



# Visual Arts Bursary Award 2020

## Guidelines for Applicants

**Deadline: 5.30pm, Thursday 30 July 2020**

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## Application checklist

Use the checklists below to make sure that your application is complete.

### Items that are mandatory for all applications (check all of these items)

- ☐ I have filled in all of the sections of the application form relevant to my application.
- ☐ I have prepared all required supporting material (as outlined in **section 1.7** below), and have this ready to upload.

### Items that are mandatory for certain applications (check those that apply to your application)

- ☐ My proposal involves work that is aimed at/involves the participation of children and or young people under the age of eighteen. I understand that if my application is successful, as a condition of funding I will be required to confirm and demonstrate that I have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place. (Please see [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) for more information.)
- ☐ My proposal involves working with vulnerable persons, and I have submitted an acknowledgement that I adhere to the *National Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse* see [here](#)
- ☐ My proposal involves working with animals, and I have submitted a copy of my *Animal Welfare Protection Policies and Procedures*.

### Other items that I consider relevant to my application (check those that apply to your application)

- ☐ My proposal relies on the expertise of other named people or organisations, and I have a document detailing those people and their expertise ready to upload.
- ☐ My proposal includes other material relevant to my application, which I have ready to upload.

### Second opinion (check this item)

- ☐ I have asked someone else to check over my application to make sure there are no errors and that nothing is missing.

## Getting help with your application

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- The Arts Council makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities who wish to submit an application or who have difficulties in accessing Online Services. If you have a requirement in this area, please contact the Arts Council's Access Officer, Adrienne Martin, by phone (01 6180219) or by email ([adrienne.martin@artscouncil.ie](mailto:adrienne.martin@artscouncil.ie)) **at least three weeks in advance** of the deadline day.
- If you have a technical query about using the Online Services website, you can email [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie)
- Answers to common questions about using Online Services are available in the FAQ section of the Arts Council website at: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/FAQ/online-services.aspx>
- To watch our YouTube guide on making an application, go to <http://www.youtube.com/artscouncildemos>
- If you require assistance with the content of your application, call the Arts Council on 01 6180200 or email [awards@artscouncil.ie](mailto:awards@artscouncil.ie)

### **A NOTE ON COVID-19-RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE**

**In preparing your application, you should base it on the best public health advice and guidance available at the time you are making your application.**

**Given this, you should ensure that what you are proposing is feasible or adaptable should social distancing and/or other public health measures impact on all or part of the bursary period.**

## 1. About the Visual Arts Bursary Award

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### 1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award

The objective of the Visual Arts Bursary Award is to support individual professional artists and curators to develop their practice. There are two strands to the award:

#### Strand 1: Artists

The objective of the Visual Arts Bursary Award Strand 1: Artists is to support individual professional artists at any stage of their career to develop their artistic practice.

The award emphasises the value and benefit to an artist's development derived from an extended process of engagement with their practice. The award seeks to provide artists with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and engage with their artistic practice.

Potential proposals could be those that demonstrate:

- How the award will assist with the development of your artistic practice (this may include support with time, workspace, research facilities, training, mentoring, residencies, etc.)
- How the award will assist with developing and/or resolving a specific body of work
- How the award will assist with re-engaging with your practice after a break
- How the award will assist you in re-evaluating your practice after a continuous period of outcome-based, deadline-driven project work.

#### Strand 2: Curators

The Visual Arts Bursary Award Strand 2: Curators seeks to provide curators with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and engage with their practice. The award emphasises the value and benefit to a curator's development derived from an extended process of engagement with their curatorial practice. The award also seeks to develop capacity for commissioning, producing and touring of the visual arts in Ireland. Potential proposals could be those that demonstrate:

- How the award will assist with the development of your curatorial practice (this may include support with time, workspace, research facilities, training, mentoring, residencies, etc.)
- How the award will assist with researching, developing and/or resolving a body of work relevant to the progression of your curatorial practice
- How the award will support your ongoing development of reciprocal partnerships and collaborations with artists, organisations and institutions
- How the award will assist with re-engaging with your curatorial practice after a break
- How the award will assist you in re-evaluating your curatorial practice after a continuous period of outcome-based, deadline-driven project work

All awards are informed by the Arts Council's ten-year strategy (2016–25), *Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland* (see here: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/arts-council-strategy/>).

### 1.2 Who can apply?

The award is open to practising visual artists or curators working in all genres and at all stages of their professional careers. To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- Be resident in the Republic of Ireland. There are certain exceptions where the Arts Council may deem eligible applications made by those based outside the Republic of

Ireland. However, before admitting as eligible any such application, the applicant would need to explicitly outline within the application how the outcomes of any such proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland, and the Arts Council must be satisfied with same.

- Be professional practising artists or curators – although you might not earn income continuously or exclusively from your artistic practice, you must identify yourself, and be recognised by your peers, as a professional practising artist or curator.
- In line with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, the Arts Council is committed to ensuring that it takes positive policy measures to promote equality of opportunity for all those living in Ireland, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community. Furthermore, the Arts Council notes the ground of socio-economic background as a further basis for which equality of opportunity must be guaranteed. The Arts Council therefore welcomes applications that are representative of the diversity of Irish society, including but not limited to any of the characteristics outlined above.

### 1.3 Who is the applicant?

The applicant is the person who will receive any funding offered and who will be required to accept the terms and conditions of that funding.

Any funding offered will only be paid into a bank account held in the name of the applicant.

All documentation provided must be in the name of the applicant – e.g. if you apply to the Arts Council for funding under the name Máire de Barra, then all documentation, including bank and tax details, must be in that name. Variations such as Mary Barry or Máire Barry are not acceptable.

### 1.4 Who cannot apply?

People who are not eligible to apply include the following:

- Individuals currently in undergraduate or postgraduate education or who will be during the period for which this bursary is offered
- Individuals currently in unaccredited postgraduate/higher education or internships, or who will be during the period for which this bursary is offered
- Aosdána members in receipt of a *cnuas*.

You may only receive **one** of the following awards in 2020:

- Bursary, round 1
- Bursary, round 2
- Next Generation Artists Award
- Markievicz Award

#### Please note:

- If you have already applied for a Bursary Round 1 award (in any art form or practice area), you **may** apply again for Round 2, but it cannot be for the same proposal.
- If you have applied for a Covid-19 Crisis Response Award, whether successful or not, you **may** apply for Bursary Round 2.
- If you have applied for Next Generation Award 2020 you **may** apply for Bursary Round 2, but it cannot be for the same proposal, and you will not be awarded both.

- If you received a Markievicz Award in 2020 you **may not** apply for Bursary Round 2

### 1.5 What may you apply for?

The amount awarded to each successful applicant in any given year will be one of the following:

- €20,000
- €15,000
- €10,000
- €5,000

Please indicate which of these amounts you are applying for in **section 3** of the application form.

Please note that your application will be deemed **ineligible** if you apply for more than the maximum amount stated above.

**Please note that – as a temporary measure in the context of the current Covid-19 situation – the Arts Council may decide to award less than the requested amount in order to support as many artists as possible.**

The bursary is available for up to one year; multi-annual awards will not be made.

You may apply for support under only **one** strand of the award in this funding round. You must clearly identify which strand you are applying for in section 1.5 of the application form. The emphasis of the award is on practitioner's 'buying time'. Therefore, the amount you request should include the amount you will pay yourself for the time you will spend developing your practice as an artist or curator. This can be up to 100% of the award.

The amount you propose to pay yourself – and any mentors or collaborators that you might have working with you – should be commensurate with the nature of your practice and the amount of time you propose to take, and should be appropriate to standard conditions within your area of arts practice. You should pay yourself appropriately. Do not request less than you feel you need to achieve your objectives.

#### **Strand 1: Visual Artists**

Applicants to **Strand 1: Visual Artists** may also apply for other costs intrinsic to supporting the development of the artist's practice – e.g.

- Appropriate fees for the time given by any mentors, trainers or collaborators working with you on the activity or activities for which you are seeking support
- Materials or the hiring of services that are critical to the development of your artistic practice provided the request is clearly linked to the proposal for 'buying time'.

#### **Strand 2: Curators**

Applicants to **Strand 2: Curators** may apply for support towards research, development and training where it can be demonstrated that such costs will benefit the progression of their practice. This might include developing relationships with artists, partnerships with organisations/institutions, advancing opportunities for professional mentoring, cultivating

sources of funding and supports, and developing the capacity to commission and produce high-quality and ambitious visual-arts activities.

In addition to the normal limits stated above, the Arts Council will also consider costs specifically relating to the making of work by artists or curators with disabilities. If you wish to apply for additional funding on this basis, you should provide information with your application outlining what these additional costs are.

### **What are your chances of receiving support?**

This is an extremely competitive award. Many more applications are received than it is possible for the Arts Council to support.

Where proposals are recommended for funding, we will aim where possible to respond in full to the amounts requested. However, the Arts Council reserves the right to offer applicants a lower amount than that requested if proposals are considered to be feasible at a reduced scale.

## **1.6 What may you not apply for?**

You may not apply for more than one bursary-type award (in any artform/arts practice) in any one round of funding.

Activities and costs that you may not apply for include the following:

- Activities or costs that do not fit the purpose of the award
- Activities that are more suited to another award funded by the Arts Council or operated by other state agencies, such as Culture Ireland
- Activities that have already taken place or which will have commenced before a decision is made on your application
- Activities undertaken for charity-fund-raising purposes, for participation in a competition, or for primarily profit-making purposes
- Activities that have already been assessed by the Arts Council. An exception will be made if the Council has specifically advised you to redirect your application to this award. Please bear in mind that such advice is not an indication of a successful outcome
- Major capital requests for the purchase of equipment or improvements to workspace
- Undergraduate, postgraduate, unaccredited higher-education or internship activities are not eligible for support
- Academic activities that do not form part of the development of a professional arts practice.

## **1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?**

Supporting material means material that is **separate from** and **additional to** your application form. This helps the person assessing your application to get a clearer understanding of your proposal. Please read what supporting material is required below very carefully, as failure to comply with this is the most common reason why applications are deemed ineligible.

In order to be considered eligible for a Visual Arts Bursary Award, you **must** submit the following supporting material online:

- A detailed up-to-date CV (max. three pages)
- A statement describing your artistic or curatorial practice (of no more than one page or a YouTube clip of a maximum of 90 seconds). This statement should show that artists or curators are active and reflective in their practice. Applicants can elaborate on areas of

interest and core concerns in their practices. Curators should also identify where their practice benefits the work of artists.

- Good-quality visual and/or written examples of your work that demonstrate your practice to date. All still and moving images should be clearly labelled. Where relevant, an accompanying image list should include a brief context for each work. Depending on the media used in your practice, the following should be used as a guide:
  - A maximum of ten good-quality still images, including detailed images and installation shots
  - A maximum of three excerpts from moving-image work (three-minute samples) with corresponding explanations
- Where your proposal relies on the expertise of other people or organisations, you should submit details of their expertise, accreditation and track record.

**If you do not submit the required supporting material, your application will be deemed ineligible.**

We encourage applicants where possible to compile all support material into a single PDF document with a front cover page listing the contents. This assists assessors to access and review your material.

### **Optional supporting material**

In addition to the required supporting material listed above, you may also submit any other material you consider relevant to your application – e.g. professional references, reviews, essays, catalogues, monographs or relevant publications, etc. However, we cannot guarantee that we will view supporting material beyond the required supports mentioned above.

### **Format for supporting material**

All supporting material for the Visual Arts Bursary Award must be submitted online. Hard-copy supporting material will not be accepted.

- Moving-image and audio material must be submitted by way of YouTube links – see **Submitting YouTube links** (in section **2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application**).
- Please note that interactive web-based artworks should be screen-recorded and uploaded to YouTube.

Please ensure that any image list includes contextual information outlining details of the work, when and where it was presented, and thematic/general comments.

- The Arts Council encourages applicants to upload all other artistic material and other supporting material (i.e. CVs, image list etc.) as **one single document**. If you choose to do this, you must include a contents page at the front of the document listing the page numbers for all sections – e.g. CVs, image list.

For further information on the formats you may use for supporting material you wish to upload as part of your application, see section **2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application**.



## 1.8 Eligibility

Your application will be deemed **ineligible**, and will not go any further in the process, if any of the following is true:

1. You miss the application deadline.
2. You do not submit a completed application form through Online Services (an application form attached as a supporting document will not be accepted).
3. You fail to complete all of the sections in the application form relevant to your proposal.
4. You cannot apply as set out in sections 1.2 to 1.4 above.
5. You apply for an amount of funding greater than the maximum amount allowed for within the award to which you are applying as set out in section 1.5 above.
6. You apply for an activity or purpose that you cannot apply for as set out in section 1.6 above.
7. You fail to provide all mandatory supporting materials as set out in section 1.7 above.
8. Your application is better suited to another funding programme offered by the Arts Council or by another funding agency (in this case we will redirect you to the more appropriate funding opportunity).

**Note:** in the event that your application is ruled ineligible, it will not be assessed, and you will be permitted to apply again with the same proposal in future funding rounds. If you do reapply, you should ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements.

## 2. Making your application

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### 2.1 Register with the Arts Council's Online Services

All applications must be made through the Arts Council's Online Services; applications made in any other way (by post, fax or email) will not be accepted.

You must have an Online Services account to make an application. If you do not already have an Online Services account, sign up by filling out the registration form here:

<https://onlineservices.artscouncil.ie/register.aspx>.

Within five working days you will be issued (via email) with a unique ARN (artist reference number) and password that you can use to sign in to Online Services.

#### Requirements for using Online Services

Your computer and Internet browser will need to meet the following requirements to use Online Services successfully:

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<b>PC</b>	Windows 7 or higher with Internet Explorer 8.0 or higher OR Firefox 27 or higher OR Chrome 33 or higher
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<b>Mac</b>	Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard or higher with Safari 3.1 or Safari 10 OR Firefox 27 or higher OR Chrome 32 or higher
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**Note:** if Safari 11 prevents upload of documents, use Firefox or Chrome.

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**Note:** you will also need to have Microsoft Word or OpenOffice Writer installed to complete the application form. OpenOffice Writer is free software that can be downloaded from here: <http://openoffice.org>.

#### You must use OpenOffice Writer version 4.0.1 or earlier

More recent versions of OpenOffice Writer than 4.0.1 have resulted in problems with the appearance of application forms when they are submitted through Online Services.

Please refer to the Arts Council video *Using OpenOffice to download, complete and upload the application form* at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ArtsCouncilDemos>.

Apple Mac users should take note of the section that deals with the issue of downloading version 4.0.1 on Macs that have the latest versions of Mac OS installed.

**Note:** for MacOS 10.15 Catalina, please use OpenOffice Writer 4.1.7.

If you cannot meet, or do not understand, any of these requirements, please contact us for advice as far as possible in advance of the deadline.

### Give yourself enough time to complete the application

You should become familiar with the Online Services website well in advance of the deadline and in advance of preparing an application. It is likely that there will be heavy traffic on the site on the final afternoon of the closing date. You should prepare your application and submit it well in advance of the deadline.

Upload times can be much longer than download times. It may take longer than you think to upload your supporting materials.

### Technical support

If you need technical support while making an online application, you can contact the Arts Council by emailing [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie) or by phoning 01 6180200. We recommend you report any technical issues with us well in advance of the deadline. Please provide a contact phone number and make sure that you are available to receive a return call from us.

We deal with queries on a first-come first-served basis.

Please note that there is often a high volume of calls as the deadline approaches, and that technical-support calls received after **2.30pm on the closing date** may not be resolved before the deadline.

## 2.2 Fill in the application form

If you have not already done so, download the application form for the award you wish to apply for. The application form is a Microsoft Word/OpenOffice Writer-compatible document that you fill in offline (on your own computer). The application form includes guidance on how to fill in each of its sections.

### Making your case

In order to make the very best case for why you should receive funding, you should give very careful consideration to what you include in the following sections of the form:

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<b>1.6 Tell us about yourself</b>	Give a brief introduction to yourself and an outline of your recent artistic achievements.
<b>1.7 Career stage</b>	In line with the Arts Council's commitment to supporting arts practitioners at key stages of their career, we have included a question asking which stage best describes where you see yourself in your career.
<b>1.8 Equality and diversity</b>	In line with the Arts Council's commitment to Equality and Diversity, as set out in our Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy & Strategy, we have included some questions which help us to understand more about the artists and individuals we are engaging with.

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2.1 Summary of your proposal	Give a summary of your proposal (up to three short points).
2.2 Details of your proposal	<p>What you write here is a key part of your proposal, and should help those involved in assessing your application to understand the full scope of what you want to do and why. It might include details such as a practical explanation of the activity you propose, your artistic goals and ambitions, the wider context in which you are making the proposal, and any other information you consider relevant.</p> <p>You should also mention here any cash or in-kind contributions – e.g. where you have been offered a space, or where a mentor (who has income from another source) has agreed to give their time for free or less than their normal rate. While there is no requirement to have financial support to be eligible for this award, if you have any you should mention it here, and provide evidence for it as part of your supporting material.</p> <p>Do not assume that assessors or panellists will be familiar with your work.</p>
2.3 Your application and the assessment criteria	Describe how your application meets each of the assessment criteria – see section <b>3.3 Criteria for the assessment of applications</b> .
2.4 Key activities for your proposal	Here you should list any key activities related to your proposal, and in each case indicate the location and dates. If your proposal only involves a single activity, you should list that activity.
2.5 Artists, individuals, groups or organisations involved in your proposal	Here you should list all artists, individuals, groups or organisations involved in your proposal. Where appropriate, you should also submit details of the expertise of such people and upload it with your application.
3 Budget Details	This is where you enter the amount you are requesting. If you have any additional costs, or any items of income, you should provide them here. See section <b>1.5 What may you apply for?</b> above.

## 2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application

You are required to include supporting material with your application. Typically, this includes samples of your current work – e.g. text, video, images or sound recordings.

You must submit all supporting material online; if necessary, you should scan or save material in electronic format.

### Acceptable file formats

The following table lists file formats that are acceptable as part of an application.

File type	File extension
text files	.rtf/.doc/.docx/.txt
image files	.jpg/.gif/.tiff/.png
sound files	.wav/.mp3/.m4a
video files	.avi/.mov/.mp4
spreadsheets	.xls/.xlsx
Adobe Acrobat Reader files	.pdf

For convenience, gather together all the files you need in an accessible location on your computer.

### Submitting YouTube links

You may provide links to material hosted on YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) instead of uploading the material directly. To do this, copy the URL (the full address of where your material is hosted on YouTube) into a Microsoft Word or OpenOffice Writer document and upload it as a weblink-supporting document.

**Note:** any links you provide **must** be for YouTube. Links to other hosting sites will **not** be viewed. This is because only YouTube links can be verified as having been uploaded in advance of the deadline.

Check that the link works from within the document you upload – i.e. that it links correctly to your material on YouTube.

If you do not wish material you upload to YouTube for the purposes of your application to be publicly viewable, you can flag your video as ‘unlisted’ in its settings.

### Naming files appropriately

In order to aid the assessment process, you should give all files that you intend to upload filenames that make it clear what they contain or represent – i.e. it should be clear from the filename whether the document is a CV, sample text or a review of previous work.

You may submit documents in separate, appropriately named, files, as follows:

<b>Good filenames for an applicant called Jack Russell</b>	russelljack application.doc
	russelljackWIP.doc
	russelljack catalogue.pdf
	russelljack youtube link.doc

In certain artforms or arts practice areas, you may submit all supporting material combined into a single document. If you do this, be sure to include a contents page.

The total combined limit for all supporting material uploaded with a single application is **40MB**.

## **2.4 Make your application through Online Services**

To make your application online, you go through four main stages. Click **Save draft** at the end of each stage. You can come back to your application and revise it at any time before you finally submit it.

### **1. Choose funding programme and download application form**

To start a new application, click the **Make an application** button on your home page, and follow the prompts to choose the funding programme you wish to apply for and to give your application a unique reference by which to identify it. At this stage you can also download the application form (if you have not already done so).

### **2. Request funding amount**

Enter the amount you are requesting in part **A. Application amount requested**. The amount you enter here should be the same as the amount you request in section 3 of your application form.

### **3. Upload application form and supporting material**

Follow the prompts to upload your filled-in and saved application form, your CV and any other required supporting material (see section **1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?**). You do not have to upload everything at the same time. You can save your application as a draft, and come back to it later.

### **4. Submit application**

When you are satisfied that you have uploaded everything you need to support your application, click **Submit**.

Once submitted, your application cannot be amended. Do not submit your application until you are completely satisfied.

You should expect to receive two emails. The first will be issued immediately your application is received by the Arts Council. The second may arrive a few minutes later, and will contain your application number, which will be used in all correspondence related to this application. **Note:** it is important that you contact [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie) if you **do not** receive the second confirmation email containing the application number. Note also that confirmation that your application has been received is **not** confirmation that it is eligible and will go forward for assessment.

## 3. Processing and assessment of applications

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### 3.1 Overview

The Arts Council considers all applications, makes decisions and communicates these to applicants in accordance with set procedures. The aim is to ensure that the system for awarding funding is fair and transparent.

### 3.2 The assessment process

All applications received are processed by the Arts Council as follows:

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- 1 After you submit your application, you should receive two emails:
    - The first will be sent immediately and will acknowledge your application.
    - The second should arrive a few minutes later. It will contain your application number, which we will use in all correspondence about your application.

**Note:** these emails only mean that our online system recognises that you have submitted an application. They do not mean that your application is eligible for funding.

If you do not receive the email with your application number, contact [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie)

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- 2 Your application is checked for eligibility. Please see section 1.8 'Eligibility' above.

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- 3 In some cases, the arts area to which you have applied may not be the best fit for your proposal. In such a case, we will contact you and ask you if you are happy for us to move your application to a more appropriate arts team. You will then have a choice to have your application moved, or for it to remain under the arts area to which you applied.

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- 4 Adviser(s) and/or staff make a written assessment of the application based on the criteria for assessment set out in section 3.3 below.

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- 5 Adviser(s) and/or staff recommend an application as shortlisted or not shortlisted.

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- 6 A peer panel reviews all shortlisted applications and associated materials, then scores and makes decisions.

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- 7 Decisions are communicated in writing to applicants.

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- 8 Decisions are noted by Council.
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### Time frame

The Arts Council endeavours to assess applications as quickly as possible, but the volume of applications and the rigorous assessment process means that it will take **up to ten weeks** from closing date to decision.

### 3.3 Criteria for the assessment of applications

Applications are assessed in a competitive context and with consideration of the available resources. All applications are assessed against criteria of:

- Artistic quality
- How they meet the objectives and priorities of the award
- Feasibility.

Each of these criteria is assessed as follows:

#### Artistic quality

The assessment of artistic quality focuses on the artist's or curators previous practice as well as on the nature of the proposal. This includes:

- The track record and/or the potential of the artist or curator demonstrated through the application form, CV and other supporting materials submitted
- The proposed arts activity or activities as outlined in the application form
- The practice of the artist or curator demonstrated through the supporting materials submitted
- The artform/arts-practice context in which the activity is proposed
- The ambition, originality and competency demonstrated by the applicant.

#### Meeting the objectives and priorities of the award

Applications are assessed on how well they meet the objectives and priorities of the award – see section **1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award** for details.

Such assessment might include, for example, consideration of the extent to which the artist's or curator's practice might benefit and be developed as a result of the proposed activity or the extent to which particular identified priorities are addressed.

While applicants may choose other artforms/arts practices relevant to their application, the assessment will be undertaken by the team specific to the chosen primary artform, which may, in certain instances, ask for a secondary assessment from another arts team.

#### Feasibility

The assessment of feasibility considers the extent to which the applicant demonstrates a capacity to deliver the proposed activity. This includes consideration of:

- The proposed timetable or schedule
- The amount of funding requested relative to the nature and duration of the work proposed
- Where relevant, the availability of other supports/partners identified in the application.



### 3.4 Peer panel process

The purpose of peer-panel meetings is to allow for a diversity of expert views to inform the decision-making process. Peer panels normally consist of at least three external adjudicators with relevant artform and/or arts practice expertise.

Each meeting is usually led by an Arts Council member acting as non-voting chair. Arts Council advisers and staff attend as required, and those involved in the initial assessment of applications are on hand to provide information as required. Panellists have access to all shortlisted applications and associated materials prior to the day of the meeting, at which point they review, discuss and score shortlisted applications. Following this, applications are ranked by score. In light of the competitive context and the available budget, it is likely that the Arts Council will be able to fund only a proportion of the applications received.

#### Scoring process

The panel is asked to score applications according to the following system:

- A – Must Fund (10 points):** this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have fully met the criteria for the award and merits funding on that basis, to the amount requested where possible.
- B – Should Fund (8 points):** this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have met the criteria to an extent sufficient to merit funding should resources allow.
- C – Could Fund (5 points):** this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have met the criteria, but to a lesser extent within the competitive context than other applications.
- D – Not a Priority (2 points):** this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have not met the criteria to an extent sufficient to merit funding.

#### Declaration of interest

In order to ensure fairness and equity in decision-making, a panel member must declare an interest where they have a close personal or professional link with the applicant or are linked in any way with the application. An 'interest' is either 'pecuniary' (e.g. where a person may stand to gain financially from a decision) or 'non-pecuniary' (e.g. familial relationships or partnerships, personal friendships, or formal or informal business partnerships, etc.).

The interest must be declared as soon as the panellist becomes aware of it. This may be at the point when s/he is approached to sit on the panel (if the 'interest' is known at that stage) or following receipt of the list of applicants. Where an interest is declared, the panellist will not receive papers relating to that applicant and will be required to leave the room when the specific application is being reviewed. Where this situation arises, the chair will vote in lieu of the panellist.

In some instances a panellist may not realise that a conflict of interest exists until s/he receives and reviews the panel papers. In such instances the panellist must alert an Arts Council staff member or the panel chair as soon as they become aware that a conflict may exist.

In the event of two panellists declaring a conflict of interest for the same application, the chair will be part of the decision-making process for that specific application.

If the nominated panel chair has a conflict of interest s/he must declare it in writing in advance of the meeting as soon as s/he becomes aware of it. In this instance the head of team will chair the discussion on the conflicted application.

### **3.5 Outcome of applications**

All applicants are informed in writing about the outcome of their application.

If your application is successful, you will be sent a letter of offer detailing the amount of funding you have been awarded and the terms and conditions of the award. You will also be told how to go about drawing down your award.

The Arts Council receives a large volume of applications, and demand for funding always exceeds the available resources. If your application is not successful, you can request feedback from Arts Council staff. Eligibility and compliance with application procedures alone do not guarantee receipt of an award.

Unsuccessful applicants are not eligible to apply for another Arts Council award to undertake the same activity. If the Arts Council feels that the proposed activity would have been better suited to a different award programme, an exception may be made. In such circumstances you will be informed in writing.

### **3.6 Appeals**

Applicants may appeal against a funding decision on the basis of an alleged infringement or unfair application of, or deviation from, the Arts Council's published procedures. If you feel that the Arts Council's procedures have not been followed, please see the appeals process at [http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/fundInfo/funding\\_appeals.aspx](http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/fundInfo/funding_appeals.aspx) or contact the Arts Council for a copy of the appeals-process information sheet.