Arts Grants for Creative Professionals

Research and Development

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Purpose

To support collaboration to enable the exploration and development of new ideas and new ways of working.

What we want to achieve

Research and development can make a significant impact to creative practice. It can benefit creative professionals at all stages of their careers and can contribute to the development of all artforms.

We want to support collaborative research and development projects that will develop and strengthen your creative practice and help build the appropriate partnerships you'll need to bring your creative idea to fruition.

An appropriate research and development phase can be the first step in making a great idea happen. We are interested in supporting collaborative projects across all artforms that can be the catalyst for new work, or can drive forward our vision for the arts in Wales in an exceptional way. And because of the nature of research and development work, we won't always expect there to be a defined outcome.

The heart of your proposal must be the potential of the creative idea. We're not afraid to take risks when they can be justified – and we want the creative professionals we fund to do the same and go beyond their creative comfort zone.

We don't want to be prescriptive however, and we want to hear from you about the research and development projects that will make a difference to your creative practice.

Projects we won't support

We won't support applications to buy time out from your usual practice.

What we need from you

Your project must involve at least two individuals (or an individual and an organisation) working in collaboration to develop creative practice and creative ideas.

Projects can include the opportunity to present work in progress to a test audience, or to would-be promoters and stakeholders, if appropriate. In these cases, we'd expect you to have plans in place to attract people to those performances or exhibitions.

We would expect that gaining critical review or feedback to be central to your proposal. This could be achieved by working with a mentor, partner organisation or by sharing work with industry professionals, for example.

You should not embark on a research and development project with any pre-conceived ideas about whether there will be a next phase to your project and what that phase might be. We will expect you to leave a reasonable period of time for review and reflection before making any further applications to us for funding.

Our Help Notes for Research and Development applications will tell you more and help you fill in your application form.

Who can apply

You can check that you are eligible to apply by reading our [Getting Started](#) document.

A research and development proposal will involve you working collaboratively with other artists and/ or organisations. You will need to take the lead and assume responsibility for managing the application process, any funding awarded and reports and requests for information from the Arts Council of Wales.

Funding Available

You can apply for between £250 and £3,000. Applications can be made for a maximum of 90% of the project's total eligible cost.

When you can apply

You should always make your application as far ahead as possible.

There are no deadlines for small grants, but you need to allow a minimum of six working weeks between the date you submit your application and the date you want to start your project.

How often you can apply

You can hold a "live grant" from this strand and another strand of *Arts Grants for Creative Professionals* in any twelve month period. We use the term "live grant" to mean an application for a project that has received funding from us and is still happening. We use the start date of the first project we have funded to work out the twelve month period.

Please contact our Grants and Information Team if we have given you a grant before and you are unsure whether you are now able to apply again.

How to apply

You will need to discuss your project with us before we send an application form to you.

If you have a project that you think might be suitable to apply for under this strand, please email your project ideas to: development@arts.wales

Please include the following details:

- Your name
- Project title
- Describe your project
- How much funding do you need?
- Location of project

Applications must be made using our online application system. If you're unable to apply online, for example if you are disabled or do not have access to a computer, please contact our Grants and Information Team. We will work with you to find other ways for you to apply.

We can also support you if your first language is not English or Welsh.

Need some more advice?

We have Information Sheets and guidance documents to help you with different aspects of the application process or to provide advice on a specific issue. These can be found on our website. You might find the following useful in making an application to the Research and Development strand:

- Using our online application system
- Help Notes for Research and Development

If you have further questions about the application, contact our Grants and Information team on 0845 8734 900 or by emailing: grants@arts.wales