering).

Iberian and Latin American Language and Culture

34 Includes studies in language and literature; critical and cultural theory; creative writing; cultural studies; gender studies; media studies; philosophy; and historical studies. Work must include a significant proportion of work on texts, documents or archives or fieldwork in a relevant language other than English and students must also demonstrate competence in that language at an appropriate level. In social, political, cultural and historical studies there are overlaps with the responsibilities of ESRC.

35 The following points should be noted:

- Work in **communication, cultural, media and gender studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on the study of texts or images, but the ESRC also supports work in communication, cultural, media and gender studies. Work in these areas may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts.
- Work in **area studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on artistic or creative activities, history, languages, literatures, or thought and beliefs, but the ESRC also supports work in area studies and work on, for example, economics or politics, should be directed to ESRC. Work in area studies may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts or any of the Art, Design and Media subjects.

Interpreting and Translation

36 Includes all postgraduate courses in interpreting and translation except those that are aimed at students wishing to pursue a career in the business and commercial sectors, rather than the arts and humanities, as these do not fall within the AHRC's subject domain.

Italian Language and Culture

37 Includes studies in language and literature; critical and cultural theory; creative writing; cultural studies; gender studies; media studies; philosophy; and historical studies. Work must include a significant proportion of work on texts, documents or

archives or fieldwork in a relevant language other than English and students must also demonstrate competence in that language at an appropriate level. In social, political, cultural and historical studies there are overlaps with the responsibilities of ESRC.

38 The following points should be noted:

- Work in **communication, cultural, media and gender studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on the study of texts or images, but the ESRC also supports work in communication, cultural, media and gender studies. Work in these areas may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts.
- Work in **area studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on artistic or creative activities, history, languages, literatures, or thought and beliefs, but the ESRC also supports work in area studies and work on, for example, economics or politics, should be directed to ESRC. Work in area studies may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts or any of the Art, Design and Media subjects.

Journalism and Publishing Studies

39 Includes all forms of journalism such as broadcast journalism, newspaper journalism, periodical journalism, and includes journalism transmitted through new media (multimedia and online journalism) and Master's level courses, and doctoral research in publishing studies.

Law

40 Includes doctrinal, theoretical, empirical, comparative or other studies of law and legal phenomena. The AHRC has a particular responsibility for studies where the focus is on the content or procedures of the law. It shares responsibility for studies in law with ESRC, which has particular responsibility for work in socio-legal studies and on the socio-economic impact of the law. It should be noted that the Council does not provide support for postgraduate students undertaking conversion courses in law, or for courses that aim to provide them with training for legal practice (for example, courses such as the CPE, LPC and BVC are not eligible for funding).

Librarianship, Archives and Records Management

41 Includes information communities and the use and management of information in all forms and in all contexts; all aspects of archive administration and records management; all aspects of information policy in the information society; information systems; systems thinking; systems development; information retrieval (including interfaces and gateways); preservation and conservation of recorded information including Film archiving. The Council *does not* support courses in Computer Science, as such courses focus on engineering and mathematics; these are areas which do not fall within the Council's subject domain.

Linguistics

42 The AHRC shares responsibility with the ESRC for the support of postgraduate work in linguistics. The AHRC focuses on work bearing on the structure, history, theory, description and application of language and languages, including pragmatics, corpus studies, translation, lexicography, stylistics, textual or discourse analysis, the history of linguistic thought, and interdisciplinary work involving another arts and humanities discipline. The ESRC's focus is on psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, anthropological linguistics and those

areas of sociolinguistics and applied linguistics that rely mainly on social science methodologies or are confined to educational applications. Aspects of applied linguistics and sociolinguistics that are grounded in the approaches to language identified above as part of the AHRC's subject domain, including those concerned with language structure, culture, history, texts and their interpretation, can be supported by the AHRC. Variationist sociolinguistics and work with a focus on social or economic issues should be directed to the ESRC.

- 43 Work devoted to one or more languages that fall within a defined subject area should normally be directed to that subject area (Classics & Ancient History, English Language & Literature, Asian Studies, French Language & Culture, Celtic Studies, European Studies, German Language & Culture, Iberian and Latin American Languages, Italian Language & Culture, Middle Eastern & African Language & Culture, Russian, Slavonic & East European Language & Culture). If, however, the focus is theoretical, and the language data are being used to test a general hypothesis or illustrate aspects of a theoretical model, then Linguistics is the appropriate subject area, as it is for any work of a comparative nature or centred on a language that does not fall within a defined subject area.

Middle Eastern and African Language and Culture

- 44 Includes studies in language and literature; critical and cultural theory; creative writing; cultural studies; gender studies; media studies; philosophy; and historical studies. Work must include a significant proportion of work on texts, documents or archives or fieldwork in a relevant language other than English, French or any other European language belonging to a defined AHRC subject area, and students must also demonstrate competence in that language at an appropriate level. In social, political, cultural and historical studies there are overlaps with the responsibilities of ESRC.
- 45 The following points should be noted:
- Work in **communication, cultural, media and gender studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on the study of texts or images, but the ESRC also supports work in communication, cultural, media and gender studies. Work in these areas may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts.
 - Work in **area studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on artistic or creative activities, history, languages, literatures, or thought and beliefs, but the ESRC also supports work in area studies and work on, for example, economics or politics, should be directed to ESRC. Work in area studies may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts or any of the Art, Design and Media subjects.

Museum Studies

- 46 Includes museum studies, curatorship, conservation and art and design management. The ESRC also supports work on the socio-economic foundations and impact of the creative and cultural industries.

Music

- 47 Includes composition and performance (including classical, commercial and popular); history and criticism of music; ethnomusicology; theory and analysis, including empirical approaches; technology and computer applications (in doctoral research in these areas, digital and electronic outcomes as well as a written thesis may be possible).
- 48 The following points should be noted:

- both **Master's-level** courses and **doctoral** research in **composition** are eligible for funding. Practice-based courses may fall in either the Professional Preparation Master's Scheme or the Research Preparation Master's Scheme depending on the aims and focus of the course and the student's pathway
- both **Master's-level** courses and **doctoral** research in **performance** are eligible for funding. Practice-based courses may fall in either the Professional Preparation Master's Scheme or the Research Preparation Master's Scheme depending on the aims and focus of the course and the student's pathway.
- responsibility for **ethnomusicology** is shared with ESRC.
- The AHRC may support courses in **music psychology** where the predominant focus of the study is based in the arts and humanities.

Philosophy

- 49 Includes all the main areas, styles of and approaches to philosophy including: history of philosophy including ancient, medieval, modern and recent; metaphysics; epistemology; logic; philosophy of science; philosophy of mind; philosophy of language; philosophy of religion; 19th and 20th century European philosophy including phenomenology, existentialism, critical theory, hermeneutics and deconstruction; ethics including applied ethics; political and social philosophy; applied philosophy; feminist philosophy; and aesthetics.
- 50 The following points should be noted:
- **ancient philosophy** may also fall under Classics & Ancient History
 - **history of science** and the **history of ideas** would normally fall under History
 - where the focus of the study is on empirical surveys of current **political practice**, rather than philosophy, this falls within the domain of the ESRC
 - **contemporary politics and political theory** fall within the domain of the ESRC.

Religious Studies

- 51 Includes the study of the world's religions, specific or comparative, including their scriptures, thought, history, ethical teaching, social and cultural impact, practices and related areas. It embraces theological, textual, philosophical, sociological, anthropological and applied approaches. It includes all of the areas normally studied under the rubric of theology, divinity, religious studies or biblical studies.

Russian, Slavonic and East European Language and Culture

- 52 Includes studies in language and literature; critical and cultural theory; creative writing; cultural studies; gender studies; media studies; philosophy; and historical studies. Work must include a significant proportion of work on texts, documents or archives or fieldwork in a relevant language other than English and students must also demonstrate competence in that language at an appropriate level. In social, political, cultural and historical studies there are overlaps with the responsibilities of ESRC.
- 53 The following points should be noted:
- Work in **communication, cultural, media and gender studies** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on the study of texts or images, but the ESRC also supports work in communication, cultural, media and gender studies. Work in these areas may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts.

- Work in ***area studies*** may be supported where the focus of the proposed study is on artistic or creative activities, history, languages, literatures, or thought and beliefs, but the ESRC also supports work in area studies and work on, for example, economics or politics, should be directed to ESRC. Work in area studies may also fall under Cultural Studies, History, Music and Dance, Drama & Performing Arts or any of the Art, Design and Media subjects.

APPENDIX B - WHAT TYPES OF STUDENTSHIP DOES THE AHRC PROVIDE UNDER A BGP?

1. There are three schemes to enable students to undertake Master's-level study or doctoral study at a Higher Education Institution (organisation) in the United Kingdom (UK):
 - **The Research Preparation Master's Scheme**
 - **The Professional Doctoral Awards Scheme**
 - **The Doctoral Awards Scheme**

The Doctoral Awards Scheme

2. This provides support for students undertaking doctoral study. Students funded through this scheme can be initially registered as a probationary or MPhil status student but they must upgrade to full doctoral status by the start of the final year of their studentship.
3. We expect doctoral applicants to have completed, or to be undertaking, a formal Master's-level qualification. If the student does not have a formal qualification, the student and the institution will need to demonstrate sustained experience beyond first degree level which exceptionally qualifies him/her to proceed to doctoral study. It is important to note that the length of the degree is not sufficient evidence for an applicant's preparedness to undertake research at doctoral level.
4. There is a minimum period of funding for doctoral applicants: students studying full-time may apply for a minimum of one year's support; those studying part-time may apply for between two and five years' support.
5. Full-time awards for doctoral study normally last for a maximum of three years. This period may be reduced to take account of any time a student has already spent on doctoral study, or if the total funding they have received from a UK public source (e.g. the Government or one of the Research Councils) for postgraduate study will exceed four years.
6. Part-time studentships for doctoral study normally last for a maximum of five years. Again, this period may be reduced to take account of any time they have already spent on doctoral study or to reflect any funding that they have received from a UK public source.
7. In specific cases students studying full-time may apply for up to four years support and those studying part-time for up to seven years support. Further information will be provided to those organisations who gain a BGP at a later date.
8. In determining the maximum length of a studentship for doctoral study, the AHRC will normally disregard any period of **less** than one year of full-time (or equivalent part-time) doctoral study already undertaken that has been financed from any source other than the Government or one of the Research Councils.

9. In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible to transfer between full-time and part-time study and vice-versa.

The Research Preparation Master's Scheme

10. This provides support for students undertaking Master's courses that focus on advanced study and research training explicitly intended to provide a foundation for further research at doctoral level. In the creative and performing arts, including practice-led study, the scheme will also support students undertaking Master's courses that focus on advanced study and research training explicitly intended to provide a foundation for a career in research in the higher education sector.
11. We expect these students to gain a Master's qualification at the end of their AHRC studentship. Students who are initially registered as a Master's student, but who are proceeding directly to doctoral study without gaining a Master's qualification, should not be funded in this scheme.
12. Studentships will normally be for one year's full-time or two years' part-time study, but funding for two years' full-time study or four years' part-time study will exceptionally be considered, where the value and necessity of the additional period of training is demonstrated.
13. The eligibility of a studentship to be held under this Scheme, rather than the Professional Preparation Master's Scheme, will depend on the aims and focus of the course and the student's long-term career goals.
14. A course is eligible for funding in this scheme if by the end of the period of the AHRC award the student will gain a Master's degree such as the MA, MSc or MPhil in the arts and humanities. Qualifications such as the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma are not eligible for support under this scheme.

The Professional Preparation Master's Scheme

15. This provides support for students undertaking Master's or Postgraduate Diploma courses that focus on developing high-level skills and competencies for professional practice in a field relevant to the content of the course.
16. Studentships will normally be for one year's full-time study or two years' part-time study, but funding for two years' full-time study or four years' part-time study will exceptionally be considered, where the value and necessity of the additional training is demonstrated.
17. The eligibility of a studentship to be held under this scheme, rather than the Research Preparation Master's Scheme, will depend on the aims and focus of the course and the student's long-term career goals.
18. A course will be eligible for funding in this scheme if, by the end of the period of the AHRC studentship, the student will gain a Master's degree (e.g. an MA or MSc) or a Postgraduate Diploma.

19. To be eligible for funding under this scheme, courses should offer students the opportunity to pursue practical work and related theory at advanced level, to acquire and develop further skills related to professional practice in their field of study, and to develop their own work critically. Such courses should also demonstrate a clear relationship with professional practice. They should equip the student with the necessary skills to pursue a career or profession in a field relevant to the content of the course.

APPENDIX C – ESTIMATED SPREAD OF AWARDS THE AHRC AIMS TO MAKE PER YEAR IN EACH SUBJECT AND SCHEME 2009-2013 (NOTE THE OVERALL NUMBER OF AWARDS HAS DECREASED TO 1325 – SEE PARAGRAPH 50)

| Subject | Doctoral awards | Research Preparation Master's Awards | Professional Preparation Master's Awards | Total |
|---|------------------------|---|---|--------------|
| Applied Arts and Crafts | 4 | 0 | 6 | 10 |
| Archaeology | 45 | 19 | 11 | 75 |
| Asian Studies | 3 | 2 | n/a | 5 |
| Celtic Studies | 6 | 4 | n/a | 10 |
| Classics and Ancient History | 27 | 16 | n/a | 43 |
| Communications, Graphics & Photography | 4 | 2 | 13 | 19 |
| Conservation | 1 | 0 | 11 | 12 |
| Creative Writing | 7 | 1 | 12 | 20 |
| Cultural Studies | 18 | 19 | n/a | 37 |
| Dance, Drama and Performing Arts | 15 | 8 | 21 | 44 |
| Design | 7 | 2 | 23 | 32 |
| English Language and Literature | 127 | 71 | n/a | 198 |
| European Studies | 4 | 4 | n/a | 8 |
| Film Studies & Television Studies | 20 | 15 | n/a | 35 |
| Film, Digital and Media Production | 5 | 3 | 26 | 34 |
| Fine Art | 12 | 9 | 56 | 77 |
| French Language & Culture | 21 | 11 | n/a | 32 |
| German Language & Culture | 13 | 8 | n/a | 21 |
| History | 138 | 69 | n/a | 207 |
| History of Art, Architecture & Design | 49 | 28 | 6 | 83 |
| Iberian and Latin American Language & Culture | 14 | 7 | n/a | 21 |
| Interpreting and Translation | 2 | 0 | 28 | 30 |
| Italian Language & Culture | 9 | 3 | n/a | 12 |
| Journalism & Publishing studies | 0 | 0 | 27 | 27 |
| Law | 22 | 10 | 11 | 43 |
| Librarianship, Archives & Records management | 3 | 0 | 46 | 49 |
| Linguistics | 21 | 11 | n/a | 32 |
| Middle Eastern & African Language & Culture | 5 | 3 | n/a | 8 |
| Museum Studies | 6 | 0 | 30 | 36 |
| Music | 40 | 19 | 23 | 82 |
| Philosophy | 61 | 39 | n/a | 100 |
| Russian, Slavonic & Eastern European Language & Culture | 8 | 2 | n/a | 10 |
| Religious Studies | 33 | 15 | n/a | 48 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 750* | 400* | 350* | 1500* |

* overall 1325 (see paragraph 50)

| BGP Subject category | Previous AHRC categories |
|---|---|
| Archaeology | Archaeology Archaeological heritage management (PM) |
| Classics and Ancient History | Classics Ancient history |
| History | Early modern history Medieval History Later Modern History |
| Applied Arts & Crafts | Applied Arts & Crafts |
| Communications, Graphics and Photography | Communications, Graphics and Photography |
| Cultural Studies | Cultural Studies |
| Design | Dimensional Design Fashion & Textiles Interior Design |
| Film Studies & Television Studies | Film Studies |
| Film, Digital and Media production | Film, Digital & other Media |
| Fine Art | Fine Art |
| History of Art, Architecture & design | History of Art, Architecture & design |
| Conservation | Conservation of Art & textiles |
| Librarianship, Archives, Record Management | Information science Record & Archive Management Librarianship Film Studies (PM - film archiving) |
| Museum Studies | Museum Studies & Conservation Art and Design Management |
| Journalism & Publishing Studies | Journalism Publishing Studies |
| English Language & Literature | English language & literature 18th Century; 19th Century; Modernism; Old English/Middle English; Shakespeare/Early Modern; 1945-present; Cross period; Language; Post Colonial; Theory |
| Creative Writing | Creative Writing |
| Asian Language & Culture | Asian Language & Culture |
| Celtic Studies | Celtic Studies |
| European Language and Culture | European Language and Culture |
| French Language & Culture | French Language & Culture |
| German Language & Culture | German Language & Culture |
| Iberian & Latin American Language & Culture | Iberian & Latin American Language & Culture |
| Interpreting & Translation | Interpreting & Translation |
| Italian Language & Culture | Italian Language & Culture |
| Linguistics | Linguistics |
| Middle Eastern & African language & Culture | Middle Eastern & African language & Culture |

| BGP Subject category | Previous AHRC categories |
|--|--|
| Russian, Slavonic, and eastern European Language & Culture | Russian, Slavonic, and eastern European Language & Culture |
| Dance, Drama and Performing Arts | Dance Drama Performing arts |
| Music | Music - Composition Music - Musicology Music - Performance |
| Law | Law |
| Philosophy | Philosophy |
| Religious Studies | Religious Studies |

Contacting the AHRC about the BGPs

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