

# Agility Award

## 2023 Round 1

For individual freelance artists  
and arts practitioners at any stage  
of their careers

Funding of €1,500 – €5,000

# 1

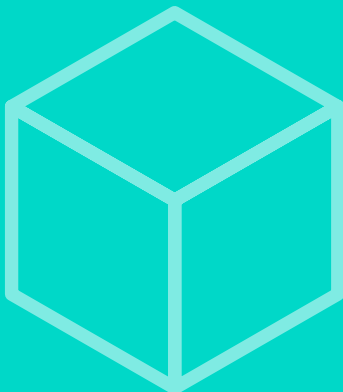
## Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline for receipt of all applications:  
5.30 pm, Thursday 9th February 2023



# Important

- You must register on our **Online Services** at least five days before you apply.
- If you would like support with your application due to **accessibility requirements**, please contact our accessibility officer by emailing [access@artscouncil.ie](mailto:access@artscouncil.ie) as early as possible in the application process.



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## Before reading these guidelines



**Please note:**

### Only online applications will be accepted

We will not accept applications sent by email or post.

### Online registration can take five days

If this is your first time applying to the Arts Council, you must register on our Online Services **before** you can send us your application for the Agility Award Round 1 in 2023. Registration can take up to five days. If you are not already registered, do this as soon as possible because you must be registered to upload your application. You will need a computer.



### We provide access supports

If you have a disability and need help submitting your application, please contact the Arts Council's Access Officer. You can either:

- Phone the Access Officer on **(01 618 000)** or
- Send an email to [access@artscouncil.ie](mailto:access@artscouncil.ie)

Please do so as early as possible, as this will give the Access Officer time to assist you.

We will tailor support to individual requests. We do our best to accommodate people with disabilities who want to submit an application or who have difficulties in accessing Online Services. There is a specific note about access costs in **section 1.4**.

### You should upload your application well before the deadline

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 help you to resolve it.

The large volume of applicants applying online on the deadline date means that 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.

### You should start preparing supporting documents now

You must upload the documents we ask for in **section 1.8**, as well as your application form.

### Contact prospective collaborators as soon as possible

If you plan to collaborate with organisations, artists, mentors, production partners, groups or other individuals in your proposal, you should contact them as soon as possible to establish their support for your application. You will need a CV / Bio **AND** a Letter of Support from each collaborator you have identified on your application form.



### Help with your application

#### Technical help

If you have questions about using the Online Services website, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on our website: [www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/](http://www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/)

#### Video about making an application

To watch our YouTube guide on making an application (11 minutes), go to this link:

[How to Download, Complete and Upload the Application Form](#)

If your technical question is not answered in our FAQ section, you can:

- Email [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie), or
- Call us on **01 618 0200** or **01 618 0243**.

#### General help

If you have a question about your application that is not technical in nature, we have a list of Frequently Asked Questions on our website: [www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/funding/](http://www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/funding/)

#### Help from a specific arts team

If you have any further questions, you should email [agilityaward@artscouncil.ie](mailto:agilityaward@artscouncil.ie) and you will be directed to the correct arts team for your application.



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## 1. Main guidelines for applying for the Agility Award

This section tells you about:

- The Agility Award – its purpose and priority
- Who can apply (and who should not)
- The funding
- Types of work and activities you can apply for (and ones you can't apply for)
- Reporting

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### 1.1 What is the purpose and priority of the Agility Award?

The purpose of the Agility Award is to enable individual artists and arts practitioners like you to do one or more of the following:

- Develop your practice
- Develop your work
- Develop your skills

We will prioritise applications that best show how your practice as an artist or arts practitioner will benefit from taking time to develop your practice or to work on artistic ideas. We encourage applications from early-career stage artists and arts practitioners who may not have previously applied to the Arts Council.

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### 1.2 Who can apply for the award?

The award is open to individual professional freelance artists and arts practitioners at any stage in their career.

**For this award please note the following definitions:**

**A freelance artist:** you are **not** employed or contracted on a full-time basis by an arts organisation funded through Arts Council programmes or through direct state subsidy or by a commercial arts entity.

**A professional artist:** A person who is actively pursuing a career as an artist in any artform, and who considers their arts work as their main profession or career. This applies even if their work in the arts is not their main source of income or they have other employment.

**An arts practitioner:** for the Agility Award, the Arts Council supports arts practitioner whose proposal to develop their own practice clearly contributes to the artistic development of the arts in Ireland.

**You will need to demonstrate a practice in your artform.**

When uploading your application, we ask you to select a relevant artform or arts practice. If you have any questions about which artform or arts-practice area you need to apply to, please contact [agilityaward@artscouncil.ie](mailto:agilityaward@artscouncil.ie)



**For the purpose of this award, the Arts Council's definition or focus in certain artforms is set out as follows:**

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**Architecture** - For this award in architecture applicants must be architects or architecture graduates.

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**Arts Participation** - In the area of Arts Participation, the Arts Council supports **artistic collaboration between artists and other arts professionals and individuals or groups**, that do not typically engage in the arts and are not arts professionals. Proposals must have **clear artistic and/or professional development goals**, alongside any other aims that proposed activity may have - for example, inclusion, health, wellbeing, community development.

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**Film** - The Arts Council supports **film artists** who engage in **experimental or non-narrative film-making** that is made for **cinema exhibition in the first instance** and applicants will need to demonstrate a practice in this area.

The Arts Council does not support applications for conventional / mainstream screenwriting, film-making or broadcast television.

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**Literature** - The Arts Council supports literary writing. For the purposes of this award, **literary writing** is defined as fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction (e.g. memoir and essays), graphic novels, children's fiction and poetry and illustrated picture books. This definition specifically excludes screenwriting, journalism, religious writing, professional, instructional and academic writing.

This award supports writing in the English and Irish languages.

Playwrights should apply under Theatre.

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**Traditional Arts** - The Arts Council supports traditional music, song and dance and the oral arts such as storytelling, agallamh beirte and lúibíní.

Applicants whose key activity involves recording and/or the publication of work must apply instead to the Deis Recording & Publication Award.

[www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/deis-recording-award/](http://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/deis-recording-award/)



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**Theatre** - The Arts Council's definition of Theatre is either dramatic or post-dramatic work performed by actors in front of a live audience in the same space or location (which may or may not be a formal theatre space). It should include the essential elements of theatre such as performance, narrative momentum and dramatic tension. This does not mean there has to be a discernable story, per se, but the work must adhere to the broad structures of what is generally understood to be live theatre. This definition specifically excludes proposals to develop: audio-drama/radio plays; the recording of podcasts; performance art or durational live art; art installations; events such as public interviews, talks, lectures that are not linked and intrinsic to the theatrical work itself in a pre- or post-show context; 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.

(See here [www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Theatre/Theatre-Policy/](http://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Theatre/Theatre-Policy/) for more).

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**Dance** - The Arts Council supports Dance artists who engage dance professionally and are open to proposals from freelance artists and arts practitioners who have completed their dance training. Proposals must have clear artistic and/or professional development goals, alongside any other aims that proposed activity may have - for example, inclusion, health, wellbeing, community development.



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The Arts Council particularly welcomes new applicants who represent the diversity of Irish society. We encourage applications from all areas of the community regardless of your gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community, or socio-economic background.

For further details, see the [Arts Council Equality, Human Rights & Diversity Policy & Strategy](#)

### Important notes

- a) You may apply once per calendar year. You may only apply for **one** of the following awards in **one arts area** in 2023:
  - Bursary Award, round 1
  - Bursary Award, round 2
  - Agility Award, round 1
  - Agility Award, round 2
  - Next Generation Artists Award
  - Markievicz Award
- b) If you were unsuccessful in your application to a previous round of the Agility Award, you may resubmit the same proposal to Round 1 2023, however this proposal should have been substantively further developed by you since the time of your last application.
- c) All documents you provide must be in your name. This means that if you apply for funding under the name Máire de Barra, then all documentation, including your bank and tax details, must be in that name. Variations such as Mary Barry or Máire Barry will not be accepted.
- d) If you are offered funding, you must accept the conditions of that funding.
- e) We will pay any funding offered only into a bank account held in your name.
- f) Please note that the Agility Award guidelines are regularly updated. Please make sure you are adhering to the guidelines related to your round of funding and not for previous rounds.

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### 1.3 Who should not apply?

We will **not** accept applications from the following:

- ✗ Individuals currently in undergraduate education (including those undertaking foundation courses)
- ✗ Individuals seeking support towards fees for postgraduate (including unaccredited)/higher education or study
- ✗ Individuals seeking support towards work undertaken as part of a formal course of study
- ✗ Individuals seeking support towards the costs of undertaking an internship or volunteer work
- ✗ Organisations
- ✗ Non-professional artists or arts practitioners
- ✗ Individuals who live outside the Republic of Ireland. In limited cases, we may accept applications from outside the Republic of Ireland. However, you would need to detail in your application how your proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland. We would need to be satisfied with your explanation
- ✗ We cannot accept applications from those employed or contracted on a full-time basis by an arts organisation funded through Arts Council programmes or through direct state subsidy or by a commercial arts entity.



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## 1.4 How much can I apply for?

The amount you can request must range from **€1,500 to €5,000**.

You can request any amount within this range, but we will not make an award for less or more than this.

### **Access costs for artists or arts practitioners with disabilities**

In addition to the maximum of €5,000, the Arts Council will also consider access costs specifically relating to the making of work by artists or arts practitioners with disabilities. If you wish to apply for additional funding on this basis, please upload the following information 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.

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## 1.5 What activities can I apply for?

You can apply for any activities that will support your development as an artist.

For example, we would consider proposals that would enable you to spend time:

- ✓ Working at your practice
- ✓ Researching or thinking about or developing a new idea for future presentation
- ✓ Developing your technical skills in a particular area
- ✓ Developing or learning new skills related to your practice
- ✓ Working with a mentor or collaborator(s) to develop an idea, or to help you upskill within an area of, or related to, your practice
- ✓ Developing an idea in collaboration with a potential production partner(s)

Finally, we would consider proposals where you would spend time doing a combination of the above activities.

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## 1.6 What costs can I apply for?

You can apply for costs such as:

- ✓ Your own time as an artist or arts practitioner
- ✓ The cost of any individual, organisation or group collaborating with you on your proposal
- ✓ Professional training opportunities (whether national or international), such as a workshop or a master class
- ✓ The cost of any mentor related to your proposal
- ✓ Equipment and materials (including software and/or software licences) to help you develop your practice (this cannot be **more than 15% or less** of the value of the overall request for support)
- ✓ Additional access costs related to the making of work by artists with disabilities (see **section 1.4** for details).

**Please refer to [our policy on Paying the Artist](#) when valuing your time as an artist and those collaborating with you. The amount you request should include the amount you will pay yourself for the time you will spend developing your practice as an artist, and it should include fees or wages for any individual, organisation or group you intend to collaborate with. The amount you propose to pay yourself – and any individual, organisation or group you intend to collaborate with – should be commensurate with your / their career stage, the nature of your practice, and the duration of your proposal, and should be appropriate to industry standards within your arts practice. You should pay yourself appropriately. Do not request less than you feel you need to achieve your objectives.**



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## 1.7 What activities and costs can I not apply for?

We will **not** cover the following activities:

- ✗ Activities that do not meet the purpose of the award because they do not develop your practice, skills or work.
- ✗ Activities better suited to other awards and/or schemes offered by the Arts Council (we will tell you if this is the case)
- ✗ Activities that could be supported by other government/public-agency supports or that fall within the remit of other governments/public agencies – e.g.
  - Culture Ireland
  - Creative Ireland
  - Screen Ireland
  - Fáilte Ireland
  - Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
  - Design & Crafts Council Ireland

We will **not** cover the following costs:

- ✗ Costs towards formal education – e.g. undergraduate or postgraduate diploma or degree programmes (including unaccredited)/higher education or study
- ✗ Costs for professional membership fees or annual subscriptions, such as Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, Visual Artists Ireland, Theatre Forum etc.
- ✗ Major capital costs such as building improvement or renovation works.

## 1.8 What supporting material must I upload with my application form?

You must provide supporting material **separate from, and in addition to**, your application form. Assessors need this material to get a better understanding of both the feasibility of your proposal, and of you and any organisations, mentors, production partners, groups of artists or other individuals you may wish to work with in your proposal.

### You must send us:

- Your full CV or biography
- One to three examples of your work (**see important notes section below**)

### If you have identified collaborators in section 2.5 on your application form, you must send us:

- A CV / brief biography for *each collaborator* and/or mentor
- An email or letter of support from *each collaborator* and/or mentor confirming their willingness to participate in your proposal.

### If you are applying for additional access costs, you must send us:

- An outline of additional access costs (if you are applying for these as an artist with a disability). Please refer to **section 1.4** of these guidelines.

### Important notes

- a) We will **only** accept any supporting material that is uploaded as part of your online application. You need to make sure that your material is saved in a file format that works with our Online Services. Most formats work, but see section **3.3** of **Document 3: How to Apply for the Agility Award** to be sure you save your files in the correct format. **We will not review any supporting material that is not listed in this section.**

- b) **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 PDF document and



upload it as a weblink-supporting document. While not an exclusive list, examples of acceptable sharing platforms would be YouTube, Vimeo, Soundcloud, Bandcamp.

Please note that we will not accept links to file sharing sites (e.g. Google Drive) nor to social media platforms

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

**Note : Links to streaming platforms may be used to provide samples of work. Standalone supporting material such as CVs and letters of support etc. must be uploaded as separate documents with your application.**

- c) Please refer to section 3.3 of Document 3: How to Apply for the Agility Award before finally submitting your application.

#### **Additional material required in certain circumstances**

- The Arts Council requires all individuals and organisations providing cultural, recreational, educational or other services 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 whether or not your proposal is relevant to this age group (in section 1.3 in the application form). 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. For more information on child safeguarding and Children First, please refer to the Tusla (Child and Family Agency) website at [www.tusla.ie/children-first/](http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/). You may view the self-audit that successful applicants will be required to complete here: <https://childprotection.artscouncil.ie/>.



- If your proposal involves working with vulnerable persons, you must submit an acknowledgement that you adhere to the National Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse (see [here](#)).

If your proposal involves working with animals, you must provide a copy of your Animal Welfare Protection Policies and Procedures.

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## 1.9 What applications will not be eligible for the award?

We will not accept your application if any of the following apply:

- 1 You missed the deadline.
- 2 You did not complete all relevant parts of the application form.
- 3 You did not upload your application form and supporting material through our Online Services website.
- 4 You did not provide all the supporting material we require.
- 5 You did not meet the criteria for who can apply as set out in **section 1.2** above.
- 6 You asked for less than the minimum or more than the maximum amount allowed. However, if you are an artist or arts practitioner with a disability, you can ask for a higher maximum amount in relation to additional access costs (see **section 1.4** for further details).
- 7 Your application was not suited to the purpose of the award (see **section 1.1** above).
- 8 Your application is better suited to another award offered by the Arts Council (If this happens, we will direct you to the other award).

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## 1.10 Final reporting

If your application is successful, at the end of the project you should know that you will have to send us a short report using our easy-to-complete report template. This report will allow you to discuss the work you did, its impact, and how you used the award funding.

## What now?

Now that you have looked at what the Agility Award is and its main guidelines, you need to read:

- [How we assess applications for the Agility Award \(Document 2\)](#)
- [How to apply for the Agility Award \(Document 3\)](#)

We used Plain English guidelines to update the Agility Award documents. The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) assisted us with this.

