



## AHRC Theme Large Grants

### Call for Outline Proposals

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## Introduction

The AHRC is pleased to announce a call for outline proposals for Large Grants under each of the following themes:

- Digital Transformations
- Science in Culture
- Translating Cultures

The Large Grants call represents one of a range of planned funding opportunities within the themes, and other activities will be announced in due course.

The Care for the Future theme is currently operating on a different timetable, and is planning a call for small research development projects later in 2012, followed by a call for large theme grants in the summer of 2013. For further details of funding opportunities under this theme, please refer to the AHRC website.

This call represents the first of two stages in the application process. We invite Outline Proposals for Large Grants to facilitate innovative, collaborative research across arts and humanities disciplines and, where appropriate, beyond, that will make a central contribution to the development of AHRC's Themes. The Large Grants provide an opportunity to develop ambitious, transformative research agendas and strategic partnerships between Research Organisations and across disciplines, sectors and internationally.

Funding of between **£1m** and **£2m** is available on a full economic costs basis with AHRC meeting 80% of the fEC. Awards should last for a minimum of **36 months** and a maximum of **60 months** and will be expected to start between **1 October 2013** and **1 April 2014**.

Applications for projects of less than £1m addressing the themes can still be submitted through our responsive mode schemes, including, where applicable, responses to highlight notices.

The first part of this document contains guidance that is applicable across the three themes. Information specific to each theme can be found in the annexes and should also be consulted when preparing an outline proposal:

1. Large Grants Call
2. Number and Value of Awards
3. Application and Assessment Process
  - Timetable
  - Assessment Criteria
  - How to apply
  - Preparing an Outline Proposal

Annex 1 - Guidance for completing attachments

Annex 2 - Digital Transformations Theme

Annex 3 - Science in Culture Theme

Annex 4 - Translating Cultures Theme

## 1. The Large Grants Call

Successful proposals under the Large Grants call are expected to support research activities of a scale and **ambition** beyond that normally required for a standard AHRC grant. They should display significant **transformative potential** within the relevant theme area.

Large Grants are expected to be highly **collaborative** - across institutions, across disciplines within the arts and humanities (and – where appropriate – beyond) and with partners outside the higher education (HE) sector (e.g. private, public and third sector). International collaborations are also encouraged. The grants will have an important role in **building research capabilities** and expertise within the field (e.g. through linked PhD studentships, training and development activities, support for early career researchers, and broader academic networking and engagement) and have a significant legacy in terms of the longer term development of the research field. Activities within the Large Grants must be closely integrated so that the ‘whole is more than the sum of the parts’. In addition to standard research excellence criteria, contribution to the theme and fit to this call specification will be essential criteria. The balance of coverage across the particular theme may also be taken into account when prioritising between high quality proposals.

The funded grants are expected to act as **‘beacons’ for the themes**, addressing key research questions and issues highlighted in the theme description, and exemplifying the cross-discipline and collaborative approaches and ways of working that the theme is seeking to encourage. They should also include plans for supporting collaborative activities with other researchers funded through the theme. Successful projects will also be expected to work with the relevant theme Leadership Fellow to provide foci around which a community of scholars can be developed in thematic areas. They will also be expected to work closely with the relevant theme’s Advisory Group and AHRC staff. This close working will allow for a greater element of flexibility, agility and risk taking in responding to evolving research agendas and partnership opportunities under the theme.

## 2. Number and Value of Awards

Funding for each grant awarded will be between **£1m** and **£2m** (fEC) over a period of **between 36 and 60 months**. Approximately 2-4 Large Grants are expected to be funded under each of the three themes (subject to quality and overall balance within each theme).

### 3. Application and Assessment Process

#### Overview

The application process for the theme Large Grants call will be in two stages: an outline proposal stage and a full proposal stage. The outline proposal stage is open to any applicants that meet the eligibility criteria outlined below; it is not necessary for applicants to have previously received an award through the theme to which they are submitting a Large Grant proposal.

The AHRC recognises that some proposals might address subjects relevant to more than one theme. Where this is the case, applicants should determine which theme is most relevant to the activity proposed and, where appropriate, acknowledge overlap with any other themes in the Case for Support. **It is not possible to submit the same proposal, or an amended version thereof, to more than one theme.**

#### Stage1: Outline Proposals

Outline proposals will be assessed and shortlisted by a specially convened assessment panel for each theme involving members of the theme Advisory Group and the AHRC's Peer Review College. Proposals will be reviewed against the assessment criteria set out below. It is expected that approximately 6-8 proposals will be shortlisted per theme.

In addition to assessing the potential of the proposed research and fit to the call, the panel will consider the spread of proposals across subject disciplines within the theme when determining the number and range of outline bids that will be invited to proceed to full proposal stage.

The AHRC acknowledges that projects may not necessarily be fully formed at the point of submitting the outline proposal and it is permissible for components such as costs and partnerships to be provisional at this stage. The main purpose of the outline stage is to assess the potential of proposals to realise the aims of the Large Grants call and the theme to which they are responding.

Individual feedback will not be provided for proposals that are unsuccessful at the outline stage.

#### Stage 2: Full Proposals

Shortlisted applicants from Stage 1 will be provided with feedback from the assessment panel for the relevant theme and invited to submit a full proposal. Proposals will be peer reviewed and the applicants will be interviewed by a multi-disciplinary panel, which will make funding recommendations to the AHRC as to the proposals of highest quality which meet the aims and objectives of the relevant theme. It is expected that 2-4 Large Grants will be awarded per theme (subject to quality and overall balance within each theme).

#### Timetable

- Mid-September 2012 - Launch of call
- January 2013 - Closing dates for outline proposals
- March 2013 – Notification of shortlisting outcomes

- May 2013 - Closing Date for full proposals
- August 2013 – Notification of funding outcomes
- Between October 2013 and April 2014 – Large grants to start

**Please see the annexes below for detailed timetables for each theme.**

#### International Collaboration

International collaboration is encouraged for the theme Large Grants. Whilst it is not permitted to name an international partner as a co-investigator, it is permitted to include them as a collaborator or consultant, fully justifying their role in the project and the experience they will bring to the team. Costs for the time of any consultants, overseas travel/subsistence; international phone calls and/ or video conferencing; overseas events/activities can be included within the grant. The added value and contribution of the international collaboration to the research must be clearly explained and justified in the proposal. Costs for international collaboration must be included within the £2m (fEC) limit.

#### Knowledge Exchange and Partnerships

Theme Large Grants offer an opportunity to encourage partnership working where it serves to strengthen and diversify collaborative research activities and build productive partnerships. Co-production of new knowledge and understanding through interactions between academic and non-academic individuals and communities facilitated by a wide range of interactions and varied outcomes adds value, strengthens the impact and contributes to the transformative effect of high-quality research and knowledge exchange. In addition, opportunities for KE activities both large and small scale may arise at any point in the research lifecycle and projects should be alert and open to exploiting such opportunities that are offered.

#### Building Capacity

Theme Large Grants offer an opportunity to develop the next generation of researchers within the thematic areas and applicants are encouraged to think innovatively about how this might be achieved. Applicants should outline how they will support the development and training for any project students or early career researchers engaged in the project. This should include both the skills required to undertake the research and wider skills, such as public engagement, which might benefit the project as a whole. It will be important to develop a cohort of researchers within the theme and award holders might consider how they will facilitate engagement beyond their immediate project. In respect of any doctoral students, applicants may also wish to consider what additional development opportunities would be appropriate within the scope of the award - this might include a period of research at a collaborating overseas institution, an internship in a non-academic organisation, or a period working in a science, technology or engineering environment.

## Assessment Criteria for Outline and Full Proposals

The following criteria will be used to assess the potential of the project at the outline stage and the full detail at the full proposal stage. **You should also consult the relevant theme annex for any additional theme-specific assessment criteria.**

- the quality, innovation and transformative nature of the proposed research in contributing to the theme and the case made for developing skills and expertise to ensure the long-term future of the area;
- fit with the call specification and potential contribution to the development of the theme, including the extent to which key research questions and issues relevant to the theme are addressed;
- demonstrable expertise in depth and breadth across the relevant areas of the arts and humanities and where applicable, beyond;
- the extent to which the proposed activities will generate genuine and productive interaction across boundaries (e.g. disciplinary, conceptual, theoretical, methodological, institutional, sectoral and, if appropriate, international);
- the potential for external engagement (including the development of non-academic partnerships and embedding of knowledge exchange activities) and the demonstration of a robust and appropriate strategy for the active dissemination and exploitation of the outcomes and the development of pathways to impact;
- the extent to which there are effective plans for the management and integration of the activities and the monitoring of progress, including the strength of the expertise, skills and experience of the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators and other team members to manage and deliver the proposed activities and outputs and whether a feasible timetable and realistic costs are presented;
- the plans and aims for sustainable and enduring outcomes and legacy from the research;
- the plans for: collaborating with other researchers under the theme; working with the theme Leadership Fellow to develop a community of scholars around the theme; and working with the theme's Advisory Group;
- the strength of the support and commitment offered by the collaborating institutions;
- value for money

## How to apply

You should submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>). To prepare a proposal form in Je-S, log-in to your account and choose **New Document**, then select the following options:

Council: AHRC

Document Type: Outline Proposal

Scheme: AHRC Outline

Call/Type Mode: ***This will depend on which theme you are submitting your proposal to, please select one of the following:***

- Digital Transformations – Digital Transformations Large Grants 10 January 2013
- Science in Culture – Science in Culture Large Grants 15 January 2013
- Translating Cultures – Translating Cultures Large Grants 17 January 2013

Then click 'Create Document'; Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form. **Please take care when choosing the Call/Type/Mode as other similar options will be presented in the drop-down list.**

Please note that the proposal form for this scheme will be available in Je-S **in the first week of October 2012.**

Details of which Research Organisations have registered to use Je-S are available from [http://www.so.stfc.ac.uk/jes/jes1/RODetails\(Web\).pdf](http://www.so.stfc.ac.uk/jes/jes1/RODetails(Web).pdf).

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC. Please remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the Call closing date.

All proposals must be completed and submitted by the host organisation by the deadlines of:

Digital Transformations - **4pm on Thursday 10 January 2013**

Science in Culture - **4pm on Tuesday 15 January 2013**

Translating Cultures - **4pm on Thursday 17 January 2013**

In addition to the standard Je-S Outline Proposal form applicants are expected to provide:

- a Case for Support addressing the headings in Annex 1 below;
- CVs for the PI, Co-Is and any named Research Assistants

The page limits defined in this document (see annex 1) must not be exceeded.

If you have any queries about setting up your proposal form in the Je-S system please contact the Je-S helpdesk:

01793 444164

[JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk)

## Preparing an Outline Proposal

This document should be read in conjunction with the AHRC's Research Funding Guide <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Research%20Funding%20Guide.pdf> which gives details about applying for AHRC funding, including eligibility requirements, information about costings and completing the proposal form. Exceptions are described below.

### *Start date and duration*

The earliest start date for theme Large Grant awards is **01 October 2013** and the latest date is **1 April 2014**. The maximum duration that can be applied for is **60 months**.

### *Additional Proposal Criteria*

#### Applicant Eligibility and Commitment

- Lead Research Organisation – there should be one lead RO with the capability to support a Large Grant;
- Principal Investigator (PI) – should have a demonstrable track record of research management.
- Co-Investigators (Co-I) – should have demonstrable expertise within the range of disciplines required to undertake the project. Due to the collaborative nature of the call, we recognise that more Co-Investigators may be required than for our standard schemes. The number of Co-Is should be commensurate with the scale and ambition of the research and reflect the requirements for successfully delivering the boundary crossing collaborations outlined in the proposal.
- Research Assistants – it is expected that projects will include Research Assistants who have the required expertise to undertake the research proposed.
- PhD project students – grants can include up to three PhD studentships, whose projects must be completed within the duration of the award and whose work will contribute to the project as a whole. Each studentship must provide added value to the project and must be relevant to the theme area, but also allow the student sufficient independence to make their own original contribution to scholarship. Students must not be recruited to undertake the administrative or management tasks on the project.
- PI and Co-I commitment – this should be commensurate with the scale and ambition of the proposed project, the challenges of managing and integrating activities within complex large grants and the broader expectations of the large grants as 'beacons' for the Themes.
- Project /Administrative support – the time and cost of any administrative support should be included within the proposal.

#### Submitting More Than One Proposal

A PI may submit only one proposal under the Large Grants scheme. It is, however, acceptable for a PI on one proposal to be named as a Co-Investigator on others where it can be demonstrated that sufficient time is available to dedicate to all projects.

It is not possible to submit the same proposal to more than one theme – if your proposal is relevant to more than one theme it should be submitted to the one where it has most relevance.

## Annex 1

### Guidance for completing attachments

The following documents should be completed in a font no smaller than size 11. Please also note the permitted document lengths.

**Proposals containing attachments exceeding the stated limits, or not adhering to the specified format, will not be considered.**

#### Case for Support

The Case for Support should be no more than **4 sides of A4** outlining the rationale for the proposed activity, how it will add value to current activities, a description of the proposed activities to be undertaken, and an outline of the expected outputs and dissemination plans. If you choose to include footnotes or a bibliography (you are not required to do so) these must be included within the page limit.

Within this page limit you should aim to make the Case for Support as concise, specific and clear as possible. You are advised to focus your proposal and to provide sufficient evidence to enable members of the shortlisting panel to reach a considered judgment as to the overall quality and potential significance of your proposal, its innovation, its feasibility and potential overall value for money. If you are invited to proceed to full proposal stage then you will be given the opportunity to provide further details.

Your Case for Support should demonstrate the potential of the proposed activities to achieve the innovative, boundary-crossing, transformative aims for these Large Grants as set out in the Assessment Criteria and should be structured using the following headings:

#### Fit to the Call and Contribution to the Theme

You should ensure that it is clear to the reviewers how the proposed activities will meet the ambitions outlined in this call for Large Grants, fit with the relevant theme and make a significant contribution to the theme's development.

#### Research Questions

You should give a brief, clear description of the core **research questions** that you intend to address and identify the contribution these will make to the thematic area.

#### Research Context

You should briefly describe the **research context** for your project/programme of work. Why is it important that these questions or issues are explored? What other research is being or has been conducted in this area? What contribution will your research make to improving, enhancing, or developing creativity, insights, knowledge or understanding in the thematic area?

#### Research Methods

You should briefly describe the **research methods** you will be using to address the questions described above, or to explore the issues that will be investigated. Why have you chosen this approach? Why is it the best way to answer the research questions identified?

**Management and Co-ordination**

How will the activities be managed, coordinated and delivered? If the application includes additional assistance or administrative support, please provide brief details of the activities to be undertaken.

**Timetable**

You should provide a brief timetable to show the feasibility of the major planned activities within the proposed timescale, indicating key milestones.

**Outcomes, impact and dissemination**

What are the plans for publication or other public output? Please provide examples of any outputs you propose to produce during the award and their proposed focus. How will you identify the key audiences, beneficiaries and interest groups for the research and how will they be engaged in the process? How will any outputs be discussed with, and/or communicated and disseminated to, those audiences? How will you aim to engage with the relevant theme Fellow and other theme award holders? You should also indicate any pathways to impact outside academia, for example in relation to policy and/or practice.

**Resources requested**

You should briefly explain why the indicated resources are needed. Please note that it is not sufficient merely to list what is required.

**Curriculum Vitae**

Summary curriculum vitae should be attached as separate documents for the Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators or named postdoctoral researchers. These should be no more than two sides of A4 paper. CVs should include basic information about education, employment history, academic responsibilities and any relevant publications and research grants.

## **Annex 2 – Digital Transformations in the Arts and Humanities**

### **The Digital Transformations Theme**

Digital Transformations aims to exploit the potential of digital technologies to transform research in the arts and humanities, and to ensure that arts and humanities research is at the forefront of tackling crucial issues such as intellectual property, cultural memory and identity, and communication and creativity in a digital age.

There is huge potential to develop new ways of working to enhance access and creativity, but the digital age also raises complex questions of responsibility, identity, privacy, and data security that need to be addressed.

Engineers, computer scientists, and developers are providing the infrastructure for these changes but innovation within the arts and humanities will be essential to exploiting their potential to transform methods of organising, interpreting, and using knowledge.

Arts and humanities research perspectives on issues such as forms of knowledge and perception, modes of reproduction and dissemination, and the ways in which society as a whole communicates and uses knowledge will be crucial to understanding the potential, scope, limits, and impacts of digital technologies.

Probing these research issues will engage a broad range of partners in creative and cultural industries e.g. theatre companies, national institutions, galleries, publishing, law, and media companies.

The results of research into digital transformations will be of significant benefit to individuals, policy makers, business, cultural organisations, and researchers.

The Digital Transformations Theme is not simply about studying technology and its use in the Arts and Humanities; it seeks to encourage innovation in developing and using this technology as well. Digital Transformations can cover many topics, such as the potential and impact of digital change on:

- how we communicate and use knowledge in the context of the 'infinite archive', including changes in forms of knowledge and how we conduct research, modes of reproduction and dissemination
- the human implications of the expanded archive, including memory, perception, truth, ethics, and the use of language
- changes in publishing, notions of authorship, intellectual property, the rights and responsibilities of the individual and the state
- the democratisation of scholarship and the globalisation of the knowledge economy
- transformations of disciplines and inter-disciplinarity
- international or 'at distance' collaborative working
- questions of access and availability, and new forms of expression, in the creative and performing arts

Further background information on the theme can be found on AHRC's website at <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Research-funding/Themes/Digital-Transformations/Pages/Digital-Transformations.aspx>

## **Digital Transformations Large Grants**

The Digital Transformations Large Grants are expected to support proposals that are outstandingly novel in terms of ambition and scope and which are truly transformative for the Arts and Humanities. The transformative aspects of the Digital Transformations Large Grants can include the following, although this is by no means an exhaustive list:

- Collaboration
- Ways of working
- Questions being asked
- Impact
- Audience
- Technical innovation
- Scholarly alignment and the approaches to the materials of Arts & Humanities research
- Epistemological framework (the representation and making of knowledge)

Successful proposals for Digital Transformations Large Grants are expected to exhibit transformation at a number of levels. Applicants should not make assumptions regarding the transformative benefits of the proposed project; this should be explained clearly. As such, the notion of transformation should not be understated within the proposal.

The very nature of Digital Transformations indicates a level of risk-taking in order to produce something truly novel and transformational. As such, bold proposals with great scale and ambition are welcome, provided that it is clear that the risks have been considered carefully and will be managed within the project.

Digital Transformations Large Grants are expected to contribute to both the development and sustainability of the theme. As such, proposals with elements of skills training and development, leveraging of opportunities within the institutions, the sustainability of the skills-base and other approaches to developing and sustaining the theme and researchers working in this area are welcome.

Projects are expected to live in the digital world they are examining, with a minimum online presence of a website or blog required, although more innovative and creative ideas are welcome. Consideration should also be given to other digital communication techniques. Any forms of on-line presence are expected to reflect on-going practice, research, outputs, activities and transformations as the project progresses. Whatever form the online presence takes, it should be accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including the public, and should be updated in a timely fashion for the duration of the award (and ideally, beyond).

## **Timetable**

- Mid-September 2012 - Launch of call
- 10 January 2013 - Closing date for outline proposals
- Early February 2013 – Outline proposals to Panel for assessment
- Early March 2013 – Panel meeting
- Mid-March 2013 – Notification of shortlisting outcomes
- Late May 2013 - Closing Date for full proposals
- June 2013 – Peer review
- Late July 2013- Assessment Panel/Interviews
- Early August 2013 – Notification of funding outcomes
- Between October 2013 and April 2014 – Large grants to start

## **Additional Assessment Criteria for Outline and Full Proposals**

In addition to the assessment criteria listed above, the following criterion will also be taken into account:

- It should be noted that the purpose of the Digital Transformations Large Grants call is not to provide resource enhancement, such as digitisation of archives. It is possible to include an element of resource enhancement in proposals, but there must be a strong research question which requires the resource enhancement in order to be explored. Any projects where the main focus and the majority of funding are concentrated in resource enhancement will be deemed ineligible.

## **Building Capacity**

In addition to the information given in the main document above about the next generation of researchers, applicants should think specifically about the supervision, training and support that are needed for PhD students involved in projects that span the arts and humanities and other disciplines. It is possible, for example, for a PhD student to have a second supervisor from a computer science department to enable them to develop the skills and experience required for cross-disciplinary research.

Similar consideration should also be given to the support provided to early career researchers involved in projects, for example by considering the opportunities for cross-disciplinary mentoring or for gaining experience of working in a different disciplinary context or setting or using different research tools and methods.

### **Funding for Research across Research Council Boundaries**

The nature of the Digital Transformations theme means that proposals under this call are likely to cut across the remits of the Research Councils. The AHRC is willing to adopt a flexible approach to funding contributions and activities to Large Grants from other disciplines outside the arts and humanities as an integral part of developing reciprocal relationships. Applicants are encouraged to consider creative ways of engaging with research in other disciplines, including the potential to develop collaborations with researchers in disciplines supported by other funders. Some funding may also be requested for researchers from other disciplines to contribute their time to projects as co-investigators, team members, collaborators or consultants and to cover other costs such as travel and subsistence.

### **Peer Review**

A flexible approach will also be adopted in relation to peer review processes to ensure that they are appropriate for the boundary-crossing nature of the proposals expected. In addition to peer reviewers within the AHRC's Peer Review College, and the potential to supplement these with reviewers from overseas and beyond the HE sector, AHRC may also seek advice from other Research Councils on the peer review of proposals and draw on peer reviewers and panellists from other Research Councils, in a similar way to the process for responsive mode grants as outlined in the Cross-Council Funding Agreement (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/FundingAgreement.aspx>).

### **Contacts**

Enquiries regarding the type of activities that can be supported through this call should be directed to either:

Claire Spooner, Programmes Coordinator (Creative and Performing Arts)  
[C.Spooner@ahrc.ac.uk](mailto:C.Spooner@ahrc.ac.uk) or 01793 41 6084

Russell Leake, Programmes Coordinator (Creative and Performing Arts)  
[R.Leake@ahrc.ac.uk](mailto:R.Leake@ahrc.ac.uk) or 01793 41 6039

Sue Hart, Portfolio Manager (Creative and Performing Arts),  
[S.Hart@ahrc.ac.uk](mailto:S.Hart@ahrc.ac.uk) or 01793 41 6062 (working days Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)

or

Christie Walker, Strategy and Development Manager (Creative and Performing Arts)  
[C.Walker2@ahrc.ac.uk](mailto:C.Walker2@ahrc.ac.uk) or 01793 41 6066

The AHRC works with the RCUK Shared Services Centre (SSC) to deliver all of our funding activities.

Enquiries about Je-S registration or completing the proposal form should be directed to [grants@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:grants@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk) or 01793 444 164

## Annex 3 – Science in Culture

### The Science in Culture Theme

The 'Science in Culture' theme aims to develop the *reciprocal* relationship between the sciences on the one hand, and arts and humanities on the other. It seeks to identify new avenues for cross-disciplinary innovation bringing together insights and expertise from a diverse range of research in the arts and humanities and the sciences which might not otherwise have occurred without mutual exchange. 'Sciences' in this context and throughout the document below is framed broadly to include the full range and diversity of science across the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects; it also includes medical, social, behavioural and health sciences.

Arts and humanities research goes beyond investigating the cultural contexts for science to inform and contribute to its advancement. Situated in a radically different research paradigm, the arts and humanities bring knowledge not normally covered by science, offering exciting possibilities for new scientific discoveries and critical confluences of ideas and practices. It can promote a broader understanding of societal views about science, the diverse pathways taken by science in different societies, the role of scientific advances in cultural life and how this shapes broader world views. Arts and humanities research in the 21st century has the potential to inform science as much as to chart its cultural impacts. It can provoke new scientific enquiry as much as account for the historical, cultural, legal and ethical contexts for the future development of many areas of science. It can help to anticipate and inform future public engagement and policy debates and controversies. There is growing recognition of the interconnections and complementarity between the sciences and the arts and humanities, the potential for creativity and innovation that these connections can generate and the limits of using scientific approaches in isolation to tackle societal challenges.

Arts and humanities research can help us answer questions such as:

- What are the nature, value and scope of scientific research?
- What roles do culture, imagination, argument, discourse, creativity, discovery and curiosity play in scientific enquiry?
- How might the art and humanities engage with the sciences as systems of knowledge from the perspective of their cultural context, development and impact?
- How might such interaction enhance public engagement and educational approaches, and inform policy debates?

There is significant potential for collaborative research between the sciences and the arts and humanities. For example, a sophisticated understanding of cultural values, rights, religions and systems of belief is essential for addressing the complex legal, ethical and regulatory policy issues raised by some emerging areas of science and technology. And there is significant potential for research on the representation of scientific ideas and

progress (for example in language, literature, visual media and the performing arts) and on the role of narrative, imagery, artefacts and cultural institutions (including museums and galleries) to inform ways of enhancing public engagement with science and technology. Beyond this, the arts and humanities can generate new knowledge about human life and interaction which may inform and directly contribute to scientific discovery and advancement. The Science in Culture theme aims to encourage mutual exchanges between the sciences and the arts and humanities that offer scope for developing new areas of research, methodologies, research frameworks, styles of thinking and/or ways of working across the disciplines.

In addition to working across the Research Councils and with the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), academies and learned societies, other funders (both national and international), science educators, museums, regulators and policy-makers, there may be collaborative opportunities with research-led businesses, high technology companies and designers. Cross-national comparative perspectives and research collaborations have the potential to create significant added value. There also are opportunities for research under this theme to contribute to inter-disciplinary collaboration across all of the RCUK's research challenges, such as 'Lifelong Health and Well-being' and 'Living with Environmental Change', as well as in new breakthrough research areas.

Further background information on the theme can be found on AHRC's website at <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Research-funding/Themes/Science-in-Culture/Pages/Science-in-Culture.aspx>

### **Science in Culture Large Grants**

The Science in Culture Large Grants call is expected to support proposals that are outstandingly novel in terms of ambition and scope and which address the following inter-related core cross-cutting aims:

- to develop the **reciprocal relationships** between the sciences and the arts and humanities
- to identify new avenues for **cross-disciplinary innovation**, and
- to encourage **mutual exchanges**.

A focus on reciprocal relationships, intersections, interactions and synergies is expected to be at the heart of the research questions, agenda, methods and approaches. Cross-disciplinary interaction should be central to the ways of working. This should include drawing on a variety of perspectives from across a range of arts and humanities subject areas as well as deep engagement with science researchers and/or practitioners throughout the research. There may also be opportunities to collaborate with organisations and individuals who work across the sciences and arts and humanities or at the interfaces and intersections between them, for example in the museums and galleries or media and communications sectors or in areas such as research policy and regulation.

The emphasis should be on creativity, imagination and innovation in terms of developing the relationships and ways of working and potential for mutual / bi-directional learning, development of new insights and understanding, and transforming methodologies in

respect to both the arts and humanities and the sciences. As such, proposals may build upon, but should move significantly beyond, approaches which have a more uni-directional focus. Where they build on areas already well-represented in arts and humanities research, such as contextualising science, studying the development of science and scientific ideas and/or exploring the translation and communication of science, they will need to demonstrate how they will be innovative, cross boundaries between disciplines within the arts and humanities, add significant value to existing research and advance approaches for mutual exchange and bi-directional learning.

Proposals may cover any range of topics, issues and areas within the scope of the Theme provided they address these core cross-cutting aims. Proposals will need to demonstrate their potential to make an innovative, transformative contribution to the development of the Theme. Where proposals focus on arts and humanities engagement with a specific area of science, they will need to demonstrate the potential wider relevance of their research for developing new thinking about reciprocal relationships and approaches to stimulating mutual exchanges in other fields of potential engagement beyond the specific area of science that is the primary focus of the proposal.

### **Timetable**

- Mid-September 2012 - Launch of call
- 15 January 2013 - Closing date for outline proposals
- Early February 2013 – Outline proposals to Panel for assessment
- Early March 2013 – Panel meeting
- Mid-March 2013 – Notification of shortlisting outcomes
- Late May 2013 - Closing Date for full proposals
- June 2013 – Peer review
- Late July 2013 - Assessment Panel/Interviews
- Early August 2013 – Notification of funding outcomes
- Between October 2013 and April 2014 – Large Grants to start

### **Additional Assessment Criterion for Outline and Full Proposals**

In addition to the assessment criteria listed in the main document above, the following criterion will also be taken into account:

- the potential to make a novel contribution to the development of reciprocal relationships, cross-disciplinary innovation and mutual exchanges between the arts and humanities and the sciences.

## **Building Capacity**

In addition to the information given in the main document above about the next generation of researchers, applicants should think specifically about the supervision, training and support that are needed for PhD students involved in projects that span the arts and humanities and sciences. For example, it is possible, where appropriate, for a PhD student to have a second supervisor from a science department to enable them to develop the skills and experience required for cross-disciplinary research.

Similar consideration should also be given to the support provided to early career researchers involved in projects, for example by considering the opportunities for cross-disciplinary mentoring or for gaining experience of working in a different disciplinary context or setting or using different research tools and methods.

## **Funding for Research across Research Council Boundaries**

The nature of the Science in Culture theme and its emphasis on reciprocal relationships and mutual exchange means that proposals under this call are likely to cut across the remits of the Research Councils. The AHRC is willing to adopt a flexible approach to funding contributions to Large Grants from the sciences as an integral part of developing these reciprocal relationships. Applicants are encouraged to consider creative ways of engaging with research in the sciences, including the potential to develop collaborations with science research supported by other funders. Some funding also may be requested for scientists to contribute their time to projects as co-investigators, team members, collaborators or consultants and to cover other costs such as travel and subsistence. In some cases, it may be appropriate to include funding for scientific research activities as a part of the Large Grants, where this has been designed as an integral part of the overall research approach and methods and is essential to the core aims in terms of developing reciprocal relationships and mutual exchanges.

## **Peer Review**

A flexible approach will also be adopted in relation to peer review processes to ensure that they are appropriate for the boundary-crossing nature of the proposals expected. In addition to peer reviewers within AHRC's Peer Review College, and the potential to supplement these with reviewers from overseas and beyond the HE sector, AHRC may also seek advice from other Research Councils on the peer review of proposals and draw on peer reviewers and panellists from the sciences, in a similar way to the process for responsive mode grants as outlined in the Cross-Council Funding Agreement (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/FundingAgreement.aspx>).

## **Contacts**

Enquiries regarding the type of activities that can be supported through this call should be directed to either:

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The AHRC works with the RCUK Shared Services Centre (SSC) to deliver all of our funding activities.

Enquiries about Je-S registration or completing the proposal form should be directed to [grants@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:grants@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk) or 01793 444 164

### **Other Thematic Funding Opportunities**

In addition to the funding opportunities offered through AHRC's responsive mode grants (including provisions for cross-Council research through the Cross-Council Funding Agreement mentioned above), Fellowships and Networking schemes, we also plan to work with the Theme Leadership Fellow to discuss other Science in Culture opportunities to complement the Large Grants Call, including support for early career researchers. This might include a second Exploratory Awards call, which is being considered to follow completion of the Large Grants commissioning in late 2013. Details will be made available on the Science in Culture page of the AHRC's website in due course.

We are in discussions with a number of partners about the possibility of joint calls for smaller projects addressing specific topics, issues or areas of science of relevance to the Theme. Further details of these partnership calls will be made available as these discussions reach fruition.

## **Annex 4 – Translating Cultures**

### **The Translating Cultures Theme**

In a world increasingly characterized by transnational and globalized connections, the need for understanding and communication between and across diverse cultures is stronger than ever. The Translating Cultures theme addresses this need by looking at the role of translation, understood in its broadest sense, in the transmission, interpretation and sharing of languages, values, beliefs, histories and narratives. The theme addresses issues of substantial policy relevance in areas such as diplomacy, conflict and security, law and migration; engages with key concepts such as multiculturalism, tolerance and identities; explores interactions such as youth language and online language and identity; and promotes opportunities for researchers in all these fields to work across language areas and across disciplines.

In order to focus some of the key issues presented by the theme, the following three strategic questions have been developed in consultation with the Translating Cultures Advisory Group, the academic community and other key partners:

#### **How can research into languages and cultures anywhere in the world and at any time:**

- 1) Help to develop knowledge and understanding of the process and nature of translation and interpretation across languages, cultures, generations, media and different sectors?
- 2) Develop our understanding of diverse cultures such as youth culture, popular culture and diasporic culture, and of written, oral and performing cultures, both from a historical perspective and in more contemporary contexts such as digital media and communications?
- 3) Contribute effectively to key public policy concerns such as security, economic growth, migration, education, health and well-being, law, ethics and the environment by informing the work of policy makers and public, private and third sector organisations?

Please note that these questions are intended for guidance purposes and the examples provided are not exhaustive. The AHRC expects and encourages the questions to be interpreted from a wide range of perspectives. The theme aims to address research questions relating to a range of historical contexts and a variety of geographical locations. It is open to diverse methodological, conceptual and theoretical approaches. For example, a proposal may seek to address a specific line of enquiry arising from one particular question, or broader issues that transcend one or more of the questions. Supplementary guidance for each question is provided below:

Question 1: 'Translation' in the context of this question is conceived in its broadest possible sense and relates not only to translation from one language to another but also, for example, from one medium or form to another. It might also encompass issues such as the 'untranslatable', the impact of what is gained or lost in the process of translation or the translation of academic research itself for application in non-academic contexts.

Question 2: This question aims to reflect a broad range of cultural issues, understandings and interactions and is not prescriptive either in its conception of 'culture' or 'cultures' or in its understanding of research methodologies – be they, for example, thematic, theoretical or practice-led - applied to their exploration, provided they fit broadly within the traditions and remit of the arts and humanities.

Question 3: It should be emphasised that the issues listed in this question are only examples; it is at the discretion of applicants to articulate why research into a targeted policy concern(s) is important. 'Policy' should be interpreted broadly and refers not only to governmental priorities, but also issues of concern to organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, for example, in macro-level policy and in practices at a community / grassroots level.

In July 2012 a workshop brought together existing Translating Cultures award holders, the theme Advisory Group and partners from outside the academic sector. It enabled further discussions around each of the questions as well the aims, objectives and challenges presented by the theme more generally. A report of these discussions can be found on the AHRC website here: <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Research-funding/Themes/Translating-Cultures/Documents/Translating-cultures-discussion-report.pdf> (please note that there have been some minor changes to the wording of the questions since the event).

### **Translating Cultures Large Grants**

The Translating Cultures large grants are expected to bring substantially transformative and innovative approaches to the issues arising from the theme. As above, it is expected that the strategic questions will be interpreted and applied flexibly, though proposals should clearly demonstrate the value of the proposed research in the context of the questions and in response to the broader aims of the theme.

The theme lends itself particularly strongly to collaboration and applicants should consider opportunities for working across disciplines both within the arts and humanities and, where appropriate, beyond. This might include integrated working across component disciplines within the arts and humanities where there is not an established tradition of collaboration, or partnerships between arts and humanities researchers and researchers in the social sciences or other fields. Funding may be requested for researchers from other disciplines to contribute their time to projects as co-investigators, team members, collaborators or consultants and to cover other costs such as travel and subsistence. Similarly, applicants are encouraged to think creatively about opportunities to collaborate with organisations from outside the academic sector whose input will enrich the intellectual content and potential impact of the proposed research. It is also expected that projects will include a significant amount of cross-institutional collaboration. It is possible that some proposals under this call might cut across the remits of the Research Councils and the AHRC is willing, where appropriate, to adopt a flexible approach to funding contributions to Large Grants from other disciplines outside the arts and humanities as an integral part of developing reciprocal relationships.

Given the focus of the theme, proposals with a substantial international component are strongly encouraged, though the AHRC does not intend to be prescriptive in defining how this should be embedded in a Translating Cultures project and recognises that there may be exceptions where such components are not appropriate.

Applications to the Large Grants call should also take account of how proposed activity will contribute to capacity building issues relevant to the Translating Cultures theme. For example, this might include training and skills development for PhD students and early career researchers in areas such as inter-cultural awareness and language skills; addressing skills / knowledge gaps experienced by members of the 'user community' through new partnerships with organisations from outside the academic sector and internationally; and innovative approaches to consolidating, coordinating and enhancing research into languages and cultures as part of more integrated working across individual arts and humanities disciplines.

### **Timetable**

- Mid-September 2012 - Launch of call
- 17 January 2013 - Closing date for outline proposals
- Early February 2013 – Outline proposals to Panel for assessment
- Early March 2013 – Panel meeting
- Mid-March 2013 – Notification of shortlisting outcomes
- Late May 2013 - Closing Date for full proposals
- June 2013 – Peer review
- Late July 2013 - Assessment Panel/Interviews
- Early August 2013 – Notification of funding outcomes
- Between October 2013 and April 2014 – Large grants to start

### **Additional Input from the Translating Cultures Advisory Group**

The Translating Cultures Advisory Group is meeting on 17 September 2012. A report from this meeting, providing any further advice or guidance to applicants, will be added here by **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**. Please note that where such comments are made they will only be minor additions to existing information to support the thinking of potential applicants; none of the procedural information or theme detail provided above will be changed.

***Update, 19 September 2012:** At this meeting the Advisory Group confirmed its endorsement of the content and focus of the Translating Cultures Large Grants call. However, the group reiterated the need to emphasise the opportunities for collaboration available through the call, including the potential for projects to work across disciplines both within the arts and humanities and, where appropriate, beyond. This has been incorporated through minor amendments, made on 19th September 2012, to the second paragraph of the 'Translating Cultures Large Grants' section on page 23 of this document.*

## **Peer Review**

The approach to Peer Review will be flexible in order to respond appropriately to the work proposed through the applications. In addition to peer reviewers within AHRC's Peer Review College, and the potential to supplement these with reviewers from overseas and beyond the HE sector, AHRC may also seek advice from other Research Councils on the peer review of proposals and draw on peer reviewers and panellists from disciplines outside the arts and humanities, in a similar way to the process for responsive mode grants as outlined in the Cross-Council Funding Agreement (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/FundingAgreement.aspx>).

## **Contacts**

Enquiries regarding the type of activities that can be supported through this call should be directed to either:

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The AHRC works with the RCUK Shared Services Centre (SSC) to deliver all of our funding activities.

Enquiries about Je-S registration or completing the proposal form should be directed to [grants@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:grants@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk) or 01793 444 164

## **Other Thematic Funding Opportunities**

In addition to the funding opportunities offered through its responsive mode Grants, Fellowships and Networking schemes the AHRC, in consultation with the Translating Cultures Advisory Group and theme Leadership Fellow, is considering options for additional funding opportunities to be delivered through the theme. These plans are still at a provisional stage and subject to change but may include smaller exploratory awards, networking opportunities and support for early career researchers. Further information will be made available on the Translating Cultures webpage in due course.