



Science and Heritage Programme
Details of the call for proposals for Research
Clusters

June 2008

Closing date for proposals: 4pm, Thursday 4th September 2008



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

EPSRC

Introduction

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) invite proposals for Research Clusters under the *Science and Heritage Programme*. This document must be read in conjunction with the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#) which provides an overview of the general AHRC Research Networks and Workshops Scheme on which this call is based. It details the eligibility criteria, assessment criteria, information on how to apply, eligible dates and terms and conditions of awards. You should also ensure that you have read the *Science and Heritage Programme – Call for Research Cluster Specification* document before submitting a proposal.

Number and Value

Successful applicants will be supported to run network activities through Research Clusters for between four months and one year up to a value of £30,000 fEC. **All awards must have a start date between 1 December 2008 and 31 March 2009.** Further information on what activities are supported through these Research Clusters is provided under the information for AHRC Research Networks and Workshops at paragraphs 43 - 50 of the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#). It is expected that the programme will fund around 10 Clusters through this call.

Background

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) are taking forward a joint £8.1m programme entitled *Science and Heritage* to support leading-edge research which will explore new ways to understand the cultural and physical nature of heritage and to prepare society for the challenges that cultural heritage will face in the 21st Century.

We wish to draw the programme to the attention of all researchers both within and outside higher education institutions (HEIs), heritage stakeholders and industrial and commercial enterprises with an interest in cultural heritage. This includes researchers within anthropology, the applied arts, archaeology, archaeometry, art history, architecture, biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, conservation, conservation science, electronics, engineering, environmental design, environmental science, history, management, materials science, philosophy, physics, sensor and instrumentation design and technology.

As part of this programme, AHRC and EPSRC are making funding available to support cross-disciplinary network activities through Research Clusters. AHRC are administering this call on behalf of the AHRC and EPSRC.

The following exceptions / amendments apply and refer to paragraphs in the AHRC Research Funding Guide 2007-08 (version 1.4).

How to apply?

In order to apply for the *Science and Heritage Programme* Research Clusters, you must submit your proposal electronically through the [Je-S system](#).

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

2. Once complete, you should upload a Case for Support and other supporting information as attachments, and submit your proposal. Je-S will forward your proposal to your Research Organisation, who in turn will submit your proposal to AHRC. Please ensure you allow sufficient time prior to AHRC deadlines for your Research Organisation to be able to do this (note that some Research Organisations will have their own internal deadlines).
3. You should also ensure that you meet all of the eligibility criteria outlined in Section B: Applicant Eligibility and Commitment of the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#) (paragraphs 51 to 61). In order to apply your organisation must be eligible to the AHRC or EPSRC. Independent Research Organisations (IROs) recognised by the AHRC in responsive and managed mode, and those recognized by the EPSRC in managed mode only, are also eligible to apply. A full list of IROs can be found [here](#).
4. The participants **must be drawn from a number of different Research Organisations** (higher education, research institutions, heritage institutions, museums, galleries, libraries and archives) in order to achieve the kind of intellectual interaction and exchange envisaged. The inclusion in the networks of participants from beyond the academic community, for example through the involvement of [Knowledge Transfer Networks](#) (KTNs), is particularly encouraged, as is the involvement of new researchers and research students. **All proposals must involve researchers and practitioners from subject areas covered by both the AHRC and EPSRC.**

Aims of the Research Clusters call

The Call is aimed at stimulating networks that cross boundaries. This would generally be expected to entail intellectual exchange **across and between disciplines**. The aims of the call are:

- To support networking activities that address the research objectives and themes of the *Science and Heritage Programme* (see *Call for Research Cluster Proposals - Specification* document).
- To support interdisciplinary collaboration between and involving researchers from both the arts and humanities, and from science, engineering and technology along with non academic stakeholders.
- To foster understanding of the different perspectives of heritage science research and to advance thinking on one of the Programme themes or issue in order to enhance knowledge and understanding.
- To encourage cross-fertilisation of ideas, methods, practices, processes and technologies which could lead to tangible projects and maximise opportunities for advances in creativity, knowledge and understanding within the science and heritage research community and with other sectors where appropriate.
- To enable researchers within the research community to form innovative partnerships within and beyond heritage science by involving new researchers and research students, as well as people or organisations from outside the research community, in the discussion and development of ideas to build capacity.

- To foster (where appropriate) international channels of communication with overseas researchers in order to enhance research standards and to develop understanding through engagement with different cultures and parts of the world.
- To encourage the establishment of innovative interdisciplinary networks of researchers where the impact of the interaction will extend beyond the life of the award to sustain capacity.
- To provide a framework for the Science and Heritage Programme to learn of emerging areas of intellectual urgency and potential strategic importance, both within the UK and internationally by identifying key research challenges by building new collaborations as well as strengthening existing ones.
- To promote and integrate the role of research through knowledge transfer to practitioner communities so that the likely range of applications and practical outcomes can be explored.
- To facilitate exchanges between research clusters funded by this Call.

It is expected that proposals for Research Clusters will address the majority of these aims.

The *Science and Heritage Programme* Research Clusters will normally entail the organisation of a set of events over a period of between four months and one year to bring people from a range of disciplines across the remits of AHRC and EPSRC. Cluster members should offer a diversity of expertise and experience and could include representatives from higher education, heritage institutions, museums, galleries, libraries and archives, practitioner communities, commerce, industry and related Knowledge Transfer Networks. The Research Cluster may also include collaboration with people outside the UK. Awards are intended to cover the operating and support costs involved in organising a short-term series of interdisciplinary workshops, seminars or other events that aim to rapidly advance thinking on a specified theme.

Applying for other funding

Please note that there are unlikely to be further deadlines for Research Clusters under the *Science and Heritage Programme* and it is therefore not possible to re-apply for further funds for a related or continuation project under this programme.

Preparing a proposal

You should complete the appropriate Research Clusters proposal for this Programme and submit this along with a Case for Support and relevant appendices and they should be submitted electronically via the Je-S system, see **How to apply** above and Guidance in Section E: Preparing an Application of the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#) concerning electronic submission.

Co-Investigator

Unlike the current AHRC Research Networks and Workshops Scheme in responsive mode where only one co-investigator is permitted, for this call up to *two* co-investigators are permitted. As the Co-Investigators assist the Principal Investigator in the management and leadership of the research project, the same eligibility criteria will apply to Co-Investigators as to Principal Investigators. See paragraphs 51-61 of the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#) for eligibility details.

Panels

When reading paragraphs 148-150 you should note that you are not required to indicate subject panels under this scheme.

Scheme Limits

When referring to paragraphs 43 – 50, the higher scheme limits available for AHRC Research Networks or Workshops that involve participants from countries/regions targeted in the AHRC's International Strategy do not apply to this scheme. The maximum you can apply for is £30,000 fEC.

Research Themes

This section of the form should be used to indicate which *Science and Heritage Programme* theme best describes your research area and the project's fit to the *Science and Heritage Programme*. The research themes are as follows, a detailed outline of these themes can be found in the 'Call for Research Clusters Proposals – Specification' document for the *Science and Heritage Programme*:

1. Nature of transformation
2. Authenticity, authentication and security
3. Interpretation and representation
4. Cultural encounters and explorations
5. Human and machine interfaces
6. Resilience and adaptation

Proposal deadlines

Paragraphs 194 and 195 do not apply for this competition. Unlike the AHRC Research Networks and Workshops scheme in responsive mode it is expected that there will be only one deadline by which proposals for Research Clusters can be submitted under the *Science and Heritage Programme*. In addition to the content of paragraph 191, **the earliest permissible start date for all successful projects will be 1 December 2008. All awards must start before 31 March 2009.**

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

Review Criteria

Proposals for Research Clusters under this programme will be assessed according to all the aims of the general AHRC Research Networks and Workshops scheme (see paragraph 200).

In addition, the following assessment criterion will apply

- the extent to which the proposal demonstrates a fit to the aims and themes of the *Science and Heritage Programme*

Review Process

The review process outlined at paragraphs 221 and 222 is not relevant for proposals to this competition.

All proposals will be reviewed and graded by the Science and Heritage Commissioning Panel only, comprising leading figures across a range of science and heritage disciplines. The Panel will be made up of peers from a range of

subject areas and organisations relevant to the *Science and Heritage Programme*, so you are advised to address your proposal to as broad an audience as possible.

As there will be a Science and Heritage Commissioning Panel, paragraphs 216 – 217 about peer review panels do not apply to this competition.

Grading Scale

Due to the nature of the call for proposals to the *Science and Heritage Programme* there is unlikely to be an opportunity to resubmit proposals. The RS grade referred to in paragraphs 210 and 228 will not, therefore, be used when reviewing proposals under this competition.

Award Announcements

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in early November 2008.

Resubmission Policy

Section J, paragraphs 234-243 do not apply for this competition. Due to the nature of the call for proposals to the *Science and Heritage Programme*, there will not be an opportunity for applicants to resubmit proposals.

Attachments

Case for Support

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

If your Case for Support exceeds the word limit of **2000 words (you should use a font size 12)** your proposal will be deemed ineligible for support. If you choose to include footnotes or a bibliography (you are not required to do so) these must be included within the word limit.

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

In your Case for Support, you must outline clearly:

- The purpose of the Research Cluster.
- How an intellectual step change will be achieved from the start to the end of the Research Cluster.
- The key areas that will be discussed by the Research Cluster.
- A timetable for each of the planned events.
- The initial core members, who should be leaders in the area proposed.
- What plans there are for management and coordination, including the membership of any proposed advisory group or steering committee.
- The potential participants, why they are the most appropriate and the range of disciplines they represent.
- How events will be marketed to ensure that the best people get involved.

- The proportion of Cluster resources (time, money) that is intended for collaboration with other Research Clusters funded in the same Call.
- The plans for dissemination and exploitation of the outcomes, and what plans there are to extend collaboration once the Research Cluster has ended.

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

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

Headings to be used:

Rationale and research context

You should describe clearly the rationale and research context of the Research Cluster. You should also ensure that it is clear to the reader how the Research Cluster addresses the **aims and one of the themes** of the *Science and Heritage Programme* Research Clusters specification. Why are the proposed activities necessary to address this theme? To what extent do the proposed activities generate fruitful and novel interaction? What is the research context in which the Research Cluster will operate and how will it advance knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned? To which audiences/disciplines will the Research Cluster and its outcomes be of interest?

Aims and Objectives

You should describe clearly the main **aims and objectives** of the Research Cluster. What specific targets or outcomes will you have achieved by the end of the award?

Timetable of Activities

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

Key speakers or participants

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

International participants and speakers are allowed, although it is expected that the majority of the participants in a Research Cluster would be UK-based.

You should identify the initial core membership in the proposal, who should be leaders in the area proposed, but as the Research Clusters are expected to be 'open', you should also explain how events will be marketed to ensure that the best people become involved.

Leadership, management and co-ordination

How will the Research Cluster be led, managed and co-ordinated? Will there be an advisory group or steering committee? If so, who are the proposed members and does the membership reflect the constituencies the Research Cluster intends to reach? What will be the roles of the Principal and/or Co-investigator(s) and other members of the Research Cluster?

Dissemination

What are your plans for dissemination and exploitation of the outcomes of the Research Cluster? You should give an indication of the intended audiences, beyond those directly connected with the Research Cluster, and how you envisage presenting and disseminating those outcomes to them. Priority will be given to proposals which can demonstrate that the Research Cluster will have a lifespan beyond the award period (see the assessment criteria in the *AHRC Funding Guide, paragraph 202-203*).

Impact

Where appropriate, evidence should be provided for the wider cultural or economic impact of the cluster activities.

Summary curricula vitae

Summary curriculum vitae should be attached for the Principal investigator/Applicant and any Co-investigator. This should be no more than two sides of A4 paper and in a font no smaller than size 10.

Publications lists

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

Justification of Resources

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

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

- Explain why the indicated resources are needed, taking account of the nature and complexity of the Research Cluster proposed. Note that it is not sufficient merely to list what is required.
- Have regard for the breakdown of resources into the summary fund headings Directly Incurred, Directly Allocated and (where appropriate) Exceptions.
- In some cases, such as investigator time, use of internal facilities and shared staff costs (all likely to be Directly Allocated costs), the basis of the costing need not be justified, but the need for the resources does need justification.
- Try to be explicit about the need for the level of investigator time sought, bearing in mind the complexity of the Research Cluster, the need to manage the project and supervise staff and any wider considerations such as collaboration or facilities usage.
- Clearly distinguish what Cluster resources will be used for collaboration with the other Research Clusters funded in the same call, including

participation at the event to be organised by the Programme Director in July 2009.

- Estates and indirect costs do not need to be justified.

Visual Evidence

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

Contacts

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact officers for information on the scheme before submitting a proposal.

Enquiries about the scholarly content of the Science and Heritage Programme should be directed to the Programme Director, Professor May Cassar, at the contact address below:

Professor May Cassar

Director, Science and Heritage Programme

Tel: 020 7679 1780

E-mail: m.cassar@heritagescience.ac.uk

Other enquiries about the *Science and Heritage Programme*, this call and the Councils' remits should be directed to one of the people below:

AHRC Programme Manager

Dr Gail Lambourne, g.lambourne@ahrc.ac.uk 0117 987 6670

AHRC Senior Awards Officer

Karen Buchanan, k.buchanan@ahrc.ac.uk, 0117 987 6655

EPSRC remit queries should be directed to:

Dr Louise Tillman, louise.tillman@epsrc.ac.uk, 01793 444 510

General enquiries about this call for Research Clusters and the application process can also be directed to one of the people below:

Christine Bennett, c.bennett@ahrc.ac.uk, 0117 987 6663

Helen McConnell, h.mcconnell@ahrc.ac.uk, 0117 987 6661

Grace Morgan, g.morgan@ahrc.ac.uk, 0117 987 6664

Jill Mustard, j.mustard@ahrc.ac.uk, 0117 987 6657