
Bursary Award 2025 Funding Clinic

Circus, Street Performance and Spectacle

9th January, 2024

Clinic Overview

Bursary Award 2025

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- **Bursary Award Introduction, Artform and Strand Notes**
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- **Assessment and Decision Process**
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Who Are We

The Arts Council

The Arts Council is a voluntary body of 12 members and a chair, appointed by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for a term of five years.

The ongoing work of the Arts Council is delivered by the executive, including a Director and staff across multiple artform specific and operational teams.

Arts advisers and assessors, who provide additional expertise and strategic advice on different aspects of the arts, are retained on a consultancy basis.

Learn more at: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/about/>

Artform Teams

- Architecture
- Arts participation
- Circus
- Creative Schools
- Dance
- Festivals
- Film
- International Arts
- Literature
- Music
- Multi-Disciplinary Arts
- Opera
- Street Performance and Spectacle
- Theatre
- Traditional arts
- Arts Centres
- Visual Arts
- The Arts Council Collection
- Young People, Children and Education (YPCE)

Who We Are - CSPA Team



- **Officer/Assistant:** Ciara Coyne
- **Head of Team:** Laura Ivers (Part-Time)
- **Advisor:** Adam O’Keeffe (External)

What We Do

The Arts Council of Ireland is the Irish government agency for developing the arts.

We work in partnership with artists, arts organisations, public policy makers and others to build a central place for the arts in Irish life.

The Arts Council's core functions under the Arts Act 2003 are:

- Stimulate public interest in the arts
- Promote knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts
- Assist in improving standards in the arts
- Advise the Minister and other public bodies on the arts



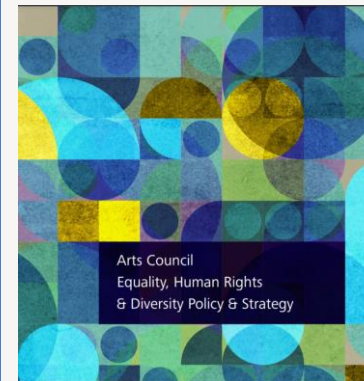
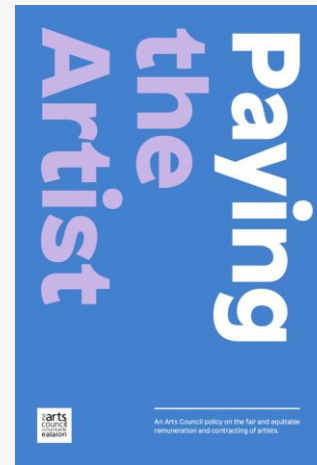
How We Do It

Funding	Providing financial assistance, mainly, but not exclusively, to artists and arts organisations; we also support others who develop and promote the arts;
Advice	Offering advice and information on the arts to Government and to others;
Research	Publishing research and information as an advocate for the arts and artists;
Promotion	Undertaking a range of Bursarys to promote and develop the arts, often in partnership with others

How We Do It

Policy & Strategy

All funding programmes and artform specific policies are informed by the Arts Council's ten-year strategy (2016-25), *Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland*

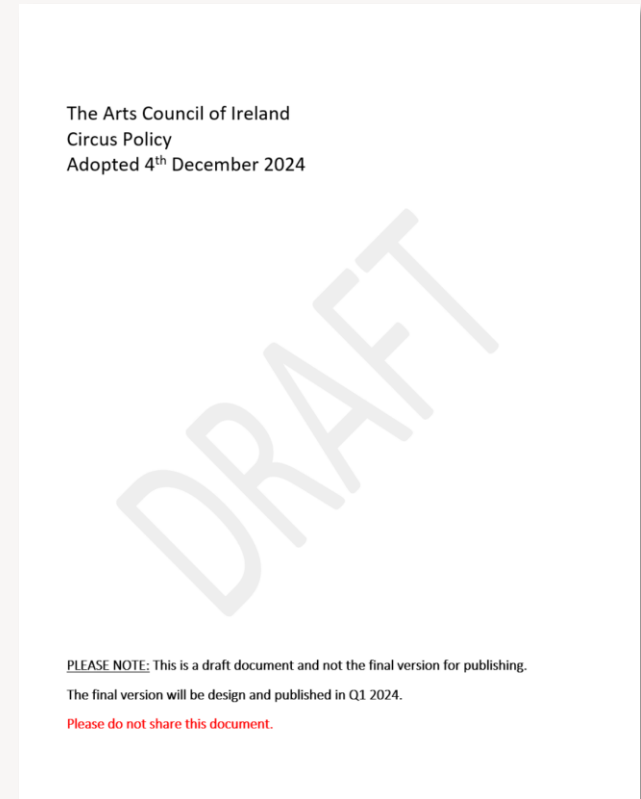


Learn more at: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/about/>

Artform Policies



Published 2024*



Approved for Publishing 2025

Access Supports

Access Supports

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 Disability Access team:

- By phone: 01 618 0200/01 618 0243
- By email: disabilityaccess@artscouncil.ie

Please contact the Disability Access team as early as possible before the deadline.

Disability Access Costs

Personal Disability Access Costs

- These costs should remove barriers for artists or participants with disabilities who are delivering your proposal.
- In addition to main budget.

Audience Disability Access Costs

- These costs make your work accessible to audience members with disabilities.
- Within your main budget.

The Disability Access team is happy to help – please contact us:

- disabilityaccess@artscouncil.ie or 01 618 0200

Bursary Award 2025

Introduction, Artform and Strand Notes

Bursary Award 2025

Circus/Street Performance and Spectacle

Purpose of the Award

The purpose of the award is to support artists and arts practitioners at any stage in their career to develop their arts practice.

Key Information

Closing date: 17:30, Thursday 13th February 2025

Maximum awarded: €20,000

Artform and practice(s): Circus / Street Performance & Spectacle

Applicant type: The award is open to professional artists and arts practitioners

Funding Decision: Peer Panel

Bursary Award

Introduction

The Bursary Award supports artists and arts practitioners at any stage in their career to develop their arts practice.

The award emphasizes the value and benefit that an extended process of engagement with their practice can bring to an artist's development.

For this reason, the award provides artists and arts practitioners with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and engage with their arts practice.

Bursary Award 2024

- 70 eligible applications requested over €1, 150, 000
- 21 applications were funded to the value of €365, 500
- ~30% of applications – 1:3

Bursary Award 2024 Budget: ~€375, 000

Bursary Award

Artform Note: Circus

Circus: The Circus Bursary Award is open to circus artists and arts practitioners at any stage in their career to develop their arts practice.

The Arts Council recognizes Traditional Travelling Circus's designation on the *National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage** and we are committed to strategically supporting a diversity of Circus practice in Ireland.

To better enable this, we are introducing a strand structure to the Circus Bursary Award for 2025.

- **Strand 1: Traditional Circus** - This is for applicants whose artistic practice was developed, or is currently centred, in an Irish Traditional Travelling Circus context.
- **Strand 2: Contemporary Circus** - This is for applicants whose artistic practice was developed, or is currently centred, in a Contemporary Circus context.

* <https://nationalinventoryich.tcagsm.gov.ie/irish-traditional-travelling-Circus-and-funfair/>

Bursary Award

Artform Note: Street Performance and Spectacle

Street Performance

Street Performance refers to live, outdoor performance typically in a street, public space, or site responsive context, usually presented free of cost. It can include circus, spectacle, theatre, magic, comedy, puppetry or dance. Street Performance can take the form of a walkabout act, a circle show, or a pop-up intervention that engages audiences unexpectedly as they go about their daily lives.

Spectacle

Spectacle refers to high-impact performance, typically occurring in an outdoor setting in a festival or parade context, often involving floats, pageants, large scale structures, puppetry, processional performance, and themed group ensembles that integrate costume, dance, theatre, and music through a theme.

Bursary Award

Artform Note: Young People Children and Education

The Young People, Children and Education Bursary Award specifically supports artists to engage in professional development that will improve their capacity to develop or present high-quality arts experiences with or for children and young people. The bursary aims to support artists at all stages of their careers.

Potential proposals could be those that:

- Enable a professional artist with significant experience in their artform but with limited experience in developing work with or for young people to develop their knowledge and capacity in this area
- Enable a young artist (aged 18–24) who has demonstrated artistic leadership and innovation in their artistic endeavours as a young person to develop their professional capacity to engage other young participants or audiences in the arts
- Enable an emerging, mid-career or established artist to explore new ideas, skills or ways of working that will improve their capacity to create highquality work with or for young people

Bursary Award

Other Artform Notes

Arts Participation: The objective of the Arts Participation Bursary Award is to support individual professional artists working in any artform to develop their participatory, collaborative, community and socially engaged arts practice.

Visual Arts: Mural/Street Art artists should apply via the Visual Arts Bursary Award.

Music: Musicians should apply via the the Music Bursary Award

Note on secondary artforms: 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.

Bursary Award 2025

Guidelines Overview

Bursary Award 2025

Guidelines

Available at:

www.artscouncil.ie



Available funding



Circus Bursary Award/

Street Performance & Spectacle
Bursary Award

- Objectives and Priorities of the Award
- Who Can/Cannot Apply
- What you May/May Not Apply For
- Supporting Material
- Eligibility
- How to Make Your Application
- How We Assess Your Application

Bursary Award 2025

Objective

The objective of the Bursary Award is to support artists and arts practitioners at any stage in their career to develop their arts practice.

The award emphasises the value and benefit that an extended process of engagement with their practice can bring to an artist's development.

For this reason, the award provides artists and arts practitioners with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and engage with their arts practice.

You can use the Bursary to **spend time:**

- Working at your arts practice
- Researching/thinking about/developing a new idea for future dissemination
- Developing or learning technical skills related to your practice or area of interest

Bursary Award 2025

Objective (Cont.)

- Working with a mentor or collaborator to develop an idea
- Working with a mentor or collaboration to develop or upskill within a particular area of your practice or an area related to your practice
- Developing an idea in collaboration with a potential production partner or partners.
- Undertake a short period of training such as master classes or other professional training opportunities (whether national or international)
- Purchase a limited amount of equipment and materials to assist with the development of your practice. (Note: this can be no more than 15% of the value of the overall request for support.)
- Do a combination of any of the activities above.

Circus Bursary Award 2025

Strategic Priorities

The Arts Council has identified the following types of Bursarys as strategic priorities for support through this award:

- Applications from a diverse range of artists and practitioners spanning the breadth of the Traditional and Contemporary Circus sectors.
- Applications that demonstrate excellent skill level in a variety of circus disciplines and/or high-quality cross-disciplinary collaborations.
- Applicants who demonstrate a clear articulation of artistic aims and rationale for undertaking a period of creative reflection.
- Applications from emerging artists and arts practitioners who wish to develop their arts practice through a period of structured mentoring
- Applications that involve partnership with national organisations (e.g. a festival, local authority, venue or resource organisation) and are aimed at forms of personal professional development that might benefit the broader development of circus practice in Ireland.

Street Performance and Spectacle Bursary Award 2025

Strategic Priorities

The Arts Council has identified the following as strategic priorities for support through this award:

- Applicants who demonstrate a clear articulation of artistic aims and rationale for undertaking a period of creative reflection
- Applications from emerging artists and arts practitioners who wish to develop their arts practice through a period of structured mentoring
- Applications that allow professional artists to explore new creative practices within the context of multidisciplinary arts or by working in collaboration with professional artists with a background in other artforms.

Bursary Award 2025

Who Can Apply?

This award is open to professional artists who are resident in the Republic of Ireland.

However, we may accept applications from outside the Republic of Ireland. In this case, you must detail in your application form how your proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland. We would need to be satisfied with your explanation.

You need a PPS number to be able to apply.

A professional artist is someone who:

- Actively pursues a career as an artist in any artform
- Considers their arts practice to be 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.
- Is recognised by their peers as a professional practising artist.

Bursary Award 2025

As part of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy, we encourage applicants from of all areas of the community.

This includes, but is not limited to, any of the characteristics in the list below. It also includes initiatives that deliver equitable opportunities or outcomes for everyone involved.

- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Civil or family status
- Religion
- Age
- Disability
- Race
- Membership of the Traveller community
- Socio-economic background

For this funding scheme, we particularly welcome applications that are representative of the diversity of Irish society.

Bursary Award 2025

Who Cannot Apply?

We won't be able to accept your application if you are:

- An organisation
- A full-time undergraduate student (including foundation courses)
- Looking for support towards fees for postgraduate/higher education or study (including unaccredited courses)
- Looking for support towards work you're doing as part of a formal course, internship or volunteer work
- If you are in full-time employment, you must be seeking time away from employment to work on your practice, and how you plan to approach this should be outlined in your application
- An Aosdána member in receipt of a Cnuas.

Bursary Award 2025

How much can you apply for?

You can apply for any amount between **€5,000** and **€20,000**.

You can't apply for amounts below €5,000 or above €20,000. If you do, your application will be ineligible and we won't assess it.

However, artists with disabilities can include additional access costs in their application. This is separate from the amount that you request for your proposal .

Enter the amount that you want to apply for in section 3 of the application form.

This bursary is a one-year award. It is not a multi-annual award.

Bursary Award 2025

Note about paying yourself

The emphasis of this award is on “**buying time**” for your arts practice.

The amount that you request should include what you want to pay yourself for the time you spend to develop your practice.

This can be up to 100% of the award.

You should pay yourself appropriately. Make sure that you ask for enough to achieve your objectives.

The amount that you pay yourself should also be appropriate for the standard conditions in your area of arts practice.

Bursary Award 2025

Note about other costs

This award also allows you to include other costs that may support you to develop your practice. For example:

- Fees for the time that any mentors or collaborators give you while working with you on the activities from your application
- Costs for materials that are critical to the development of your practices. These materials must be clearly linked to the purpose of “buying time”. These costs can be up to 15% of the total amount that you request

Bursary Award 2025

Disability access costs for artists or participants with disabilities

The Arts Council is committed to making our funding programmes and the work we fund accessible to everyone.

The Arts Council takes the description of disability from Article 1 of 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.”

You can include disability access costs within your application. There are two types that you can apply for.

Bursary Award 2025

1. Participant or personal disability access costs

These costs should 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 may include:

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

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

Bursary Award 2025

2. Audience disability access costs – costs for making your work accessible to others

We want to ensure that more people enjoy high-quality arts experiences and that everyone can access and enjoy the work we fund.

These are costs for making your work accessible to persons with disabilities and should be considered a normal part of your work.

Example of access costs to make your work accessible to your audience may include:

- 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 Braille or audio.

Note: You should include audience disability access costs in the total amount that you request. **They must be within the maximum amount available for the award.**

Bursary Award 2025

How to apply for disability access costs

We need to understand why you're applying for disability access costs and how they meet the needs of your participants or your audience.

If you include disability access costs in your proposal, you must show the costs in two separate lines in the application form.

- A line for personal or participant disability access costs only
- A line for audience disability access costs only

You must also upload a document listing these costs with your supporting material. If you're applying for both personal disability access costs and audience disability access costs, you must include a document for each type.

Bursary Award 2025

Costs that you cannot apply for

You cannot apply for:

- Costs that do not fit the purpose of the award
- Capital request for purchasing equipment or improvements to workspaces
- Subscriptions that are unrelated to this proposal. This includes ongoing software licenses
- Membership fees.

Bursary Award 2025

Activities that you cannot apply for

You cannot apply for:

- Activities that do not fit the purpose of the award
- Activities that are better suited to another Arts Council award
- Activities that are better suited for support from another government agency or public agency. Some examples include Culture Ireland, Screen Ireland and third-level institutions.
- Non-artistic activities, such as academic activities
- Activities that you have already completed
- Activities that you will have started before we make a decision on your application

Bursary Award 2025

Activities that you cannot apply for

- Activities by registered charities that are for fundraising for other organisations
- Activities that are for participating in a competition
- Activities that are for profit-making.

You cannot apply for activities that the Arts Council has already assessed unless you can demonstrate that you have significantly developed the proposal.

The exception to this is if we have specifically recommended that you redirect your application to this award. (**Note:** This recommendation is not an indication that the application will receive funding.)

Bursary Award 2025

Supporting Material

You must include supporting material with your application in addition to your application form. These documents help the person assessing your application to get a clearer understanding of your proposal.

If you do not upload supporting material, your application is incomplete and we cannot assess it. Missing supporting material is the most common reason for ineligible applications.

It's important that you read the information below carefully and that you include the supporting material that we ask for in your application.

Bursary Award 2025

Mandatory supporting material for all applicants

- A separate detailed up-to-date CV (three pages maximum), with a clear description of your area of artistic practice and track record
- Video clips or photographs showing samples of your recent Street Performance and Spectacle work. If you've included other people or organisations in your proposal, you must also submit additional supporting material with your application.

If you've included other people or organisations in your proposal, you must also submit additional supporting material with your application.

- Brief biographies outlining their expertise, accreditations and track records
- Letters of support outlining their involvement in your proposed work, including confirmation of fee.

Bursary Award 2025

Additional Supporting Material – Disability Access Costs

If your application includes disability access costs, you should upload a document listing these costs. If you're applying for both personal disability access costs and audience disability access costs, you should include a document for each type.

Make sure to list your total disability access costs separately in your own budget document or the Street Performance and Spectacle Bursary Award Excel budget-sheet template.

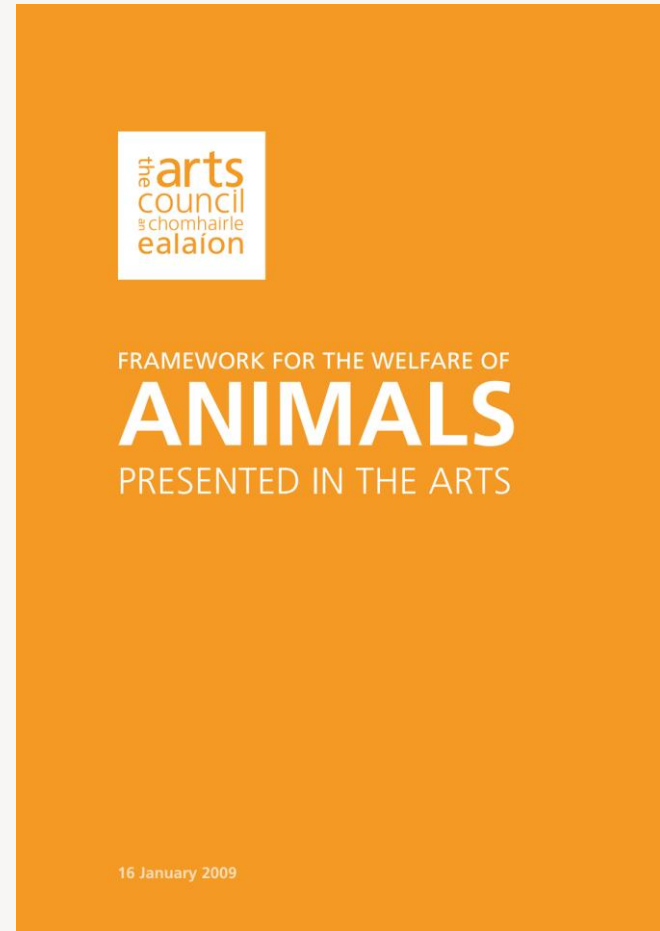
Bursary Award 2025

Additional Supporting Material – Working with Animals

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

Please refer to the *Framework for the Welfare of Animals Presented in the Arts*

available: [https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/Research_and_Publications/Circus/AC_Animal_Framework_2009\(1\).pdf](https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/Research_and_Publications/Circus/AC_Animal_Framework_2009(1).pdf)



Bursary Award 2025

Additional Supporting Material – Working with children or young people

If your proposal provides cultural, recreational, educational or other services to children or young people under the age of 18, you must have suitable childprotection policies and procedures in place.

- You must indicate that your proposal is relevant to this age group in section 1 of the application form.
- If you answer “Yes” and your application is successful, you must demonstrate that you have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place.
- You must complete our child-protection self-audit form. You do not need to upload an additional document at this time. If your application is successful, you may need to demonstrate that you have suitable child protection policies and procedures in place.

Bursary Award 2025

Additional Supporting Material – Working with vulnerable adults

If your proposal involves working with vulnerable adults, you must indicate this in section 1 of the application form.

By doing this, you acknowledge that you adhere to the *National Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse* available *here*:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/socialcare/safeguardingvulnerableadults/>

Note: We may ask you to provide more evidence of adherence to these policies and procedures if your application is successful.

Bursary Award 2025

Eligibility – applications that we won't accept

We will not accept your application in the following situations:

- You missed the application deadline.
- You did not upload your application form and supporting material through our Online Services funding portal.
- You did not meet the criteria in 1.3 Who can apply.
- You did not complete all the required parts of the application form.
- You did not provide the supporting material that we asked for.
- You did not provide your supporting material in the correct format. (See 2.5 Preparing your supporting documents)

Bursary Award 2025

Eligibility (Cont.)

We will not accept your application in the following situations:

- You asked for more than the allowed amount. However, you can ask for additional personal disability access costs if your proposal requires it. (See Disability access costs for artists or participants with disabilities.)
- You applied for activities or costs that are not covered by this award. (See 1.7 Costs that you cannot apply for and 1.8 Activities that you cannot apply for.)
- Your application is better suited to another Arts Council award. If this happens, we will direct you to the other award.
- Your application is better suited to another government body or public body.

If your application is ineligible, we will not assess it. In that case, you will be able to apply again with the same proposal to a future funding round.

Bursary Award 2025

Assessment and Decision Process

Bursary Award Assessment Criteria

Overview

Arts Council awards are competitive. We assess applications in this competitive context. We also consider the available resources that applicants have.

In 2024, 30% of Circus Bursary Award and Street Performance and Spectacle Bursary Award applications were successful. These awards are managed collectively and share a budget.

There were 70 eligible applications and 21 applications received funding.

Your application will be assessed based on the following:

- Artistic quality
- How the proposal meets the objectives and priorities of the award
- Feasibility

Bursary Award Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria - Artistic quality

Our assessment of artistic quality focuses on your previous practice as an artist as well as on the nature of the proposal. This assessment includes:

- Your track record and the potential that you've demonstrated through your application form, your CV and the other supporting materials that you submitted
- The proposed arts activity or activities that you've outlined in your application form
- The practice that you've demonstrated through the supporting materials that you submitted
- The artform/arts practice context that your proposed activity is in
- The ambition, originality and competency that you demonstrated
- If you intend to work with a mentor: the track record of the mentor and quality of the mentorship programme, as demonstrated through the application form, CV and other supporting materials submitted
- If you intend to work with partner organisations: the quality and appropriateness of supports offered by the partner organisations.

Bursary Award

Assessment Criteria - Objectives and priorities of the award

We assess applications on how well they meet the objectives and priorities of the award.

(See 1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award for more information.)

In this assessment, we consider:

- How much your arts practice might benefit from the proposed activity and how it might develop as a result of it
- How much your proposed activity addresses the priorities of the award.

Bursary Award

Assessment Criteria - Feasibility

We assess the feasibility of your application based on how you demonstrate your capacity to deliver your proposed activities.

The aspects of feasibility that we assess depend on the strand that you choose.

In this assessment, we consider:

- The feasibility of your proposed timetable or schedule
- The feasibility that the amount of funding you requested is suitable for the nature and duration of the work that you propose
- Where relevant, the availability of other supports/partners that you identified in your application.

Assessment Process

Applications Received



Eligibility Check Completed



Adviser(s) and/or staff complete a written assessment of the application based on the criteria and recommend an application as shortlisted or not shortlisted



A peer panel reviews all shortlisted applications and makes funding decision



Decisions are communicated in writing to applicants

The length of time it will take us to make decisions will depend on how many applications we receive. In general, depending on the volume of applications, it will take somewhere between twelve and fifteen weeks.

Bursary Assessment Process

Peer Panel

- Peer Panels are made up of artists and sector professionals and made funding decisions for key funding programmes such as the Bursary and Bursary Awards.
- Panels assist in maintaining standards of quality and ensuring transparency.
- Peer panel members use their expertise and knowledge to assess, score and make decisions in line with the **published criteria for the award** and in the context of available funds.
- Peer Panelists for previous programme rounds can be viewed on the "Who We've Funded" area of the Arts Council website.

For more information about the Arts Council Peer Panels please see: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funding/Peer-Panel/>

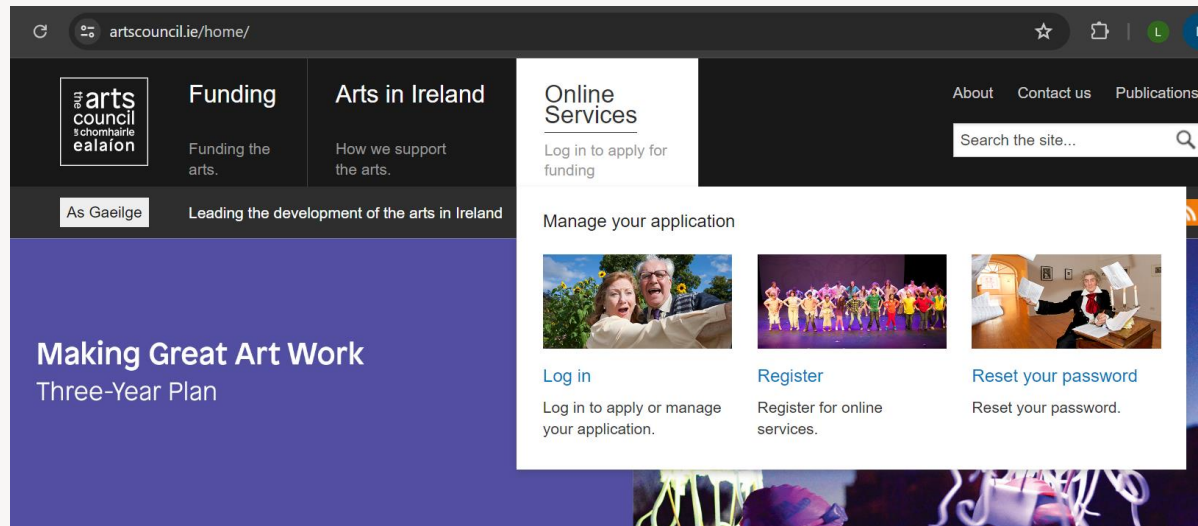
Bursary Award 2025

How to Apply and General Guidance

Bursary Award 2025

How to make your application

- Register with the Arts Council's Online Services at www.artscouncil.ie
- 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.



Bursary Award 2025

How to make your application

- You will need to use a computer/laptop to submit your application. **Our Online Services website does not work on phones or tablets.**
- You will need to have **Microsoft Word or OpenOffice Writer** installed to complete the application form.
- 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.
- Please see section 2. *Before you apply* in the guidelines document for more detailed instructions on completing the application.

General advice

- Do not assume that the assessors, team or panelists will know you or your work. Treat each application as if it were your first.
- Several people will be involved in making a decision about your application – be clear and concise.
- Make sure it's clear why you are doing this and why you are working with the people you're working with.
- Try not to slip into imitating Arts Council language/jargon and losing your voice.
- Always relate your proposal back to the award priorities and objectives.
- Have someone you know read through your application before you submit it!

Common mistakes

- Not reading the guidelines
- Not registering on OLS in time (if a first-time user)
- Leaving it too late and missing the deadline (window opens one month in advance).
- Not uploading required supporting material for a programme
- Reading an older set of guidelines – always look at the most recent set via the *Available Funding* section of our website
- Not relating application to the objectives and priorities of the programme.
- ✓ Not attending artform clinics.



Mistake #1 – Not reading the guidelines carefully

Need more help?

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 <https://youtu.be/-a3xeZdZj3o?feature=shared>

Contact Our Team

If you have general Circus or Street Performance and Spectacle queries or would like to invite the team to upcoming events – please reach out!

Team email: CSPS@artscouncil.ie

For other arts and operational team contact information please go to: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Contact-us/Staff-and-adviser-lists/>

Questions?

Thank You