



wales arts international
celfyddydau rhyngwladol cymru

International Opportunities Fund

A National Lottery Arts Funding Programme

April 2023



Accessibility

Arts Council of Wales makes information available in large print, braille, audio, Easy Read and British Sign Language. We'll also try to provide information in languages other than Welsh or English on request.

If you have any access needs and are thinking about making an application, we can help to make sure that you're supported during the application process. Please contact us at grants@arts.wales to discuss how we can help.

Arts Council of Wales operates an equal opportunities policy.

What to do if you're not able to accept money from the National Lottery

If you're unable for any reason to accept Lottery funding, please upload a letter with your online application explaining why this is the case. If your application is successful, we'll try and fund your project from money that we receive from other sources.

Welcome

Welcome to the International Opportunities Fund, one of our National Lottery funding programmes.

Here you'll find all the information you need to prepare your application. Our guidance note [National Lottery Funding: what you need to know](#), if you're making an application, should be read alongside this document. This is where you'll find all the information you need on our overarching priorities, eligibility, appropriate costs and additional support available to help you submit the best application possible.

When to Apply and When to expect a Decision

We're able to accept applications at any time. You will receive a decision within 6 working weeks of submitting an application.

Please bear in mind that you need to allow a minimum of 7 working weeks between the date you submitted your application and the start date for your project.

About the International Opportunities Fund

The purpose of the fund is:

- To support the development of relationships, collaborations and networks between Wales' creative professionals and arts organisations and international partners.
- To share experiences and skills through the arts within an international context.
- To raise the profile of Wales and its connections through the arts internationally.

The fund can support the development of international relationships, collaborations and networks through:

- In person activity taking place outside of Wales and the UK
- Hybrid activity combining in person activity outside of Wales and the UK and digital development
- Digital platforms and tools

There remains a number of international travel restrictions and uncertainties so you must have contingency plans in place should this not be possible.

We will support each successful applicant to review and further develop their project plan and budget breakdown following the award. We will also discuss the development of contingency plans should this be necessary.

Fund priorities

The priority of the fund will be investment in activity that contributes to the following outcomes, in line with our [International Strategy, Wales Arts: a bridge to the world, our Widening Engagement Action Plan and the Well-being of Future Generations Act \(Wales\)](#):

- development and testing of new ideas and ways of working in collaboration with an international partner(s), with a view to longer term international partnerships that are equitable and mutually beneficial
- shared learning, connections and experience through mutually beneficial international exchange
- increased participation in international networks, both formal and informal
- creative collaborations and residencies with an international partner, where there is significant opportunity to develop artistic practice

We are looking to support a balance between individual creative professionals and arts organisations.

What we can't support:

- Activity that does not include an international partner based outside of Wales and the UK

An international partner can be:

- a collaborator in the creative process
- the organisers of a network, residency or event (where the activity proposed is for the Wales based applicant to attend an arts and cultural network or event or participate in a residency)

- Activity where there is no contingency plan should physical travel not be possible on the planned dates
- Projects that are predominantly Wales focussed with an element of digital international artist or company participation (for these projects, please refer to [Create](#))
- Activity that involves procuring the service of an international company or artist, rather than activity that develops a mutually beneficial and collaborative relationship with an international arts company or artist
- Study or formal training
- Participation in or attendance at competitive events
- Activity that has already taken place
- The costs associated with quarantine and Covid testing either in the UK or in another country. These include:
 - costs related to self-isolating before and after travel (including any loss of income)
 - costs related to quarantine on arrival in your destination country
 - costs related to quarantine on return to Wales
 - costs for any fines for breaking the quarantine rules
 - costs that cannot be covered by travel and professional insurance costs caused by Covid.

The types of projects we want to support:

We are most keen to see...	As opposed to...	This might look like...
<p>The development and testing of new ideas and ways of working in collaboration with an international partner(s), with a view to longer term, equitable and mutually beneficial international partnerships.</p> <p>International exchange which shares learning, connections and experience for mutual benefit and wider benefit to the arts sector.</p> <p>Increased participation in international networks or events, both formal and informal.</p>	<p>Projects created and led within Wales that may include the participation of an international artist or company as part of a wider Wales based activity.</p> <p>Projects that invite the world to Wales, in person or digitally, to experience arts and culture from Wales.</p> <p>Learning and professional development opportunities delivered by an international company.</p> <p>[Please refer to other Arts Council scheme guidelines]</p>	<p>Participation in projects led by artists or organisations outside the UK.</p> <p>Projects that are primarily focussed on mutually beneficial creative collaborations with international artists or companies taking place either outside the UK or digitally.</p> <p>Taking part in events or networks hosted by international partners which help to share learning and create new connections.</p>

Who can apply?

Arts organisations and individual creative professionals based in Wales.

Applications are welcomed from informal or formal artist collectives, and from arts organisations supporting a number of individual creative professionals from Wales as part of the project. We will need one Wales based partner to be the named applicant who will take financial and reporting responsibility should an award be made.

See [help notes](#) for detailed information on eligibility criteria and required bank information.

How much is available?

The total budget available for the year will be £210,000.

The maximum level of support per award is £7,500.

For those participants in Wales or internationally not in receipt of a salary for work linked to this project, fees relating to their involvement can be included within the budget.

What are the criteria that apply to this fund?

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The quality, strength and innovation of the proposal to develop long term international connections and to positively impact artistic practice in Wales
- Professional commitment to international exchange and collaboration that is equitable and mutually beneficial and to actively engage with international networks
- An artistic track record that demonstrates commitment to working in Wales and the quality of artistic practice
- The quality of the international relationship, network, residency or event in relation to the aims of the proposal
- Consideration of the following:
 - fair pay to all participants in the project
 - the rationale for the project being digital, in person or hybrid
 - the environmental impact of your activity and travel (if applicable)
- The selection process if the project is supporting a group of Wales based individual creative practitioners
- The financial viability and value for money of the proposal
- Contribution to Wales Arts International's broader strategic priorities - International Strategy, Wales Arts: a bridge to the world - and to our commitments to widening engagement, the Welsh Language and the Well-being of Future Generations

What happens next?

You will receive a decision within six weeks of submitting an application.

If your application is successful, we will support you to review and further develop your project plan and budget, including the development of a contingency plan, if necessary.

We will also ask you to submit a Completion Report at the end of the project. We want to share the learning from projects with the wider sector and partners internationally, and we will use information from your report to feed into ongoing monitoring and evaluation of international engagement against the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Your feedback and experiences will also be essential as we develop our approach to future support.

Please bear in mind that you need to allow a minimum of seven working weeks between submitting and the start date for your project. We won't accept your application if your project's start date comes before this.

Applications must be complete. We won't accept further supporting information after you've submitted your application (unless we request it).

What questions will I need to answer

Before preparing an application, feel free to contact the Wales Arts International team to discuss any ideas. Similarly, if you have any queries regarding the questions in the application form, or wish to discuss access support costs for you or anyone directly involved in developing and delivering your project, please get in touch. We are here to support you through the process.

You will need to complete the application form online through the Arts Council of Wales new online portal; information can be found [here](#).

The application form is set out as follows:

Contacting You

We will need information about who to contact in relation to the application. This will include:

- Your name or organisation name & contact details
- Start and end date of activity
- Amount applied for
- Language preferences
- Bank account information.

Project Proposal

In this section we will ask you to tell us in detail about your activity.

Please give us a short summary of your project. We may use this information in any publicity we produce about your project [character limit 480].

Please provide information on the following points in relation to your project, focussing on how and why you are connecting with your international partner(s) [the character limit on the form is 3000 but you may upload an additional document, if necessary, in order to cover all the points].

Your activity:

- What you will be doing and why it is important to your practice

- What you hope to achieve or learn from working with your international partner(s) and/or from participating in the selected international event, residency or network
- If you will be supporting a group of Wales based individual creative practitioners, how you will select the participants and how you plan to support them
- A link to your CV and examples of your recent work
- A link to a CV or information about any Wales based partners or participants
- Your rationale for activity being in-person outside of Wales and the UK, digital or hybrid
- What considerations you have made on the following:
 - the environmental impact of your activity and travel (if applicable) and how this has guided decisions on the development of the activity and travel
 - ensuring all participants and partners are fairly paid
 - for creative activity, ensuring that all partners and participants will mutually benefit
- What the potential legacy and wider benefits might be

Your international partner:

- Name of and a link to your international partner(s), including CV for any international artists
- Country/countries to which you are connecting
- Brief information about the international partner(s) and your relationship with them. If this is a creative project, briefly describe how all partners will mutually benefit.

Artform

We will need information about the range of artform activity that will be part of your project.

Activity Types

We will need information about the types of activity that will be part of your project.

Language

We will ask you about the impact you think this project will have on the Welsh Language. We will ask you describe your plans using the following summary words:

Positive, Negative or Neutral

Location

We will ask you to tell us where your project activity will take place.

If the activity is digital, please give the location of the Wales based participants. You can also tick 'outside the UK'.

Equalities

Please give us equalities monitoring information for your project.

Supporting documentation

We will need some specific documentation in support of your application:

1. A short letter or email from your international partner that notes their support for your project and their commitment to working with you. If they are providing cash or in-kind support to the project, this needs to be confirmed here.

If you are applying for support to participate in an event or network, a link to the relevant website is sufficient.

2. A budget detailing all expenditure and income (cash and in-kind support) using the budget template available to download [here](#).
3. A draft timeline for your project or visit.
4. A continuation document telling us about your project, should you need additional space, to cover the points under the section 'Project Proposal'.

What if I have a question or would like access support?

Contact us

+44 29 2044 1300

info@wai.org.uk

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

We will also be offering bookable surgery sessions across the year which will be advertised through our social media platforms and the news and opportunities page on our website.