

Touring of Work Scheme – FAQ

Updated: 21/07/2023

	<p>I want to submit an application under the Touring of Work Scheme funding and would like some guidance.</p>	<p>We strive to make our application process as simple and as clear as possible. We ask you to read the current guidelines and the application form, completely and comprehensively. We also post recent information clinic videos and “How to make an application” videos on our website/ YouTube channel, which are designed to support you. If you still have unanswered questions, the team will endeavour to answer your queries, which you can email into the team. Please bear with us, as we receive quite a few!</p>
	<p>When is the next round of the touring scheme?</p>	<p>The next round of the touring scheme will be offered in the second half of 2023, for touring activities happening in 2024. There will be one round of funding offered for 2024. As we review the funding framework, applicants should anticipate changes to the funding cycle - in general we will seek to offer longer lead in times, with earlier deadlines. We will aim to complete touring funding offers before the end of the previous calendar year.</p>
	<p>Can I make more than one application - i.e., to the same scheme but to different artforms or arts practice areas?</p>	<p>We cannot accept more than one application per applicant, per scheme.</p>
	<p>Our tour starts earlier than 2024 - would exceptions be made for this?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, we cannot make exceptions to our eligibility criteria. Funding for tours taking place before 2024 has already been allocated.</p>
	<p>Is there a minimum number of partners/venues required?</p>	<p>Please refer to the guidelines, where we have included a glossary of terms: Touring activity: this is where the same artistic programme or event is taking place in an iterative capacity in three or more places. (By this we mean places/venues/etc. beyond the “home” or initial run of the work.) Touring activity might involve performances, concerts, events or exhibitions or other forms of presentation of artistic work for the public to engage with.</p>

	<p>Is there a minimum number of engagements for an application to be acceptable?</p>	<p>The Arts Council aims to accommodate and respect the diverse way in which artists work and the different formats the different artforms and arts practices take. As a result, we do not ascribe a minimum or maximum number of engagements (either performances/iterations/audience numbers) for an application, but we expect applicants to be mindful of the artform or arts practice context under which they are applying, to be familiar with the individual artform/arts practice policies and priorities. We will expect your proposal to cover at least three different geographical locations, beyond that which is your “home/usual place of work” location.</p>
	<p>Would an application to tour a piece of work, which has already toured within Dublin, to further Dublin venues, be eligible?</p>	<p>Eligibility criteria are given in the Guidelines. Once your application is deemed eligible, it will be assessed in the given competitive context of the round. This is determined by the quality of the applications received, and the available budget.</p> <p>The objectives and priorities of the award are described in the Guidelines - these should be fundamental to your application. These, and the further criteria, will determine how your application will be assessed. Making a compelling application, which responds to these in a comprehensive way, will increase your chance of success. E.g., our spatial policy is a priority for this award – we seek to support tours that seek to engage widely and deeply with audiences across Ireland. A tour that focuses on Dublin only, would not be a priority in this case. You can of course make a case as to why it might be e.g., if your target audience is for specific, identified, and achievable.</p>
	<p>Is it possible to apply for touring if a piece has only had a work in progress presentation?</p>	<p>The priority for the touring scheme is to support work that has already been received to critical acclaim. We ask you to demonstrate this as part of your application e.g., through press reviews etc. You can contact your artform/arts practice Head of Team if you would like to discuss how your proposal might constitute an exception.</p>
	<p>Can we apply for touring support for a tour that will take place in the south and north of Ireland?</p>	<p>You can apply for touring support for touring activities that take place in the Republic of Ireland only. There is currently no cross-border agreement in place with our partners in the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. We continue to work with our colleagues in ACNI</p>

		to address this situation. Until this is resolved, we can only support touring activity in the Republic of Ireland.
	Can we apply if we are based in Northern Ireland?	To be eligible to apply, you must be: Based/resident in the Republic of Ireland. We may consider your application if you are based outside the Republic of Ireland. However, your application would have to convince us that your proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland. If you are unsure whether you may be eligible, we would encourage you to contact the relevant Head of Artform or Arts practice team.
	Can we apply if we are based in another country - i.e., not on the island of Ireland?	While the Arts Council does not support direct costs of tours going from Ireland to tour internationally, or the touring of work made internationally coming into Ireland, we recognise and encourage applications that include support from international producing partners and/or support from relevant funding agencies (e.g. Culture Ireland) to enable our investment reach wider, international audiences. Your application to the touring of work scheme can only be for the stage of the tour that will take place in the Republic of Ireland and it must be eligible (e.g., tour to at least three geographical locations beyond your own "home" location) and the priorities of the award will pertain.
	Recordings	Supporting the recording of work is not a priority for the touring of work scheme. If you seek support for the recording of new work this may be more suited to another funding programme offered by the Arts Council or by another funding agency.
	How does a contingency plan and a public engagement strategy apply to my tour? Is it something that I write or is it something I should get from the venues?	In the guidelines you will find a glossary that will help you understand what is expected. Both documents are the responsibility of the applicant, but we would encourage you to seek support and assistance from your producing and presenting partners. A wide range of resource organisations can also provide you with additional support. We ask you to supply a public engagement strategy for you to help us understand how you have identified your audience, how you will maximise your audience, what steps you have taken to ensure they know about the tour, and how you are approaching

		audience development – how you will increase, deepen and diversify your audience. (Please refer to the Guidelines).
		Contingency plan: applications must include a contingency plan, outlining alternative arrangements should restrictions or any other event prevent the original plan from being carried out. This must include a guarantee that commitments to artists will be met, even in the event of cancellation.
	Does private sponsorship for our tour preclude receiving an award from the Arts Council?	One of the criteria you will be assessed under is the feasibility of your tour. The diversity and quality of support you have in place, both in-kind and financial will support your application. We state we will assess the quality and extent of other sources of income and/or in-kind supports. Private sponsorship will be considered, along with any other sources of income, under the feasibility of your application.
	Do venues need to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's)? Are Digital signatures ok?	MOU's should be completed by the applicant and the partners/venues/arts centres/ festivals. Digital signatures are acceptable.
	If no MOU required for theatre what do you need?	You must fill out the Theatre Budget Template, which has two tabs, including an overview of the venues and target audiences you commit to achieving. This should be completed based on active conversations you have had with the named venues. If your application is successful, you will be asked to submit MOU's as part of your revised plans. Receiving funding will be contingent on this. All other artforms are asked to submit MOU's for these two rounds, as part of their application. This may change in the future. Always read the Guidelines.