



Children and Young People's Arts Residency 2026

Guidelines for Applicants

For residencies commencing in 2026

Deadline: 5.30pm, Thursday, 2 April 2026

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Key points to remember

- This document contains important information about the Children and Young People's Arts Residency and how to go about making an application.
- In order to make an application, both the host institution and the proposed artist or arts organisation **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 48 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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Getting help with your application

If you have questions about using the Online Services website, visit the Guidance for Applicants section [here](#).

If you have a technical question about the online application process and your question is not answered in the Guidance for Applicants 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 **at least 48 hours** before the advertised deadline.

You can find out more about making your application by watching our [YouTube video to making an application](#).

Applicants with disabilities

The Arts Council makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities to engage with our services.

If you have a disability and need help with submitting your application, please contact us as early as possible before the deadline.

Contact: Disability Access Team

Phone: 01 618 0200 or 01 618 0243

Email: disabilityaccess@artscouncil.ie

Data protection

The Arts Council collects data from you as part of your application. We ask you to supply this data to enable you to apply for funding and to allow us to assess your application.

The data we collect includes personal data such as your name and email address.

We recommend that you read [our privacy notice](#) for information on how we process and protect your personal data.

If you have any concerns about your data, contact us at dataprotection@artscouncil.ie

Deadline: 5.30pm, Thursday, 2 April 2026

1. About the Children and Young People's Arts Residency

1.1 Purpose and priorities of the scheme

Children and Young People's Arts Residency supports artists or arts organisations to spend an academic year in residence in a higher-education institution in Ireland that provides initial teacher education (primary, post-primary or further education) and/or a recognised qualification in early childhood education and care. The residencies are open to all artform and arts-practice areas and aim to:

- Provide opportunities for artists to develop their skills and experience in education settings, and to develop their artistic work in a collaborative and supportive environment
- Provide opportunities for teaching staff/lecturers in initial teacher education and early childhood education and care to engage with practising artists in creating bespoke, creative initiatives with and for their students
- Support future teachers and early-years educators to engage with practising artists as part of their learning experience
- Support future teachers and early-years educators to develop the skills and confidence to facilitate arts experiences for the children in the schools and settings where they work, and to champion the arts in these settings.

The Arts Council aims to support residencies across a diversity of artforms, involving a variety of artists, arts organisations and educational institutions.

The priorities of this award align with the priorities of [the Arts Council's ten-year strategy \(2016–2025\)](#). This strategy will continue in operation in 2026 during the development of a new strategy by the Arts Council.

All awards and schemes are also informed by the Arts Council [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy & Strategy](#) and our [Paying the Artist Policy](#).

Additional information:

- Residencies should take place within a twelve-month period beginning in 2026.
- Residencies may include remote aspects – i.e. some aspects of the residency may not require the artist or arts organisation's physical presence on campus.
- The total number of days the artist or arts organisation will be resident in the setting (whether remotely or on campus) should be agreed in advance by the artist and host institution, and should be calculated to ensure artists are fairly paid for their time. This should include artists' time for planning and reflection, delivery of residency initiatives, and development of their practice. Please see the Arts Council [Paying the Artist Policy](#) when budgeting for artists' time and fees.
- In your application you should indicate the process by which the host institution and the artist or arts organisation agreed to collaborate on the residency proposal.

- You should make sure to include sufficient time and resources to plan collaboratively, and to document, reflect on and share learning. If you are awarded funding, you will be asked to report on the residency when it is complete.

1.2 Changes to the 2026 Children and Young People's Arts Residency guidelines

There are no changes to the Children and Young People's Arts Residency guidelines in 2026.

1.3 Who can apply?

The scheme is open to higher-education institutions that provide initial teacher education and/or a course leading to a level-7 or level-8 degree in early childhood education and care.

Host institutions must apply in partnership with an artist or arts organisation.

Please see [here](#) for a list of higher-education institutions that provide initial teacher education and which may apply.

Please see [here](#) for a list of higher-education institutions that provide courses leading to a level-7 or level-8 degree in early childhood education and care and which may apply.

Artists, arts organisations and host institutions must be based in the Republic of Ireland.

Artists or arts organisations may specialise in any artform or combination of artforms.

Host institutions may not apply in partnership with an artist/arts organisation who/that has already been in residence with them through this scheme for three academic years.

As part of its [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion 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
- Membership of the Traveller community
- Socio-economic background.

1.4 Making a joint application and how any funding offered will be paid

- Applications must be made jointly by a host institution with a proposed artist or arts organisation
- The host institution and artist or arts organisation must each have their own Artist Reference Number (ARN)
- The application should be submitted using the ARN of the host institution
- Any funding offered will be paid only into a bank account held in the name of the artist or arts organisation. The name of the artist or arts organisation on their ARN must be exactly the same as the name on the bank account into which any funding will be paid.

Both the host institution and the proposed artist or arts organisation must be registered separately and individually with Online Services in order to generate their ARNs. Applicants will need the ARN of the host institution and the ARN of the artist or arts organisation to hand when filling in the application form.

Note: If you and/or the commissioned artist are not currently registered with the Arts Council's OLS website, select 'New user? Sign up'. Please note that it can take up to **five** working days for an ARN to be issued.

1.5 What may you apply for?

The maximum amount that may be awarded to each successful application is:

€20,000

You may only apply for fees for the artist or arts organisation. Where relevant, fees may incorporate essential costs that the artist regularly incurs in order to carry out their work.

In the event that a residency involves more than one artist, the applicant must clearly state fees for each artist by submitting an additional detailed budget. If the artist or arts organisation is in receipt of other funding from the Arts Council in 2026, or is in the process of applying for other Arts Council funding in 2026/2027, the proposal should clearly demonstrate that the residency proposal is additional to any other funded or proposed projects.

You should only apply to the Arts Council for artist fees that you expect to incur after June 2026, as the outcome of your application will not be known before then.

How much funding should you apply for?

In applying for this funding, you are required to submit a budget listing all items of income and expenditure relating to your proposed residency.

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

- Proposed expenditure should include artist fees to be funded by the Arts Council if your application is successful* along with all other costs that will be covered by the host institution, such as additional fees, technical and administrative costs, promotion and publicity costs, staff/researcher costs, artist workspace, accommodation, access to services/resources, performance/exhibition costs, etc.
- Proposed income should include what the host institution will invest – including the value of in-kind investment – and any income you expect to receive from other funders, box-office receipts, programme sales, etc. where relevant.

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

***Note about the Paying the Artist policy**

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 pay and conditions for the artists that you work with. This will help us assess the feasibility of your application.

****Note about in-kind**

An “in-kind” support refers to anything that your project receives that is not financial. For example, this could be someone providing space, equipment or expertise to your project without charging a fee.

If you expect to receive in-kind support, you must put a financial value on it. This is to make the value of your proposal clear.

You should think of in-kind support as both expenditure and income. Whatever amount you declare on the expenditure side, you should also declare on the income side.

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

- Online, when you initiate the application (totals only)
- In section 3 of the application form
- In the detailed budget that you submit as part of your supporting material. This is required where the fee to the artist or arts organisation will be used to engage more than one artist.

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

Disability access costs

We are committed to making our funding schemes and the work we fund accessible to everyone. To meet this goal, we offer financial supports to remove barriers for artists and participants with disabilities. These are known as disability access costs.

We take the description of disability from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, together with Irish legislation and case law. We broadly include all people with disabilities. For example, people with physical, medical, cognitive, intellectual, learning, emotional, or sensory impairments.

There are two types of disability access costs that you may need to consider for your application: personal disability access costs and audience disability access costs.

The Arts Council provides separate funding for personal disability access costs in addition to your core budget. You must fund audience disability access costs from within your core budget.

Personal disability costs

These supports should help you to remove barriers for artists or participants with disabilities who are delivering your proposal. For example:

- You
- The main artists, individuals, groups, or organisations involved in your proposal
- Partners or collaborators
- Production staff
- Core staff or key administrative personnel.

Examples of support include, but are not limited to, the following:

- An ISL interpreter for a participant or participants
- Services of an access support worker
- Additional rehearsal or studio time.

Note: You can apply for the personal disability access costs in addition to the maximum amount available for the award.

Audience disability access costs

These are costs for making your work accessible to persons with disabilities. We want to ensure that more people enjoy high-quality arts experiences and that everyone can access

and enjoy the work we fund. Access for disabled audience members should be considered a normal part of your work.

Example of supports to make your work accessible to your audience may be:

- Having an ISL interpreter for your event or performance
- Using an audio-description service
- Making your website compatible with screen readers
- Producing exhibition materials in other formats such as in Braille or audio.

Note: The Arts Council does not currently provide additional funding for these costs. You must include these costs in your core application budget.

How to apply for disability access costs

If you include disability access costs in your proposal, you must upload a document listing these costs with your supporting material. An optional template is available on the Templates and Guidelines section of the [Children and Young People's Arts Residency Scheme funding page](#) on the Arts Council website.

You must also show the costs in two separate lines in the application form.

- A line for personal disability access costs
- A line for audience disability access costs.

Note: Whether you use your own document or the Arts Council template, the two types of disability access costs must be shown separately.

What if the funding I am offered is less than I requested?

If you are offered funding that is less than you requested, we will discuss with you how you plan to deliver your proposed activity when reviewing the revised budget. We will also discuss an appropriate adjustment to your disability access costs.

1.6 Can a host institution submit an application for more than one residency?

Yes. However, host institutions may submit **no more than three** applications each year.

- If submitting more than one application, the host institution must ensure that each application is with a different artist or arts organisation.
- In addition, each application should have a different artform focus **and/or** should engage with a different student cohort and teaching staff at the institution.
- Applications should be feasible in their own right, and should be enhanced by, but not reliant on, additional applications being supported.

- Host institutions applying for more than one residency should outline in each proposal the opportunities resident artists will have for collaboration and connection with each other should more than one residency be supported.

Host institutions may apply in partnership with the same artist/arts organisation with whom they have partnered on an application in a previous year. In such cases, the proposal must clearly demonstrate how investment in the residency for an additional year will extend and enhance the residency, and will build on and develop the partnership to date. Please note, however, that host institutions may not apply in partnership with an artist/arts organisation who/that has already been in residence with them through this scheme for three academic years.

Note: the Arts Council aims to support residencies across a diversity of artforms, involving a variety of artists, arts organisations and educational institutions. Submission of an application for one or more residencies is not a guarantee of support. Applications will be assessed in a competitive context in accordance with the assessment criteria contained in these *Guidelines for Applicants*.

1.7 Required supporting material

In addition to, and separate from, your application form, you **must** submit the following supporting material online with your application form:

- A signed draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the host institution and the artist or arts organisation (please use form provided). **Note:** if funding is awarded, the final MoU must be provided in order to draw down payments
- An up-to-date CV or biography for the proposed artist or arts organisation
- An up-to-date CV or biography of other collaborating artists, where relevant
- At least one and no more than three examples of the artist's or arts organisation's work
- A detailed budget in cases where the fee to the artist or arts organisation will be used to engage more than one artist.

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

Additional material required in certain circumstances

- If you are seeking additional personal disability access costs or audience disability access costs, please provide a document outlining these costs, and show how they have been arrived at. Please also ensure that you include this additional amount as part of your budget.
- 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 18

The Arts Council requires all individuals and organisations providing services (e.g. cultural, recreational, educational) to children and young people under the age of 18 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](#)).

* Please note that you may be asked to provide more evidence of adherence to these policies should your application be successful.

Format for supporting material

All supporting material for this funding programme **must be submitted online**. Hard-copy supporting material will not be accepted. Please follow these guidelines for the different kinds of supporting material.

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

1.8 Eligibility

Only host institutions meeting the definition in section 1.3 and applying in partnership with an artist or arts organisation as outlined in section 1.4 will be considered eligible. Please note that host institutions may not apply in partnership with an artist/arts organisation who/that has already been in residence with them through this scheme for three academic years.

In addition, if you do not submit a fully completed application form along with the required supporting material indicated in section 1.7, your application may be deemed ineligible.

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 fail to complete all of the sections in the application form relevant to your proposal.
3. You cannot apply as set out in sections 1.3 to 1.5 above.
4. 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 personal disability access costs).
5. You fail to provide all mandatory supporting materials, as set out in section 1.7 above.
6. 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).

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](#).

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.

For Children and Young People's Arts Residency, both the host institution and proposed artist or arts organisation must have their own ARN. You should submit your application using the ARN of the host institution. You will need to have the ARN of the proposed artist or arts organisation to hand to include in the application form. If your application is successful, the artist's or arts organisation's ARN will be needed to draw down payments.

Requirements for using Online Services

Note: you will need to use a computer or laptop to submit your application. Our Online Services website does not work on phones or tablets.

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

-
- | | |
|------------|--|
| PC | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Windows 7 operating system or a newer version of Windows• OLS will work with the latest versions of all browsers – e.g. Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, Mozilla Firefox |
| <hr/> | |
| Mac | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard or a newer version of the Mac operating system• OLS will work with the latest versions of all browsers – e.g. Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, Mozilla Firefox |
-

Note: you will also need to have Microsoft Word (Desktop) or OpenOffice Writer installed to complete the application form itself. OpenOffice Writer is free software that can be downloaded [here](#).

OpenOffice Users

Please refer to our video [Using OpenOffice to download, complete and upload the application form](#).

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 01 618 0200/01 618 0243. We recommend you report any technical issues to 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 (Desktop)/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. This includes your draft MoU, a CV and samples of your current work – e.g. text, video, images or sound recordings (see section **1.7 required supporting material**)

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
PDF files	.pdf

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

Submitting URL links

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

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 (Desktop)/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 the following sources:

- File-sharing sites – e.g. Google Drive, OneDrive
- Social-media platforms – e.g. Meta, Instagram
- Your personal website.

Note: assessors will only view materials in the URL links that you provide. It is important that you check that any links in the document work **and** that they bring the viewer to the correct source to be able to access and view your supporting material.

Please do not flag your material as "private" as it will not be accessible for the assessment. Change the settings on your video to "unlisted" if you do not wish the application supporting material on your YouTube channel to be publicly viewable.

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

Note: Characters not allowed in the filename " * : < > ? / . \

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 or CVs, detailed budget and any other required supporting material (see section **1.7 Required supporting material?**). 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

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

1. Your application is checked for eligibility – all eligible applications then progress to the assessment stage.
2. Adviser(s) and/or staff make an assessment of the application.
3. Adviser(s) and/or staff recommend an application as shortlisted or not shortlisted.
4. A peer panel reviews all shortlisted applications and associated materials, then scores and makes decisions.
5. Decisions are communicated in writing to applicants.
6. Decisions are noted by Council.

3.3 Criteria for assessing applications

Application forms and supporting material will be assessed and scored against the following three criteria:

a) The quality and suitability of the proposal

- Track record of the proposed artist or arts organisation
- Potential for creative collaboration between the artist or arts organisation, the host institution, and any other partners that will engage with the residency
- Potential of the proposal to develop and enhance the practice of the artist or arts organisation, the host institution, and any other partners
- Opportunities for the artist, teaching staff and students to have a voice in the development of the residency in a manner that is ambitious, original and collaborative
- Where children in early childhood or school settings are involved, opportunities for children to have a voice in the development of the residency.

b) The extent to which the proposal meets the purpose of the award

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

c) The feasibility of the proposal

- Demonstrated capacity of the host institution to effectively manage and support the residency.
- Suitability of resources the host institution will make available to the resident artist to support a programme of engagement with students and staff.
- Suitability of resources the host institution will make available to the artist to develop their practice.
- A schedule and process that will support shared planning and reflection, and will enable the development of bespoke collaborative engagements.
- An agreement that demonstrates fair payment and conditions for the resident artist and any other collaborators. The Arts Council has 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.
- An appropriate plan and allocation of resources to document, reflect on and share the outcomes of the residency.
- Priority will be given to proposals where the level of investment from the host institution matches or exceeds that of the Arts Council – this may include a combination of in-kind or cash investment in the residency programme, and should be clearly set out in section 3.1 of the application form.

3.4 Peer panel

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 and contextual expertise.

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

Scoring process

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

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

Declaration of interest

In order to ensure fairness and equity in decision-making, a panel member must declare an interest where they have a close personal or professional link with the applicant or are linked in any way with the application. An 'interest' is either 'pecuniary' 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 they are 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 they receive and review 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 Arts Council staff member would replace one of the panellists so that two are not sharing the same conflict. If this is not possible, the art team's manager and the panel chair will be part of the decision-making process for that specific application.

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

3.5 Outcome of applications

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

You will be informed by email if your application has not been shortlisted. If your application has been shortlisted, it will go forward for panel review.

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.

If your application is unsuccessful, you cannot apply for another Arts Council award for the same activity.

If we feel that your proposal is better suited to a different award, we may make an exception. In this case, we'll contact you.

Appeals

You can appeal against a funding decision if you feel that:

- We did not follow our published procedures for administration and assessment
- We did not apply our published procedures for administration and assessment fairly.

You must be able to show us the reasons for your appeal.

[Learn more about our appeals process](#)