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Open Research Area for the Social Sciences Seventh Call for Proposals 2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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This document sets out answers to a range of frequently asked questions (FAQ) which potential applicants may have. It may be updated while the call is open to elaborate or supplement answers, in response to received queries. However, the FAQ is a supplement to, not substitute for, the details provided in the call specification and associated guidance documents. These are available at the call webpage at: <https://anr.fr/ORA7>.

All documents referenced below are available at the ORA 7 website (if not otherwise stated).

NEW This document has been updated with questions from the webinars. All webinar questions are labelled QW, differently from the initial questions, which are labelled Q.

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Questions on who can apply to the call

Q1. Who can submit a proposal to ORA 7?

Since eligibility criteria are subject to national regulations, these criteria are described in the country specific requirements (section 9 of the *ORA 7 Call specification*). If you are unsure, please contact the relevant national contact officers prior to submitting a proposal.

Q2. Can I be involved in more than one ORA application?

The main applicant, the applicants, and the co-applicants can only be involved in one proposal in the current round, **in any capacity**. It is the responsibility of the applicants (including the main applicants) to ascertain that the project applicants are compliant with this rule. **If any individual appears as project applicant in two applications, both applications will be declared ineligible and rejected by the call Secretariat.**

Q3. Can any organisation submit a proposal?

Proposals must be submitted by individuals (applicants), not institutions. The call is open to proposals from eligible applicants from three or four of the subscribing countries, i.e., Canada, France, Germany, and the UK. All applicants should check institutional eligibility rules of each participating agency and/or contact national contact person for further details.

Q4. Are investigators from outside of the four countries eligible to be included in the scheme?

Some of the partner agencies allow for other international collaborators to be included within the terms of their normal research grants. These policies will apply to co-applicants outside the four countries if the work of these researchers is most closely aligned with the national research team for which such collaborations are allowed. For example, for ESRC, the policy on international co-applicants (to be found here <https://esrc.ukri.org/files/funding/guidance-for-applicants/international-co-investigator-policy-guidance/>) will apply, provided that these researchers work most closely with the UK research team. For DFG, regulations for cooperation with developing countries will apply (https://www.dfg.de/formulare/54_013/54_013_en.pdf). For SSHRC, researchers from international postsecondary institutions can participate as co-applicants, while any international individual can participate as a collaborator. You will need to check the eligibility rules of the national agency with which researchers outside the four countries are most naturally aligned for confirmation of eligibility.

If you have researchers from outside of the four countries whose costs are not covered by the funders' national terms and conditions (as above) but who have agreed to cooperate with your project, you should list their details in the cooperation partners sections in the *ORA 7 Proposal template*, section 2. Please note that no funding can be requested to cover research from cooperation partners, but some funders may cover essential travel costs.

For ORA 7, there is again a special opportunity for cooperation with projects in Japan. With the aim to strengthen cooperation between researchers in Japan and ORA partners, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), as the national funding organization of Japan, renews the funding scheme to support projects which are associated with ORA. For details, please see the following website for the Japanese call.

Q.5 How many applicants may be included in a proposal?

Each national sub-team will have an applicant in that country, who must be clearly identified in the *ORA 7 Proposal template*, section 2. Applicants will act as national contact points with their national funding agencies and fulfil the role of an applicant as defined in the rules of their agency. Apart from the national applicants, there might be other applicants who also request funding. These applicants are per definition co-applicants. There is not supposed to be any sort of hierarchy between applicants and co-applicants but, depending on national rules, the applicants might be accountable for specific duties with regard to their funding agency.

There is no limit to the number of participants that can be involved in the project, but all team members must make a significant contribution to the conduct of the research.

Q.6 Why do we need to name a main applicant?

For administrative reasons only, one of the applicants will act as main applicant and submit the proposals on behalf of all project partners. The ORA Secretariat will direct communications about the progress of the application to this person only, and the main applicants are therefore responsible for informing the other parties in the application.

QW.1 Does the rule about participants (only one application per participant) apply to the institution as a whole or to the named researcher? For example, can two different researchers from the same institution be involved in two different applications to this call? Or would they count as the same applicant by virtue of being at the same institution?

The rule “only one application per participant” applies to individuals, not to institutions. There is no limit on the number of applications per institution.

QW.2 Who can lead the project - can these be partners outside of France?

Projects can be led by applicants in Canada, Germany, the UK, or France. A project does not need to involve researchers from France. ANR is coordinating this call, which means applications must be submitted through their SIM system, but this does not require the involvement of a France-based researcher. Moreover, even if a project includes researchers from France, therefore includes an applicant from France, it does not mean that that person needs to be the main applicant; any project applicant can play the role of main applicant and submit the applications through SIM on behalf of the team.

QW.3 What is the required legal status of the partner organization?

The institutional eligibility rules are specific to each participating agency. For SSHRC, applicants must be affiliated with an eligible postsecondary institution. For ESRC, a Project Partner is a third party organisation, or third party person not employed on a grant, who provides specific contributions either in cash or in kind to a project - see our Research Funding Guide for further details. For DFG, the eligibility of the research institution is determined on a case-by-case basis. For ANR, all kind of applicants producing and disseminating research – public and private - are eligible. However, different financial rules are applying according to their situation (please see: https://anr.fr/fileadmin/documents/2021/ANR-RF-2021_230621.pdf).

QW.4 Can a proposal include more than one person from the same applicant institution?

Yes, there is no limit on the number of participants from the same institution per proposal. However, only one individual can be the applicant. Others can participate as co-applicants or team members.

QW.5 I see from the proposal template that applicants have to say whether they are on a fixed-term contract. Does this aspect affect whether an individual can be named as an applicant, or main applicant?

No. We ask project participants to specify the duration of the contract, in case they are on a fixed-term contract, to ensure that the eligibility is maintained throughout the duration of the grant or throughout the duration of the participant's contribution to the project. For ANR, the institution must certify that the main applicant, applicant, and co-applicant will be employed until the end of the project.

QW.6 Could you please explain the difference between a co-applicant and a team member? For instance, if another member of the co-applicant's laboratory is involved in the project, do we have to mention him/her as a co-applicant or as a team member?

The difference between a co-applicant and a team member is clearly outlined in section 2.1 of the Call specification. The difference is determined by the level of involvement in and contribution to the project. It is possible to have two co-applicants from the same laboratory.

QW.7 We wish to involve researchers from non-ORA countries. These can be involved as cooperation partners or team members. What are the rules on covering their research expenses or staff time for each type of partner?

The eligibility of expenses depends on the relevant national agencies. All budget items must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant and national group. Funds requested from SSHRC must respect the regulations set out in the [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#). Funds requested from ESRC must follow our International Co-Investigators Policy. Funds requested from DFG must follow the "Supplementary Instructions for Projects Involving Developing Countries"

https://www.dfg.de/formulare/54_013/54_013_en.pdf. For ANR, no funds can be requested by researchers from non-ORA countries; however, applicants in the ANR's remit are able to cover travel and accommodation expenses of the researchers from non-ORA countries.

QW.8 Are the Japanese applicants co-applicants?

No, they are cooperation partners. Please see section 2.2 in the Call specification document.

QW.9 You are always talking about proposals to the different funding agencies, but isn't it the same proposal that goes to different agencies? So, would we not submit the same text to all three or four and the Japanese one?

Proposals are submitted by a team of applicants and other project participants from three or four countries. Applicants and their national teams will request funds from their respective funding agencies. For example, applicants from Germany will request funds from DFG, hence they need to meet the eligibility criteria of DFG; researchers affiliated with Canadian postsecondary institutions will request funds from SSHRC, hence they need to meet the eligibility requirements of SSHRC. In case national teams are not clear about the eligibility requirements of their national agency, we encourage them to contact it for clarifications. That being said, the project itself is only one, not three or four international projects put together. It is only the Japanese applicant who will submit a separate application directly to JSPS.

QW.10 I don't quite see how JSPS is 'associated' with this call.

Please see section 2.2 in the Call specification document and Q.33-34 in the current document. If an ORA project has cooperation partners from Japan, the main applicant should indicate this in the ORA 7 proposal template. For these projects, an annex of no more than one page should also be added to the proposal template. The annex should include information on the Japanese participants and a summary of the Japanese project. Even if the main applicant is from Germany, for example, the Japanese proposal will be evaluated and decided upon by JSPS, in light of its association with ORA.

QW.11 Are there restrictions towards the faculties the applicants reside in?

No, there are no restrictions on the faculties in which applicants reside. When we look at the eligibility of a project, we look at the subject matter of the project, not at the affiliation of the researcher (as long as they are affiliated with an eligible institution, see QW.3 above). That being said, it is important to remember that the assessment criteria include the appropriateness of the research team for conduction of the proposed research project.

QW.12 I have both a university affiliation and a not-for-profit affiliation. Can I list a colleague in my not-for-profit as a co-applicant?

The eligibility criteria of project participants are subject to national regulations. For SSHRC, that would be eligible: individuals affiliated with not-for-profits are eligible to be co-applicants. For ESRC, please see our guidance document on “Inclusion of UK business, third sector or government body co-investigators on ESRC proposals”, and be sure you are in line with UK subsidy control. For DFG, please contact the DFG head office for determining the eligibility of a non-university research institution. For ANR, please see above QW3.

QW.13 Is it correct to assume that the nationality of the organization the researchers are affiliated with is key for being eligible to apply to ORA, not the nationality of the researchers?

Yes, that is correct. To clarify a bit, as organizations do not necessarily have a nationality, what is important is the affiliation with an eligible institution. The actual nationality of an applicant is not relevant in this context.

QW.14 I am one of two applicants from Germany; should one of us be a co-applicant or can both of us be applicants? What is the difference?

Please see section 2 in the Call specification document. There is no limit on number of participants from the same country per proposal. However, there must be only one applicant per country involved in the proposal. The applicant will fulfil the role of a principal investigator as defined by their respective funding agency, and act as contact point with their agency for all national matters.

Questions on what can be applied for in this call

Q.7 How much can be applied for in this call?

All budget items must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant. The total value of proposals requested from each national agency should not exceed the funding limit for that agency. The following funding limits will apply: ANR: Up to €450,000; DFG: No maximum limit; ESRC: From minimum £200,000 to maximum £600,000 (at 100% FEC, ESRC will meet 80% of the FEC); SSHRC: Up to \$400,000 (maximum \$135,000 per year).

Q.8 How long can a grant last?

This call allows proposals for projects between 24 and 36 months. What the research is focused on and how it will be conducted will determine the most appropriate length for a grant. Value for money will be a criterion of assessment in reaching funding decisions.

Q.9 Should costs be broken down in detail or proposed as a lump-sum amount?

Applicants should report the total amount of funds requested for the project per agency, using the *ORA 7 Proposal template*, section 4. These amounts must be fully justified in the section 5 of the same document. In the “Justification of resources” (section 5), you are required to provide a detailed breakdown and explanation of why the indicated resources are needed. This section should explain why the resources requested are appropriate for the research proposed, taking into account the nature and complexity of the research proposal. It should not be simply a list of the resources required. Where an itemised breakdown and justification is not provided, these costs will be removed from any grant made.

In addition to the information provided in the *ORA 7 Proposal template*, applicants from Canada and the UK are required to fill out the *ESRC Finance form* and the *SSHRC National financial form* for the funds requested, and to upload the forms as separate documents to the ANR’s SIM application form. The ESRC and SSHRC financial form templates are available on the ORA 7 website. Applicants from France requesting funding from the ANR are expected to complete the full financial form in the ANR’s SIM application form.

Applicants from Germany are required to upload their proposals via the DFG elan system and specify their budget there.

Q.10 Should inflation be included within the project budget?

No, inflation costs must not be included within the project budget. All costs must be entered at the prices at the time of submission. Successful grants may have an allowance for inflation, calculated using standard indices depending on national financial regulations (although this does not apply for all participating funding agencies).

Q.11 Can project management time and costs be included in the proposal?

Yes, if this is appropriate for your proposal you must justify time and cost within your proposal.

QW.15 Would it be possible to pay for travel costs (e.g., to join team meetings or team events such as workshops) for international colleagues from participating countries (that is, Canada, France, Germany, and the UK) out of the funding pots of other participating agencies? For example, can a Canadian researcher's travel expenses be covered with ANR funds?

Travel and subsistence costs for applicants and their project teams should be put under the corresponding country funder's budget. For example, a Canadian researcher's travel expenses should be put under SSHRC's budget.

QW.16 To what extent do all empirical research need to be conducted in the host countries? Can it be conducted in part or entirely in other countries?

Yes, research can be conducted in part or entirely in other countries.

QW.17 Project partnerships should be for all partners' maximum funding available?

See Q.7 in this document. Every national sub-team can request funds from their respective funding agency up to the maximum stated for that agency. Hence, a project budget can go up to the maximum request from all funding agencies put together.

QW.18 Can the project funds be invested into PhD recruitment?

This is dependent on the funding agency. At SSHRC, DFG and ANR, this is eligible. At ESRC this is *not* eligible.

QW.19 If one aspect of the proposal's methodology will be common across several countries, can the total cost of that aspect be costed in one country (e.g., France), if an external company located in that country is responsible for undertaking that aspect? Or do the costs have to be split between the different funding agencies?

Both options are eligible.

QW.20 Could the same applicant have their expenses paid by two countries?

No, each national sub-team should treat its own budget as if it were a separate, but linked entity.

QW.21 Is the overall budget determined by the lead researcher?

No. Although country sub-teams request funding from their respective agency, the overall budget should be discussed by all partners and make sense for the overall project. Such collaborations speak to the coherence and the cohesion of the partnership.

QW.22 Are any of the funds allocated to salaries? If so, who is eligible?

The eligibility of expenses depends on the relevant national agencies. All budget items must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant and national group. At SSHRC, salaries are eligible under some circumstances, but not all. Please see the [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#) for more information. For ESRC, staff time can be charged to a grant subject to the policies set out in our Research

Funding Guide – see in particular page 27. At DFG, salaries are usually not eligible, but there are exceptions. Please refer to the guidelines for the different costing modules: https://www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/einzelfoerderung/sachbeihilfe/formulare_merkblaetter/index.jsp. At ANR, non-permanent staff's salaries are eligible (see <https://anr.fr/fileadmin/documents/2017/ANR-RF-Fiche-COUTS.pdf>).

QW.23 When looking at the budgets, are we permitted to use the budget parameters from each of the respective countries budget; for example, do France, Germany and England combine their budget?

Each agency has different financial rules, and therefore it is not possible to combine the budget parameters of the different agencies. So, each partner must comply with the financial rules of the relevant agency. Also see Q.7 and QW.17.

Questions on general research eligibility

Q.12 Are there certain types of research that are considered more suitable for this call?

No. All projects must focus on substantive research and feature an integrated work programme demonstrating clearly the added value of transnational collaboration. The funding agencies expect that each partner contributes substantially to the common project topic, including taking responsibilities for the project design and organization. These contributions should also be reflected in a reasonable amount of requested funds by each partner.

Proposals may be submitted in any area of the social sciences within the remit of the relevant national agencies concerned (please see section 9 in the *ORA 7 Call specification* for additional information concerning each agency).

Q.13 Are scientific infrastructure or networking activities allowed?

Scientific infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus. As stand-alone projects, infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible and will be rejected.

Q.14 What type of research can be funded?

Applications can be for basic research and national agencies are keen to encourage fresh ideas from early career as well as from established researchers. Research proposals cannot be accepted for the following: unspecified research work, research already carried out, writing up previous research, stand-alone literature surveys, conference attendance, travel for general study, unsolicited requests to hold conferences, workshops or seminars, preparation of books and publications, or primarily for the preparation and production of materials such as curriculum materials and software development.

However, within a research application the inclusion of literature surveys, conferences, seminars, workshops, and preparation of books and publications and other types of output are acceptable as long as the need for any of these is fully justified and these activities clearly support and/or disseminate the production of new research.

Q.15 Can disciplines outside of the social sciences be included in the project proposals?

Yes, they can if they are an integral part of and support the research questions and theme. However, the proposal should be predominantly within the social sciences. If you have any doubt as to whether your proposal is predominantly within the social sciences, please contact the agencies to which your proposal will be submitted for confirmation. Note, also, that the disciplinary coverage varies according to the involvement

of the national agencies (especially SSHRC). If you have any doubt, check to ensure the disciplinary scope of your proposal is eligible with all agencies involved.

Q.16 Are proposals which are linked to projects that have been funded by other organisations acceptable?

Yes, although such proposals must be a discrete piece of work that can be judged on their own merits and does not duplicate previous work. It is important that the proposal still proposes new and cutting-edge research of the highest quality. It would be expected that in such instances applicants will demonstrate where there may be added synergies and added value between the two projects.

Q.17 Is it possible to apply for funding from this call if a proposal builds on previous research?

Yes, although it is important that the proposal still proposes new and cutting-edge research of the highest quality. Such proposals must be a discrete piece of work that can be judged on their own merits and does not duplicate previous work. It would be expected that in such instances applicants will demonstrate where there may be added synergies and value between the two projects.

Q.18 Is it acceptable to include researchers from disciplines outside the social sciences?

Yes, if this is relevant to the research project.

Q.19 Do proposals have to be multi-disciplinary?

No. Mono-, multi- and interdisciplinary proposals are all welcome. What is important is that the disciplinary approach is appropriate to address the specific research questions.

Where research teams do cut across disciplines, it is important that enough time and resource are allocated to make sure that strong working partnerships can be built up and maintained, and that collaboration is meaningful and productive. It is advisable for these teams to have a proven record of joint inter- or multidisciplinary work.

QW.24 When considering the fit of the content of the proposal to the remit of the individual funding bodies, is it the case that ALL aspects of the project must fit within the remit of ALL funding bodies on the application, or just the aspect associated with the applicant in that respective country?

Your project does not need to be at the intersection of all agencies' remit, but it is important to ensure that your proposal is predominantly within the social sciences (at least 50%) by ANR, DFG and ESRC. SSHRC allows projects from humanities; however, international projects including SSHRC researchers within humanities must also be at least 50% in social sciences overall.

QW.25 Is the preference that we design a project in which different studies are carried out in the partner jurisdictions, and then findings are shared or is the intention that we design one overarching study to which we all contribute?

The latter is correct. All projects must feature an integrated work program demonstrating clearly the added value of transnational collaboration. The funding agencies expect that each partner contributes substantially to the common project topic, including taking responsibilities for the project organization. Stand-alone national projects will not be eligible and will be rejected.

QW.26 SSHRC does not fund projects in cognitive psychology. Does this mean that teams with a Canadian sub-team cannot submit a proposal in cognitive psychology?

Projects in psychology could be eligible at SSHRC. Please read the Subject Matter Eligibility guidelines. Even if the overall project is not 100% in an area eligible at SSHRC, if the Canadian sub-team's activities remain within the mandate of SSHRC, then the overall application would be eligible.

QW.27 How detailed should the data management plan be?

There is no specific page limit for the data management plan. We suggest using approximately one page for it, give or take a few paragraphs, but your judgement should take precedence here as you know best what is appropriate for your project.

QW.28 You say we need to check eligibility with our national organizations. Does that mean that, for example, German eligibility requirements apply only to the German applicant, or do they apply to the entire project and all partners, regardless which country they are from?

See QW.9 in this document.

QW.29 Are qualitative research projects competitive for this fund?

The scheme is thematically and methodologically open. The funders have no preference for one method over another.

QW.30 Can a Japanese co-operation partner be responsible for a work-package, or would you advise that they are participants?

The Japanese proposal will be evaluated by JSPS, in light of its association with ORA. The ORA proposal will be evaluated as a standalone proposal by the ORA partners and funding decisions will be made independently from the Japanese component. Hence, should the Japanese partner be responsible for a work-package, your ORA project should nevertheless be capable to stand on its own should the Japanese proposal not be successful. With this caveat, you are free to design your project the way you wish.

QW.31 Can you explain what you mean by “integrated projects”; how do the partners integrate their research?

See Q. 12 in this document. All projects must feature an integrated work program demonstrating clearly the added value of transnational collaboration. The funding agencies expect that each partner contributes substantially to the common project topic, including taking responsibilities for the project design and organization. These contributions should also be reflected in a reasonable amount of requested funds by each partner.

QW.32 Is there a preference for a geographical scope of the research undertaken? Can we integrate developing country research partners via sub-contracts?

There is no preference for a geographical scope of the research. The research activities can be done inside and/or outside of the four subscribing countries (i.e., Canada, France, Germany, and the UK). The participating funding agencies have different rules regarding sub-contracting.

For SSHRC, an individual from an international postsecondary institution can be added as a co-applicant to the SSHRC ORA sub-team. The Canadian PI will be able to transfer money to the co-applicant’s institution and those funds can be used for fieldwork.

For ESRC, a subcontractor is a third-party organisation, or third-party person not employed on a grant, who is subcontracted by the host organisation to deliver a specific piece of work. This subcontracted work will be subject to the procurement rules of the host Research Organisation. All costs that support the delivery of the subcontract are eligible and will be paid at 80% fEC unless otherwise stated, these should be outlined and fully justified in the proposal and will be subject to peer review.”

For DFG, developing country researchers can be integrated via subcontracts, but funds can also be requested to finance the scholar in a developing country directly. Please refer to the “Supplementary Instructions for Projects Involving Cooperation with Developing Countries
https://www.dfg.de/formulare/54_013/54_013_en.pdf

For ANR, developing country research partners can be integrated via sub-contracts.

QW.33 Would it be possible to apply for an ORA project which is connected to an independent application of another project?

Yes, although such proposals must be discrete pieces of work that can be judged on their own merits and do not duplicate previous work. It is important that the proposal includes new and cutting-edge research of the highest quality.

QW.34 Should the data management plan respond to the data management guidelines of all partners involved in the proposal even if the data is stored in the main applicant's institution and managed by the main applicant?

The data management plan should make sense for your project. If all data is stored in one institution only, then it makes sense to consider the data management guidelines of the relevant funding agency. However, it is important to note that the data management is not only about storage; it is also about data collection, use, sharing, short- and long-term preservation, etc. It is very likely that all partners will participate in such activities, in which case, you should consider all the relevant guidelines.

QW.35 Do you expect us to publish the data in public repositories? In our case, it is quite sensitive data, including aspects of illegality, so we need to grant full anonymity and it seems a public repository would be contradicting that anonymity that we need to promise.

Please refer to the guidelines for data management relevant for your project. Such guidelines would normally outline how to deal with sensitive data. For SSHRC, please read the Tri-Agency Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management and the Research Data Archiving Policy. For ESRC, researchers are expected to comply with our Research Data Policy. For DFG, please refer to the Subject-Specific Recommendations on the Handling of Research Data:

https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_dfg_funding/research_data/recommendations/index.html.

QW.36 Is it one data management plan per application? Or one per institution?

The former is correct: one data management plan per application.

QW.37 What is the level of involvement expected from each applicant/co-applicant? E.g., do data need to be collected in each country, or can one applicant/co-applicant be involved in analysis only?

We are not prescriptive in this sense. Your project team can decide how the tasks are divided.

QW.38 How important is the applied aspect of the proposal (above and beyond basic research excellence)? For example, collaboration with the Police if the research is applicable?

Such aspects are important if they make sense for your project, and they are assessed under the last assessment criterion and its sub-criteria.

Questions about the application process

Q.20 Where can I download the application templates?

Application templates along with all relevant ORA 7 literature can be found on ORA 7 website: <https://anr.fr/ORA7>

Proposals must be submitted to the ANR's Electronic Submission System SIM:

https://aap.agencerecherche.fr/_layouts/15/SIM/Pages/SIMNouveauProjet.aspx?idAAP=1724

Applicants requesting funding from DFG are required to additionally submit their proposals through the DFG elan system: <https://elan.dfg.de/>

Q.21 Are proposals submitted to each individual agency?

ANR is the coordinating agency for this round and all applications must be made online through the ANR's Electronic Submission System SIM:

https://aap.agencerecherche.fr/_layouts/15/SIM/Pages/SIMNouveauProjet.aspx?idAAP=1724. German applicants are required to additionally submit their proposals through the DFG elan system: <https://elan.dfg.de/>.

Researchers from Canada and the UK are not required to submit the application to SSHRC or ESRC, respectively. However, SSHRC requires that the research grants officer at the postsecondary institution of the applicant submits the document *SSHRC Terms and Conditions for Applying* directly to SSHRC, by email, before the deadline (more information in *ORA 7 Call specification*, section 9.4)

Q.22 In what language(s) should the proposals be submitted?

All proposals submitted to SIM must be written in English, except for proposals including Canadian partners, which may be submitted in French. Applicants wishing to submit in French should get in touch with the national contact at SSHRC for further details.

Q.23 Will we receive confirmation that a proposal has been received?

Yes, the main applicants will receive a confirmation that their application has been received through ANR's SIM. It is very important to follow the instructions in the *ORA 7 SIM Guidance for applicants* on how to submit a proposal. There is no *submit* button per se once you finalise your submission. The submission is automatic. In the tab "Submission of your project", please check that a **green** sentence indicating that "**The conditions for submission of your proposal are met**" is displayed. If a **red** or an **orange** sentence is displayed, please check again all the tabs or your project will be automatically considered by the system as *not submitted*.

Be careful to lock your proposal, so it will be automatically submitted by the call deadline. A confirmation email is sent to the main applicant at call closure.

After the deadline, the agencies will check the eligibility of each proposal and inform applicants about the eligibility of their application. In case very minor, formal, and technical mistakes are detected, you may be requested to fix the proposal within a short period of time.

Q.24 May supplementary information or appendices be added to the proposal?

Only those specifically requested in the *ORA 7 Call specification*. **Word and page limits should be strictly adhered to.** Additional diagrams, charts and tables should not be provided.

Q.25 When can projects start?

The earliest starting date for successful projects is October 1st, 2022, the latest is March 31st, 2023. All national research teams within a project will be expected to start at the same time.

Q.26 What should be included in CVs submitted with proposals?

Each two-page CV should give professional details for the researcher and a list of publications (maximum 10 publications mentioned per researcher). Only CVs for the applicants (including the main applicant) and the co-applicants can be included. CVs for team members or cooperation partners are not allowed.

Q.27 What are the national financial forms for and how should they be submitted?

The financial forms summarize the costs directed to each national funding agency.

Applicants from Canada and the UK are required to fill out the *ESRC Finance form* and the *SSHRC National financial form*, respectively, for the funds requested, and to upload the forms as separate documents to the ANR's SIM application form. The ESRC and SSHRC financial form templates are available on the ORA 7 call website.

Applicants from France requesting funding from the ANR are expected to complete the full financial form in the ANR's SIM application form. Applicants from Germany are required to upload their proposals via the DFG elan system and specify their budget there.

Q.28 How many national partners should there be in a project? Will a project with a higher number of national partners be treated preferentially?

As long as there are partners from three or four ORA countries (excluding Japan), the precise configuration should be determined by the research question and project design. There is no ideal number and applicants should not add partners just to bolster numbers. All partners should have a significant role in the research.

Q.29 Is Japan included in the minimum three or more ORA countries required?

No, Japan is not included in the required number of ORA countries. You will need to have a minimum of three ORA participating countries, i.e., Canada, France, Germany, and the UK.

Q.30 What is the difference between the main applicant, applicant, and co-applicant?

The main applicant is one of the applicants, selected for administrative reasons, who submits the application through the ANR's SIM system for the whole project. The main applicant also acts as a main contact point with the Secretariat for all matters related to the proposal as a whole.

The applicant is the national head responsible for the funding contracts with their agency. There can be one applicant per country.

The co-applicants are any individuals who make a significant contribution to the intellectual direction of the research, who play a significant role in the conduct of the research, and who may also have some responsibility for financial aspects of the research.

Q.31 Do you accept late applications?

No. All proposals submitted after the deadline of November 17th, 2021, will be rejected.

QW.39 An earlier slide said that German applicants should (also) submit through Elan/DFG. Does this mean they have to be submitted twice, once through ANR and again through Elan?

See Q.20-21 in this document. Yes, proposals must be submitted to the ANR's Electronic submission system SIM and applicants requesting funding from DFG are required to additionally submit their proposals through the DFG elan system.

QW.40 Is there a list somewhere of the submission requirements and deadlines for all countries? I will be coordinating a submission so it would be useful to have a single list to check everyone has done their bit on their own national systems

No, there is no list resuming the submission requirements and deadlines for all countries; however, this information is clearly stated in the Call specification and Proposal template. See also QW.46 in this document.

QW.41 If there are three partners from three countries, does it mean that each applicant fills out just the budget forms from their agency?

An ORA 7 proposal should include the Total budget and Justification of resources sections (please see section 4 and 5 in the ORA 7 Proposal template). In addition to these sections, applicants from the UK and Canada are required to fill out the ESRC Finance form and the SSHRC National financial form, respectively, for the funds requested, and to upload the forms as separate documents to the ANR's SIM application form.

The ESRC and SSHRC financial form templates are available on the ANR's ORA 7 Web page. Applicants from France requesting funding from the ANR are expected to complete the full financial form in the ANR's SIM application form. Applicants from Germany are required to upload their proposals via the DFG Elan system and specify their budget there.

QW.42 I thought the whole application was to be prepared in English.

See Q.22 in this document. All proposals submitted to SIM must be written in English, with the exception of proposals including Canadian partners, which may be submitted in French. Applicants wishing to submit in French should get in touch with the national contact at SSHRC for further details. That being said, the ORA scheme is delivered in English, that is, the assessment takes place in English only (including external review and commissioning panel).

QW.43 Once we have submitted in SIM, can we still edit the proposal?

Please see Q.23 in this document and page 20 in the ORA 7 SIM Guidance for applicants document. Yes, the submitted proposal can be unlocked by the project coordinator (i.e., main applicant) prior to the closing date if additional changes are necessary. It is important to note that the proposal needs to be locked by the closing date, so it can be automatically submitted by the call deadline.

QW.44 Do applicants need to submit the abstract in both English and French (the online submission form in SIM has a section with text fields for the abstract in English and French).

No, abstracts should be written in English, with the exception for Canadian researchers wishing to submit in French. French applicants can also add their project abstract in French.

QW.45 If SSHRC's deadline is at 10 am Eastern, does that mean the full proposal submitted to ANR must also be submitted by the Canadian deadline?

The deadline is the same for everyone: November 17th, 2021, 16:00 Central European Time is the same as November 17th, 2021, 10:00 Eastern Time. We strongly encourage Canadian researchers to submit the day before the deadline, as the deadline hour is very early, especially for the Western parts of Canada.

QW.46 Is there a sequence of submission such as first Canada, then UK, Germany, and then ANR?

There is only one ORA 7 application per team and therefore only one application deadline for ANR's SIM system. The same application must also be submitted to DFG's elan system by November 17th, 2021, 23:59 local time. Only for successful applications, they must also be submitted to ESRC. Lastly, SSHRC requires the document SSHRC Terms and Conditions for Applying, which must be submitted by the Research Grants Officer directly to SSHRC.

QW.47 Do all applicants within one project have to submit to their agencies or only the main applicant to his/her agency?

Only the main applicant submits the proposal in ANR's SIM system on behalf of all project partners. All applications are submitted in SIM. See Q.46 for more details.

Questions about the assessment process

Q.32 How does the assessment process work?

This call will follow a one-stage procedure consisting of a full proposal. Eligible proposals will be sent for assessment to external, independent referees for peer review. Based on those reviews proposals will be discussed by an international commissioning panel, consisting of experts nominated by the four funding agencies. For more details about the decision-making process, please consult the *ORA 7 Call specification*, section 4.

Q.33 Will the JSPS element of the proposal be assessed?

The Japanese proposal will be evaluated and decided upon by JSPS, in light of its association with ORA. The ORA-proposal will be evaluated as a stand-alone proposal by the ORA partners and funding decisions will be made independently. There is no strategic advantage or disadvantage to planning a project with Japanese partners.

Q.34 What happens if the Japanese element to my project is dependent on being funded by JSPS? How will the ORA peer reviews evaluate my proposal if JSPS funding is ultimately declined?

Both projects will be evaluated separately. ORA proposals will not be dependent on the Japanese component being funded. If the ORA project is assessed positively, the project will be funded by the European partners even if JSPS declines to fund the Japanese teams.

Q.35 What are the assessment criteria?

Please see the assessment criteria in section 5 of the *ORA 7 Call specification* for details of the criteria according to which external assessors and panel members review the proposals.

QW.48 If there are disagreements between national panels, how will these be resolved?

There is only one commissioning panel with panelists from all four participating countries.

QW.49 How much weight do the opinions of external assessors have? In the past, one of the assessors was factually wrong in his/her comments, but we had no power to challenge them.

The external assessor reports are important as they are part of the documents the commissioning panel will review and take into consideration during its deliberations. The main applicants will be invited to submit a response to the external assessor reports, on behalf of the project team. This will allow applicants to correct any factual errors, conceptual misunderstandings, or to respond to any questions highlighted in the comments from assessors on proposals. The external assessors do not decide on the final grading and ranking of proposals.

QW.50 Will all applicants get the opportunity to respond to the external reviewers' assessments, or will it only be for projects rated highly by the external reviewers?

All project teams will be invited to respond to the external assessment reports.

QW.51 Can applicants suggest names of experts in the relevant fields to be considered as external referees?

This does not apply to ORA 7.

QW.52 Could you elaborate on the final decision by the national funding bodies: provided sufficient funding is available, should this be primarily viewed as an administrative process? Have there been many rejections at this stage in ORA6?

For some agencies this is an administrative step, for others it is more than that. However, it is very unlikely for applications recommended by the commissioning panel and within the budget limit not to be funded.

QW.53 I was wondering what impact means within the ORA call?

Within the ORA scheme we do not operate with a predetermined definition of impact.

QW.54 How are reviewers selected? How can one be sure that they are truly knowledgeable in the research area in question?

The reviewers and the commissioning panel members are selected from within the research community by the four funding agencies participating in ORA 7. The agencies will make every effort to select knowledgeable experts in the necessary fields. Moreover, all applications will be reviewed by at least two external reviewers and a commissioning panel, and the applicants will be able to respond to the external assessors' reports.

QW.55 Is there any strategic advantage to have four instead of three countries when looking at assessment?

No, the number of countries involved in a project is not an evaluation criterion.

Other questions

Q.36 How many applications were successful in the six rounds?

Here are some stats related to the first six rounds of ORA:

#	Received	Eligible	Funded
ORA 1	139	123	15
ORA 2	160	142	10
ORA 3	186	178	15
ORA 4	188	188	20
ORA 5	319	293	16
ORA 6	103	95	13

Q.37 Is there a list of projects funded in the previous round?

Yes, results for ORA 1-6 are available here: <http://www.dfg.de/ora>. Please be mindful that due to the open nature of this call, previously funded projects only reflect the topics and quality of applications in that specific round and should not be used as an indication of what might be funded in future rounds.

Q.38 If there are ethical issues, is approval required before submitting a proposal?

The requirements and timings for ethical approval vary between agencies. Proposals must adhere to the ethical requirements for each relevant national agency.

Q.39 How will successful ORA projects be monitored by the funding agencies?

Each national research team will be expected to report to its national funding agency, in accordance with each agency's regulation. In addition, all successful applicants in the ORA 7 call will be required to complete a joint final report on their project after the grant ends. Further details on the format and deadlines for submission of the final report will be communicated to all successful applicants at contracting stage.

QW.56 Will the next ORA round (ORA 8) involve the same countries?

We cannot confirm or refute this at this moment as discussions about ORA 8 have not started yet.

QW.57 If a project was previously declared ineligible in a non-ORA call (and did not undergo peer-review) can it be submitted?

Yes, an ineligible proposal that did not make it to the peer review stage is not considered submitted, therefore the resubmission restrictions do not apply to it.

QW.58 Are researchers who currently hold an ORA excluded from applying in this round?

For ANR, DFG and ESRC, the answer is 'no': successful applicants in previous ORA rounds are eligible to apply to ORA 7 competition. For SSHRC, the regulations on multiple applications apply, which state the following: "A current grant holder may submit a new application for the same type of grant, but only in their grant's final year (year in which the grant holder receives the final installment of their grant). The grant holder may do so whether or not they intend to request or avail themselves of an extension year in order to finish work associated with the currently held grant."

QW.59 Can our team request that a certain external reviewer does not review our project?

Applicants may request that a certain reviewer is not approached to review. For DFG and ESRC, the applicant must also provide a reason for this request. Please send your request by email to ORA 7 secretariat at partnerships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.

QW.60 DFG usually asks for ethical approval before submission of the proposal. Is this the case for the ORA call as well?

Not all agencies have this requirement. Proposals must adhere to the ethical requirements for each relevant national agency.

QW.61 Would a Japan-based co-applicant who has received a JSPS grant in Japan in the past still be eligible as my co-applicant?

An applicant (PI) who has received a JSPS grant in Japan in the past is eligible to apply for the ORA 7 call under the condition that she/he does not currently hold a JSPS grant for International Joint Research Programs. A Japan-based co-applicant who has received a JSPS grant in Japan in the past is still eligible as a co-applicant. For details, please refer to Appendix 2 "Table, Overlapping Program Restrictions", #15 on the pdf file below:

JSPS application guidelines:

https://antiphishing.vadesecure.com/2/U3lsdmllLkNPTIRSRVBPSVNAYWdlbmNlcmVjaGVyY2hlLmZyfFZSQzgWNDQzMg%3D%3D/www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-bottom/data/FY2022_ORA_CallForProposals_e.pdf

Agency specific questions

QW.62 (SSHRC specific) It says on the website: "Applicants who have received a SSHRC grant of any type but have failed to submit an achievement report by the deadline specified in their Notice of Award are not eligible to apply for another SSHRC grant until they have submitted the report." I already am the PI on several SSHRC grants; can I still apply?

Yes, you can apply for ORA, as long as your ORA project is not the same as the projects for which you already received SSHRC grants. The Achievement report is required from all recipients of SSHRC funds and should be submitted within six months of the project end date.

QW.63 (SSHRC specific) Where can we find SSHRC terms and conditions mentioned in the webinar?

You can find the SSHRC Terms and Conditions document on the SSHRC ORA 7 Webpage: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/ora/index-eng.aspx>

QW.64 (DFG specific) I am based in Germany. What do I have to consider to co-submit via the DFG website?

Please refer to section 9 of the ORA 7 call specification.

QW.65 (SSHRC specific) Is there a "program exemption" for ORA with regard to the Multiple Applications regulations?

No, there is no program exemption for ORA regarding the multiple applications.

QW.66 (ESRC specific) I currently hold ESRC funding (from New Investigator grant) - can I apply to this joint scheme as a main applicant anyway?

Yes, that's fine, just be sure that you do not exceed 37.5 hours per week.

QW.67 (SSHRC specific) Does SSHRC allow to budget for applicant's salary in order for them to focus on their ORA's projects?

As per SSHRC's Salary Research Allowances policies, only not-for-profit organizations that have applicants, co-directors or co-applicants listed on their Notice of Award can request salary research allowances. Researchers holding an academic position at a postsecondary institution and government employees are not eligible for salary research allowances. Also, as per Tri-Agency Financial Administration guide, agency grant funds must not be used to pay compensation to grant recipients.

QW.68 (ANR specific) Can a private French Grand Ecole participate, or does it need to be a state research institution?

Yes, a French Grand Ecole can participate in the call (see https://anr.fr/fileadmin/documents/2021/ANR-RF-2021_230621.pdf).

QW.69 (ESRC specific, but answer applies to all) If we have two researchers from UK involved in the project, can one act as PI of the overall project with their time set for coordinating and having oversight of whole project across the 3/4 countries and the other researcher with responsibility for the UK data collection? I ask this as the guidance suggests that the project PI should be one of the country leads, thereby suggesting that this division of responsibilities is not possible.

The requirement to identify a "Main Applicant" is for administrative reasons, so that we have one contact point and one person to submit the proposal online to ANR. Time for coordinating and having oversight across the country components can therefore be distributed to project participants however works best for your project. It is correct that the Main Applicant must be an "applicant" i.e., one of the country leads.

QW.70 (DFG specific) Could I submit a proposal for postdoc funding even though I will not have a PhD at the moment of application; however [I will have it] before the planned start of the project (DFG)?

Yes, but your PhD needs to be completed by the start of the project.

QW.71 (ESRC specific) Under the ESRC, what does the following mean: "associated studentships are not allowed for the UK component"?

Associated studentships, formerly known as **grant-linked studentships**, are designed to add value to the proposed research outlined in the grant proposal, whilst providing a clear opportunity for a distinct and independent course of enquiry for the student. Associated studentships are not eligible under this call.

QW.72 (ESRC specific, but answer applies to all) If we want to build in translation costs for research data (into English from Japanese), can this be in the UK budget, as the Japan budget is smaller and may not have scope for this cost?

Translation costs are eligible. Normally, such costs should be included in the budget of the country sub-team who has primary use of the data (while this is a recommendation for ANR, ESRC and SSHRC, it is a requirement for DFG). Dividing the translation costs between the project partners would also be acceptable if the data were to be used collaboratively.