



Arts Grants for Creative Professionals

Professional Development



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Professional Development

Purpose

To enable creative professionals to attend training, enhance their creative practice and invest in the skills that will help them to build a sustainable career in Wales

What we want to achieve

We want to support innovative, imaginative, yet appropriate ways that help you become better skilled, more sustainable and more resilient.

We want to foster a supportive environment in which creative professionals can make the best work possible – and we want to support you at pivotal moments in your career. We think that providing this support will help retain creative talent in Wales.

We want to support projects that enable creative professionals to develop their creative and technical skills in order to raise the quality of their artistic work. This can mean attending an industry recognised training course, attending a master-class participating in an action learning set, or taking up coaching, mentoring or creative apprenticeship opportunities.

We also want you to be able to earn a sustainable living from your practice and develop further a career in Wales. To make this happen we want to support projects that strengthen the business side of your practice, perhaps through helping you diversify into new markets or by finding other ways to generate income. This may mean supporting you to develop a new approach to your business or current way of working, or helping you work more sustainably.

We're interested in supporting a wide range of projects through this strand. We want to hear from you about your professional development needs and about why the project you are applying for is the right solution for you.

We're particularly keen to support certain types of project. This means that when we have to choose between eligible projects of comparable quality, we'll prioritise the following:

- Projects that create business opportunities for creative professionals to get to market or open up new possibilities for their work, for example enabling you to take up an official invitation to attend a recognised visual arts or crafts fair, exhibition or performing arts showcase in the UK
- Projects that help creative professionals to build new and more resilient business models and new approaches to building sustainable careers

- Projects that help creative professionals develop the knowledge and skills needed to integrate new technologies into their practice
- Projects that develop and improve directing, choreographing, curating, programming and critical writing skills
- Projects that develop the knowledge and skills needed to work in the public realm
- Projects that develop the knowledge and skills needed to create work for children and young people
- Projects that develop the knowledge and skills needed to work with families / create work for family audiences
- Projects that develop and improve knowledge and skills among people already working professionally in arts for health and wellbeing settings to enhance their development and delivery of arts for health and wellbeing projects
- Projects that extend and deepen knowledge and understanding of diversity, equality and inclusion
- Projects that develop and improve business and management skills (including business planning, fundraising, marketing and Clore Leadership Programme short courses)

Funding to take up an invitation to a recognised music industry showcase is available through our Music Industry Development strand. Click [here](#) to read more.

Projects we won't support

We do not support full-time or part-time undergraduate or postgraduate courses in further or higher education institutions. Nor do we fund individual tuition, lessons or vocational training.

Requirements

Our Help Notes for Professional 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.

Funding Available

You can apply for between £250 and £5,000. Applications can be made for a maximum of 90% of the project's total eligible cost.

If you're applying solely to attend training, the maximum grant available is £2,000. You should not include the cost of buying equipment in your budget.

For applications over £2,000 we will expect you to be looking for support towards a package of professional development, supported by a clear rationale. Within that package the maximum grant available for training is still £2,000.

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 are unable to apply online, for example if you're 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 Professional Development strand:

- Using our online application system
- Help Notes for Professional 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