



Theatre Project Award Round 1 2023

For activities commencing on or after 1 January 2023

Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline: 5.30pm (Ireland time), Thursday 28 July 2022

Note for people with disabilities or access requirements

The Arts Council makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities or access requirements 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, by phone (01 618 0200/01 618 0243) or by email (access@artscouncil.ie) as early as possible before the deadline.

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Getting help with your application

If you have questions about using the Online Services website, visit the FAQ section on our website: www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/

If you have a technical question about the online application process and your question is not answered in the FAQ section, you can email onlineservices@artscouncil.ie or call the Arts Council on

- **01 618 0200**
- **01 618 0243**

If you have a query about your application that is not technical in nature, you should email or phone the arts team to which you are applying for funding. <http://www.artscouncil.ie/Contact-us/Staff-and-adviser-lists/>

To watch our video guide to making an application on YouTube, go to <http://www.youtube.com/artscouncildemos>

NOTE ON COVID-19-RELATED PUBLIC-HEALTH GUIDANCE

While it is anticipated that COVID-19 will be less of an issue in 2023, in preparing your proposal you should be aware of the possibility that it may still have an impact on the delivery of arts activities.

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 period to which this proposal applies.

In the event that your application is successful and you subsequently need to change or alter some or all of your proposal on the basis of changed public-health advice, you should contact your arts team in advance to discuss this.

Key points to remember

- In order to make an application, you **must** be registered for an Arts Council Online Services (OLS) account. If you do not have one, you can sign up for one [here](#). Please note that it can take up to **five working days** for a new user to be registered on OLS, so give yourself plenty of time to do this ahead of the deadline.
- We strongly advise that you read this document carefully before beginning the process of making your application.
- We also strongly advise that you start the process early, and give yourself **plenty of time** to make your application.
- We recommend that you aim to upload your application **at least forty-eight hours** before the advertised deadline. That way, if you encounter a technical problem you will have time to contact us so that we can assist you in resolving it.
- Please note that, on account of the large volume of applicants using the online system on the last day of the deadline, we cannot guarantee that we can resolve any technical issues you may have if you contact us **after 2.00pm on the day of the deadline**.
- Please read the following checklist carefully:

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- I have read and understand these guidelines.
 - In the event that I have had an issue, I have contacted the Arts Council for assistance well in advance of the deadline
 - I have filled in all of the sections of the application form relevant to my application.
 - I have prepared all required supporting material as set out in these guidelines, and have this ready to upload.
 - I have asked someone else to check over my application to make sure there are no errors and that nothing is missing.
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1. About the Theatre Project Award

1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award

The objective of the Theatre Project Award is to support the development, generation, creation making and/or presenting of theatre to audiences. The award is open to professional artists and organisations with a demonstrable track record in theatre practice, in collaboration with artists and/or in partnership with existing theatre organisations, arts centres or festivals, where that partnership is additional to, and separate from, that organisation’s core activity.

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/>).

Definitions for the purpose of this scheme	<p>Theatre: The Arts Council’s definition of Theatre is dramatic work performed by actors in front of a live audience in the same space or location. This definition excludes proposals to develop audio-drama, radio plays, the recording of podcasts, performance art, or any type of filmed/videoed performance, save where a performance in front of a live audience is being captured for live broadcast and/or future dissemination, and/or where public health guidance prohibits the attendance of audiences at live events.</p> <p>Professional theatre artist: an individual with a demonstrable track record for professional work in a creative capacity within theatre – i.e. playwright, theatre-maker, director, actor, designer (lighting, sound, set, costume), creative producer</p>
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The Theatre Project Award is offered across four strands, as follows:

Strand 1: Play Development

The objective of the Play Development strand is to enable the development of a new play or text for performance, in which the playwright is central to the creative process. This could be an application by the playwright themselves or an application by a third party who proposes to commission and support the development of the new play text for performance.

The strand is open for a playwright to apply for time to write/develop a play on their own.

While the emphasis is on the development of the text by the playwright, the process **may also** provide for collaboration from any number of artists or practitioners (e.g. director, dramaturg, designer, actor, performer), including the person responsible for overseeing the play or performance-text's development.

Funding may be used to remunerate the playwright for time spent on writing the text and, *where relevant*, for remuneration of collaborators. The outcome of the process will be a script for performance. While presentation of a work-in-progress of the resulting work to an audience is not a requirement for this strand, applicants may seek a contribution towards costs associated with the presentation of a work-in-progress or staged reading.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Seek to write a new play or text for performance
and
- Can demonstrate excellence, innovation and/or experimentation
and/or
- Work in collaboration with more than one creative artist as part of the play-development process
and/or
- Seek to develop new and innovative concepts for productions of new dramatic material
and
- Can demonstrate their feasibility by providing evidence of:

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- Realistic timelines and budgets
- Appropriate pay for all artists, including collaborators where relevant to your proposal
- Financial and/or in-kind supports from other sources where relevant to your proposal.

Strand 2: Theatre Creation

The objective of the Theatre Creation strand is to enable the devising of ideas for new work in a collaborative and interdisciplinary context. The emphasis of the award is on innovation and experimentation. The concept behind a proposal can be non-text-based or based on a piece of new writing for the theatre, a pre-existing dramatic text, an adaptation from another literary form, or a translation or adaptation of a text from another language. The objective of the award is to enable the development of ideas over time through collaboration without the requirement to present to audiences.

While presentation of the resulting work to an audience is not a requirement for this strand, applicants may use funding to covers costs associated with rehearsal space and presentation of a work in progress. The outcome of the process will be a script/performance book.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Seek to break new ground through innovation and experimentation
and/or
- Seek to develop new forms of theatre through the collaboration of more than one creative artist, which is distinct from, and additional to, the usual collaboration between a lead artist (usually a director) and performers in a rehearsal room
and/or
- Demonstrate ambition and excellence in the quality of dramaturgical support and/or collaboration proposed
and/or
- Seek to develop new and innovative concepts for productions of pre-existing dramatic material
and

- Can demonstrate their feasibility by providing evidence of:
 - Realistic timelines and budgets
 - Appropriate pay for all artists including collaborators
 - Financial and/or in-kind supports from other sources where relevant to your proposal.

Strand 3: Theatre Presentation

The objective of the Theatre Presentation strand is the presentation of innovative, collaborative and/or experimental work to audiences. The emphasis of the award is on presenting new forms of theatre in a live-performance context. The concept behind a proposal can be non-text-based or based on a piece of new writing for the theatre, a pre-existing dramatic text, an adaptation from another literary form, or a translation or adaptation of a text from another language.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Seek to present new forms of theatre to audiences
and/or
- Seek to present the collaborative ideas of more than one creative artist to audiences
and/or
- Seek to present new work or existing repertoire in an innovative and/or experimental context
and/or
- Demonstrate ambition and excellence in the quality of dramaturgical mentorship and/or collaboration proposed
and
- Can demonstrate their feasibility by providing evidence of:
 - Realistic timelines and budgets
 - Realistic audience targets and income projections appropriate to the scale of the presentation
 - Appropriate pay for all artists, including collaborators
 - Financial and/or in-kind supports from other sources.

Strand 4: Theatre Production

The objective of the Theatre Production strand is to enable the presentation of ambitious mid-to-large-scale professional theatre productions by artists and/or producing entities with a demonstrable track record in the production of theatre for audiences.

The emphasis is on interpretations of pre-existing dramatic texts, although new plays, plays new to Irish audiences, and non-text-based projects will also be considered where an argument can be made for their appeal to potential audiences (e.g. where the applicant artist or writer has a strong track record for attracting audiences).

The focus of the award is on enabling the production of technically excellent and ambitious theatre in the context of either contemporary post-dramatic practice or the classical tradition (or a combination of the two), to attract and develop audiences for professional theatre, and to offer good-quality employment opportunities to freelance theatre artists.

Applications under Theatre Production **must** be supported by **at least one** Arts Council-funded organisation with a *significant* track record in the presentation of theatre to audiences. Priority will be given to proposals with the support of organisations in receipt of either Strategic Funding or Arts Centre Funding. The applicant will need to demonstrate that the support offered and the proposed role of the funded organisation is additional to, and separate from, the activities for which that organisation has received core funding. Evidence and details must be provided in supporting materials.

Priority will be given to proposals from established theatre artists/companies, or those in partnership with such entities, that:

- Seek to present high-quality, technically excellent and artistically ambitious theatre to audiences in partnership with existing theatre and/or arts organisations, where that partnership is additional to, and separate from, that organisation's core-funded activity
- and***
- Can demonstrate their feasibility by providing evidence of:
 - Realistic timelines and budgets
 - Realistic audience targets and income projections appropriate to the scale of the production

- Appropriate pay for all artists, including collaborators
- Financial and/or in-kind supports from other sources.

1.2 Who can apply?

The award is open to professional artists and organisations working in theatre.

To be eligible to apply, applicants **must**:

- Be resident or based 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.

As part of its [Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy](#), the Arts Council is committed to offering **equality of access, opportunity and outcomes** to all potential applicants regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community, or socio-economic background. In this funding scheme the Arts Council particularly welcomes applications that are representative of the diversity of Irish society, including but not limited to any of the characteristics outlined above, and/or initiatives that deliver equitable opportunities or outcomes for those involved.

1.3 Who is the applicant?

The applicant is the person or organisation that will receive any grant offered and that will be required to accept the terms and conditions of that grant.

Any grant 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 (individual artist or arts organisation) – 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 Barry Studios are not acceptable.

1.4 Who cannot apply?

Applicants who cannot apply include the following:

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- Organisations currently in receipt of funding under the following Arts Council programmes: Strategic Funding, Arts Centre Funding, Partnership Funding – though the involvement of such organisations as partners is welcome
- Individuals who work on an ongoing basis with organisations funded through any of the above programmes
- Organisations or individuals in receipt of 2023 Arts Grant Funding
- Members of the Council of National Cultural Institutions directly funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Individuals or organisations that do not have a demonstrable track record as professional artists or organisations
- Individuals currently in undergraduate education (including those undertaking foundation courses) or who will be during the period for which this award is offered
- Individuals seeking support towards fees for postgraduate (including unaccredited)/higher education or study

Notes:

- You cannot apply for the award both as an individual and as part of an organisation – e.g. you cannot apply as the artistic director or core member of a company and also apply separately under your own name. Applications that do so will be deemed ineligible.
- Theatre artists wishing to make work primarily aimed at children will not be considered in Theatre. Please seek advice from the Young People, Children and Education (YPCE) Team.

1.5 What may you apply for?

The strand you apply under should match your proposal type as described above and be commensurate with the scale of your proposal. There are four bands of funding available. The amount denotes the maximum you can request under each strand – there is no minimum.

	Amount available*
Strand 1: Play Development	Up to €15,000
Strand 2: Theatre Creation	Up to €25,000

Strand 3: Theatre Presentation

Up to €75,000

Strand 4: Theatre ProductionUp to €150,000

You may apply for support under only **one** strand of the award. You **must** clearly identify which strand you are applying for in section 1.5 of the application form.

In addition to the upper limits stated above, the Arts Council will also consider costs specifically relating to the making of work by artists 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.

How much funding should you apply for?

In applying for Theatre Project Award funding, you are required to submit a detailed budget ensuring that all costs and supports in kind and income are listed. The Arts Council supplies a Theatre Budget Template that you **must** use for this purpose – you may download this from the [Theatre Project Award page](#) of the Arts Council website. It may be that the use of this template does not require a great deal of detail; nevertheless, for clarity and consistency this template must be used. Applications that do not provide budget information in the required template will be deemed **ineligible**.

The maximum amount you may request is the difference between the **proposed expenditure** and **proposed income** you indicate in the budget.

- Proposed expenditure should include all fees, * wages, technical costs, promotion and publicity costs, administrative costs, etc.
- Proposed income should include what you expect to receive from other funders, etc.

It is also important to reflect all in-kind support** in both income and expenditure, so reflecting the full and true value of your proposal.

***Note on artists' pay**

The Arts Council is committed to improving the pay and conditions of artists. We have published a [policy](#) on the fair and equitable remuneration and contracting of artists. It is important that you read this policy in advance of making your application. You will be asked as part of the application process to set out how you will ensure proper and appropriate pay and conditions for the artists that you work with. This will help us

	assess the feasibility of your application.
**Note on in-kind support	<p>If you expect to receive in-kind support, you need to put a financial value on it so that the contribution it makes to the real value of your proposal is clear. You should think of in-kind support both as expenditure and as income: whatever amount you declare on the expenditure side, you should also declare on the income side.</p> <p>Time contributed by directors or board members may not be included as an in-kind cost.</p>

You are asked to indicate income, expenditure and amount requested at three stages during your application:

- On the detailed budget template that you must submit as part of your application
- Online, when you initiate the application (totals only)
- In section 3 of the application form.

Make sure that the totals are the same on all three; and make sure that the amount requested equals TOTAL EXPENDITURE minus TOTAL INCOME.

Access costs for artists or participants¹ with disabilities

In addition to the maximum amount permitted, the Arts Council will also consider access costs specifically relating to the making of work by artists or participants with disabilities and/or non-capital public-access costs (e.g. audio description, interpretation) in cases where your proposal has a public outcome.

The Arts Council takes the definition of disability from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which states: ‘Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.’

If you wish to apply for access costs, please upload the following information

¹ The Arts Council defines participants are those who express themselves creatively by taking part in artistic activities. In broader terms, this includes anyone who engages with the arts in any way at any level. For example, those attending an event, reading a book, watching a performance, and so on.

with your application:

- A short document outlining what your additional access costs are
- An amount for access costs in the expenditure section of your application-form budget. This figure should also be included in the total amount you request.

What is an access cost?

Access costs for artists or participants with disabilities cover any requirements you may have in order to remove barriers that might stop you from completing your proposal. This may include, for example, costs towards additional time needed to complete an element of your proposal or additional assistance required to deliver your proposed activity.

Note: in the event that you are requesting access costs, you should include information about the costs and how you arrived at them as part of your supporting documentation (see section 1.7 below).

1.6 What may you not apply for?

You may not apply for more than one project award in any artform/arts practice area in any one round of funding – e.g. the same applicant cannot apply for a Theatre Project Award and a Music Project Award in the same round. Activities and costs that you may not apply for include the following:

- Major capital purchases
- Ongoing core costs
- 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 1 January 2023
- Activities undertaken for charity-fundraising purposes, for participation in a competition, or for primarily profit-making purposes
- Activities that have already been assessed by the Arts Council, unless you demonstrate that you have substantively developed the proposal since previously applying. An exception will be made to this 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.

- Projects that solely involve the touring of existing productions.

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 the following list of what supporting material is required very carefully, as failure to comply with this is the most common reason for applications being deemed ineligible.

In order to be considered eligible for assessment for a Theatre Project Award you **must** submit the following supporting material online:

- Up-to-date CVs or biographies (max. three pages) for each of the key artists involved in the proposed project.
- Where your proposal relies on the expertise of other people or organisations, you should submit brief biographies/CVs outlining their expertise, accreditation and track record.
- A completed Theatre Project Budget (Microsoft Excel document only) – for this you must use the latest version of the Arts Council’s budget template, which you can download from the [Theatre Project Award](#) page of the Arts Council website. This budget is separate from and in addition to the budgetary information requested within the application form. This should set out all of the individual costs, and any projected income, associated with the project. Note: this must include proposed rates of pay for all personnel involved; rates of pay should be realistic and commensurate with the practitioners’ level of professional experience.
- Where there is collaboration/support in your application, letters/emails of support and/or copies of MOUs, outlining details of collaborations and/or terms of co-productions and/or confirming any commitments of income either in cash or in-kind towards the proposal. It should be clear from this material, and in your proposal, how they are contributing/supporting the development of this specific project.
- At least one and no more than three samples demonstrating previous work relevant to the proposed project. Please see the section on acceptable file formats for further information on this.

Depending on the nature of your proposal, samples of work might include:

- Still images
- Moving images/video material of no more than ten minutes' duration
- Script/writing samples of no more than ten pages
- Applicants to Strand 1, Playwriting, must provide a sample of their writing from a previously produced play or show
- For applications under Strands **3 and 4**, a marketing and/or dissemination and/or engagement plan that outlines who the work is for and how they will be enabled/encouraged to engage with it.

Please note that you **must** use the latest version of the Arts Council's Theatre Project budget template to submit details of your budget; this is to ensure consistency and to enable assessors to analyse budgets in a competitive-funding context.

Note: if you fail to provide all of the above, your application will be deemed **ineligible** and will not go forward for assessment.

In order to assess the volume of applications that we typically receive in a timely manner, we **cannot** review any supporting material other than those listed above.

Additional material required in certain circumstances:

- If you are seeking additional access costs to support work by individuals with access requirements, or to support access to your work by audiences with disability requirements, please provide a document outlining these costs, and outlining how they have been arrived at. Please be sure to include your total access costs listed separately within the Theatre Project Budget Template.
- If your proposal involves working with animals, you must provide a copy of your Animal Welfare Protection Policies and Procedures.

For applications involving children and young people under the age of eighteen

* Please note that this award is not open to proposals where the primary target of the work is children and/or young people.

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The Arts Council requires all individuals and organisations providing services (e.g. cultural, recreational, educational) to *children and young people under the age of eighteen* to have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place. When making an application, you **must** indicate in section 1 of the application form whether or not your proposal is relevant to this age group.

- If you answer 'Yes' to this question in the application form and your application is successful, as a condition of funding you will be required to confirm and demonstrate that you have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place.
- If successful, you will be required to complete the Arts Council's Child Protection and Welfare Quality Assurance Self-audit at <https://childprotection.artscouncil.ie/>. Please visit www.tusla.ie for more information on Children First.
- You will also be required to update your details in the Profile Information tab in your Online Services account (do this by going to the 'Update your account' section).

For applications involving vulnerable adults

When making an application, you **must** indicate in section 1 of the application form whether or not your proposal involves work with or for vulnerable persons. By ticking the Yes box, you are indicating that you will work with, or present work to, this cohort as part of your proposal, and that you acknowledge that you have familiarised yourself with and adhere to the *National Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse** (see [here](#)).

* **Note:** you may be asked to provide more evidence of adherence to these policies should your application be successful.

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

Format for supporting material

All supporting material for this award **must** be submitted online. Hard-copy supporting material will not be accepted. You are encouraged to group similar types of supporting materials into single documents where you can (e.g. CVs, samples of previous work, letters/emails of support).

For further information on the formats you may use for supporting material, 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 the Arts Council's 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 (except where you are applying for an additional amount to cover access costs).
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 able to apply again with the same proposal in future funding rounds.

1.9 How long will it take to get a decision?

The length of time it will take us to make decisions will depend on how many applications we receive. We will write to you shortly after the application deadline to give you an indication of how long decisions will take, but, in general, depending on the volume of applications, it will take somewhere between twelve and fifteen weeks.

2. How to make your application

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 emailed 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 web browser will need to meet the following requirements to use Online Services successfully:

PC Windows 7 operating system or a newer version of Windows *with* browser versions: Microsoft Edge (v.94) or Firefox (v.27) or Chrome (v.33), or a newer version of any of these browsers.

Mac Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard or a newer version of Mac operating system *with* browser versions: Safari (v.3.1) or Firefox (v.27) or Chrome (v.32) or Microsoft Edge (v.94), or a newer version of any of these browsers.

Note: if Safari 11 prevents the upload of documents, use a newer version of Safari or use a different browser such as Firefox, Chrome or Microsoft Edge.

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

OpenOffice Users

Please refer to our video *Using OpenOffice to download, complete and upload the application form* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iT9Xxgmg0Eo>

You **must** use OpenOffice Writer version 4.0.1 or earlier. More recent versions of OpenOffice Writer than 4.0.1 have changed how our application forms appear when they are submitted through Online Services.

Important notes for Apple Mac users

- Note the section in the YouTube video (at 1 min. 20 secs; link provided above) that deals with the issue of downloading version 4.0.1 on Macs with the operating system Mac OS Mojave or an earlier version installed.
- You cannot download OpenOffice 4.0.1 onto a Mac with the operating system Mac OS Catalina. If your Mac has this operating system or a newer version installed, you will have to download and use OpenOffice version 4.1.9 or newer.

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.

Getting technical support

If you need technical support while making an online application, you can contact the Arts Council by emailing onlineservices@artscouncil.ie or by phoning 01 6180200/01 6180243. 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 2.00pm 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 document that you fill in offline (on your own computer). The application form includes guidance on how to fill in each of its sections.

Note: the application form is formatted in such a way that the Arts Council can extract information from the form for assessment purposes. It is **very important** that you type inside the grey boxes in the form, and that you do not delete them and/or type outside them. If you do this, the form will not upload properly.

2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application

You are required to include supporting material with your application. For example, this might include a CV, or samples of your current work – e.g. text, video, images or sound recordings (see section **1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?**).

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

Acceptable file formats

The following table lists file formats for your supporting material.

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 URL links

Instead of uploading material directly, you may provide links to material hosted on streaming platforms that do not limit access through financial subscription. To do this, copy the URL (the full address of where your material is hosted) into a Microsoft Word/OpenOffice Writer or a PDF document and upload it as a weblink-supporting document.

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While not an exclusive list, examples of acceptable sharing platforms include YouTube, Vimeo, Soundcloud and Bandcamp.

Please note that we will not accept links to file-sharing sites (e.g. Google Drive).

Note: assessors will only view materials as submitted by you according to the URL link that you provide. Check that the link works from within the document you upload – i.e. that it links correctly to your material.

If you do not wish material you upload to YouTube for your application to be publicly viewable, you can flag your video as ‘unlisted’ in the settings. Please do not flag your material as ‘private’ as it will not be accessible to Arts Council assessors.

Naming files appropriately

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, a sample text, or a review of previous work.

Please submit supporting documents in separate, appropriately named files.

Good filenames for an applicant called Jack Russell	russelljack Architecture Project application.doc
	russelljack performance clip.mp4
	russelljack Architecture Project budget template round 2.xls
	russelljack youtube link.doc

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

2.4 Make your application online

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.

2.4.1 Choose a 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).

2.4.2 Request funding amount

At this stage specify the expenditure and income related to your proposal, and the amount of funding you are requesting. The **Amount requested** should equal the **Total expenditure** minus the **Total income**. The final figures you enter here should be the same as those you enter in section 3 of the application form and in your detailed budget.

2.4.3 Upload application form and supporting material

Follow the prompts to upload your completed application form, CV/CVs, detailed budget 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.

Note: if you have completed your application form as a **.docx** file, and you are confident that your application form is filled in correctly (including typing inside the grey fields) but Online Services displays a message saying 'Cannot upload form', please try saving it as a **.doc** file and uploading it again.

2.4.4 Submit application

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

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

You should 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 relating to this application. **Note:** it is important that you contact onlineservices@artscouncil.ie if you **do not** receive the second confirmation email containing the application number.

3. How we assess your application

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 making awards is fair and transparent.

3.2 The assessment process

Once received, your application will be 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 to be assessed.

If you do not receive the email with your application number, contact onlineservices@artscouncil.ie

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- 2 Your application is checked for eligibility. Please see section **1.8 Eligibility** above.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 5 Adviser(s) and/or staff recommend an application as shortlisted or not shortlisted.
 - 6 A peer panel reviews all shortlisted applications and associated materials, then scores and makes decisions.
 - 7 Decisions are communicated in writing to applicants.
 - 8 Decisions are noted by Council.
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3.3 Criteria for the assessment of applications

Applications are assessed in a competitive context and with consideration of the application form and the supporting materials submitted. All applications are assessed against criteria of **a)** artistic merit, **b)** how they meet the objectives and priorities of the award, and **c)** feasibility. Each of these criteria is described in turn.

While applicants may select other artforms/arts practices as being relevant to their application, the application will be assessed by the team responsible for the chosen primary artform, and which may, in certain instances, ask for a secondary assessment from another team.

A. Artistic merit

The assessment of artistic merit focuses on the applicant and on those involved in the project, as well as on the nature of the proposed arts activity, and includes consideration of:

- The quality of the idea and the proposed arts activity
- The track record of the applicant and the artistic personnel involved in the project as evidenced in their CVs and other supporting materials submitted
- The potential of the applicant and the artistic personnel as evidenced in the application form and the supporting materials submitted
- The artform/arts-practice context in which the activity is proposed
- The ambition, originality and competency demonstrated in the proposal
- How the application demonstrates innovation, experimentation and collaboration.

B. 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**).

C. Feasibility

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

- The track record of personnel involved in managing, administering and delivering the project
- The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the provision of equitable conditions and remuneration for participating artists
- The extent of involvement or commitment of identified project partners
- The proposed budget

- Other sources of income
- The availability of, and access to, other resources
- The proposed timetable or schedule.

3.4 Peer panels

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.

3.5 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.

3.6 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' or 'non-pecuniary' (e.g. familial relationships, personal partnerships, 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.

3.7 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 more suited to a different award programme, an exception may be made. In such circumstance you will be informed in writing.

3.8 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 or contact the Arts Council for a copy of the appeals-process information sheet.