



NOTE This is the first phase of our new website – let us know if you have [feedback](#) or would like to [help us test new developments](#).

Discovery Projects call – Towards a National Collection: Opening UK Heritage to the World

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£15,000,000
Publication date:	27 April 2020
Opening date:	27 April 2020
Closing date:	17 November 2020 16:00 UK time

Last updated: 21 October 2020

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), is pleased to announce the call for the Discovery Projects of **Towards a National Collection: Opening UK Heritage to the World**.

Towards a National Collection represents a major investment (£19 million in total) in the UK's world-leading cultural and heritage sector.

Funded from UKRI's Strategic Priorities Fund, Towards a National Collection addresses the lack of coordination between different online collections and catalogues, which constitutes a major barrier to research and public access.

Forging new and deeper partnerships between Independent Research Organisations and Higher Education Institutions, and using the catalytic potential of new technology, the programme will begin to dissolve barriers between different collections, opening them up to new cross-disciplinary and cross-collection lines of research, and at the same time diversifying their visitor base and the ways in which the public access them.

The aim is to begin to realise the full, combined potential of the collections not only for research but for the heritage economy and the wider social good, and to take the first important steps towards creating a virtual 'national collection'.

The Discovery Projects form the major part of this investment, and this call aims to fund up to five projects over a maximum of 36 months within a total funding envelope of up to £15

million. The indicative limit for each project is £3 million.

For the full call specification please see the [Towards a National Collection call guidance \(PDF, 380KB\)](#)

Open meetings

Following the success of these webinars, we will be hosting four more webinars in August 2020. These webinars will be in two formats.

The first format will be “introduction” webinars and will replicate the first run of the ones held in May and June. These are targeted at those who were unable to make those initial sessions.

The second format will be “support” webinars are aimed at those who attended those sessions and are at a more advanced stage with their proposals).

The dates and times of the webinars are:

- (introduction webinar) 11 August 2020, 10:00-noon BST
- (support webinar) 12 August 2020, 10:30-12:30 BST
- (support webinar) 18 August 2020, 14:00-16:00 BST
- (introduction webinar) 19 August 2020, 14:00-16:00 BST

If you wish to attend, please [complete the Webinar expression of interest form](#).

Following the webinars held in June, we collated a document with the most frequently asked questions. Read the [Discovery Projects Call FAQ \(PDF, 320KB\)](#).

The deadline for outline proposals is: **17 November 2020, 16:00 GMT**.

More information on the webinars can be found on the main page for the [Towards a National Collection](#).

JISC Mail Group

To help organisations form partnerships for the proposals, AHRC has set up a [discussion mailing list with JISC](#) for use as a partner matching tool.

How to make an application

This call will have a two-stage application process: an outline stage followed by a full proposal stage.

Outline proposals must be submitted by **17 November 2020, 16:00 GMT**.

Outline proposals will be reviewed and shortlisted, and will be invited to attend a workshop on **17 February 2021** where advice and guidance on the full proposal stage will be given.

- Only those who are shortlisted **and** attend the workshop will be invited to submit at the full proposal stage.
- Applicants **must** submit an outline proposal in order to be invited to submit a full proposal.

Submit your proposals using the [joint electronic submission \(Je-S\) system](#).

For further details, see the 'Application Process' section of the [Towards a National Collection call guidance \(PDF, 380KB\)](#).

Further Information

Further information about the programme as a whole can be found at [Towards a National Collection: Opening UK Heritage to the World programme](#).

Contacts

Enquiries regarding this call should be directed email:

national.collection@ahrc.uk.org

Consultation with the Programme Director on proposal ideas is encouraged. Please contact Rebecca Bailey, email: rebecca.bailey@hes.scot