

# Agility Award

## 2021 Round 2

For individual freelance artists  
and art workers at any stage of  
their careers

Funding of €1,500 – €5,000

# 1

## Guidelines for applicants

Deadline for receipt of all applications:  
5.30pm, Thursday 8 July 2021

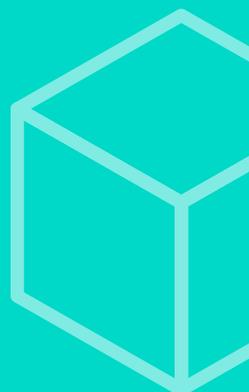
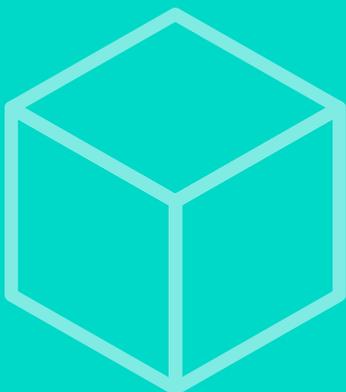


# Important

- 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 at least three weeks before the deadline or as early as possible.

- You should consider the latest **Covid-19 public-health advice** when preparing your proposal.

In preparing your proposal, you should consider the latest Covid-19 public-health advice, and ensure your activities are feasible or adaptable in light of public-health measures. If your application is successful and you need to change some or all of your proposal because of changes to public-health advice, you should contact us in advance to discuss this.



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## Before reading these guidelines



### Please note:

#### Online registration can take five days

You must register on our Online Services **before** you can send us your application for the Agility Award Round 2 in 2021. 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 need a computer.

For your information: there are three rounds of application for the Agility Award this year. This information relates to Round 2. If you feel you are not ready to apply for Round 2 and want to wait for Round 3 later this year, please do that. However, we advise you to register online early at any rate.

#### Only online applications will be accepted.

We will not accept applications sent by email or post.



#### We provide access supports

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

- Phone Adrienne on (01 618 0219) or
- Send Adrienne an email ([adrienne.martin@artscouncil.ie](mailto:adrienne.martin@artscouncil.ie)).

Please do so at least three weeks before the award deadline, or as early as possible, as this will give Adrienne 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 special 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.

### **You should contact collaborators, mentors or partners for this work as soon as possible (if relevant)**

While the Agility Award is for individuals, if you plan to work with collaborators, mentors or partners, contact them as soon as possible for relevant documents – for example CVs, biographies, letters of support.



## **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 or phone the arts team to which you are applying for funding. You can find their phone numbers on this web page:

[www.artscouncil.ie/Contact-us/Staff-and-adviser-lists/](http://www.artscouncil.ie/Contact-us/Staff-and-adviser-lists/)

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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



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

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

- Develop your practice
- Develop your work
- Develop your skills
- Create new work
- Present new work

We will prioritise applications that best show how your practice as an artist or arts worker will benefit from taking time to develop your craft or to work on artistic ideas.

## 1.2 Who can apply for the award?

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

The award is open to the following:

- Actors
- Architects/ architecture graduates<sup>1</sup>
- Choreographers
- Circus/street-arts performers
- Composers
- Creative producers
- Curators/ programmers (working in an arts context)
- Dancers
- Designers<sup>2</sup> (such as set, costume, lighting)
- Directors
- Dramaturgs
- Facilitators (such as participatory arts, youth theatre)
- Film artists
- Literary editors
- Literary writers (such as novelists and poets)
- Musicians
- Playwrights
- Picture-book illustrators
- Production managers
- Singers
- Stage managers
- Technicians (working in an arts context)
- Visual artists
- Voice coaches/ movement directors

<sup>1</sup> For this award **architects** must have a qualification in architecture or be architecture graduates.

<sup>2</sup> For this award a **designer** is an individual working creatively in an arts context. It does not include, for example, commercial graphic designers, product designers, fashion designers and so on

When uploading your application, we ask you to select a relevant artform or practice. If you have any questions about which artform or arts-practice area you need to apply to, please contact us.

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

**A freelance artist or arts worker:** you are **not** employed on a **permanent** basis – either full or part-time – by an arts organisation funded through the Arts Council Strategic/Arts Centre Funding programmes or through direct state subsidy or by a commercial arts entity.

**A professional artist or arts worker:** you do not have to earn your living exclusively from your work in the arts. However, you must self-identify and your peers must recognise you as a practising professional artist or arts worker.

**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 round and in one arts area only. You can only receive one Agility Award in 2021.
- b) 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.
- c) If you are offered funding, you must accept the conditions of that funding.
- d) We will pay any funding offered only into a bank account held in your name.
- e) Activities applied for must take place between October 2021 and September 2022.



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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
- ✗ Organisations
- ✗ Non-professional artists or arts workers
- ✗ 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 also **cannot** accept applications from those employed on a permanent basis, either full-time or part-time, by organisations funded through:

- ✗ The Arts Council
- ✗ Other state-funded arts or cultural organisations
- ✗ Commercial arts organisations



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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 workers 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 workers 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 or arts worker.

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 or area of interest
- ✓ 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)
- ✓ Developing and creating new work for presentation or performance.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Any presentation or performance of work must adhere to current public-health guidance.

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 worker
- ✓ The cost of any collaborators, mentors or partners, and related expenses (if using)
- ✓ Professional training opportunities (whether national or international), such as a workshop or a master class
- ✓ Equipment and materials to help you develop your practice (this can be 15% or less of the value of the overall request for support)
- ✓ Additional access costs related to the making of work by artists or arts workers with disabilities (see **section 1.4** for details).

Please also see our policy on [Paying the Artist](#).

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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, or do not enable you to create or present new work
- ✗ Activities that have already taken place or will have started before a decision is made on your application (activities applied for must take place between October 2021 and September 2022)
- ✗ 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 – for example:
  - Culture Ireland
  - Creative Ireland
  - Screen Ireland
  - Fáilte Ireland
  - Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
  - Design & Crafts Council Ireland

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

- X Costs associated with international travel
- X Costs towards formal education, for example, undergraduate or postgraduate diploma or degree programmes (including unaccredited)/higher education or study)
- X Costs for professional membership fees such as Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, Visual Artists Ireland, Theatre Forum
- X Major capital costs such as building improvement or renovation works.

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## 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 your proposal and of you and others (if any) you plan to work with.

**You must send us:**

- Your CV or biography and the CVs or biographies of any collaborators, mentors or partners involved in your proposal (keep short, ideally under three pages)
- Between one and three examples, samples or evidence of your work
- Support letters or emails from prospective collaborators, mentor and partners, where relevant
- An outline of additional access costs (if you are applying for these as an artist or arts worker with a disability).

**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.
- b) We will **not** review any supporting material that is not listed above.



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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 ask for.
- 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 are an artist or arts worker 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.

