

Research Grants Programme 2015-18 round two

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Definitions and scope

What is your definition of an 'arts and/or cultural organisation'?

Our understanding and definition of an arts and/or cultural organisation is an organisation that can clearly demonstrate that their primary aims are around arts and culture and that can clearly demonstrate that their activities benefit the arts and cultural sector within England. This includes but is not limited to arts organisations, museums, libraries, music education hubs and local authority service departments.

What is your definition of a 'research partner'?

Our understanding and definition of a research partner is an individual, team or organisation with a minimum of three years' experience of carrying out cultural, social, educational or economic research. Research personnel must have research qualifications, professional memberships and/or previous research publications. Research organisations must have membership of professional or industry bodies and/or a track record of research publication.

Are there particular areas or themes which applications to the Research grants programme round two must seek to address?

For round two we have identified four key areas or themes of interest: cultural impact, economic impact, impact on society and impact on the environment. More information on specific areas of interest is available in the Guidance for Applicants document.

Application process

Do I need to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) and a full application?

All organisations interested in applying to the Research grants programme round two will need to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) and submit this to the online portal by 5pm on Thursday 5 May 2016. If we think that your proposal could make a significant contribution to the aims and outcomes of the Research grants programme round two, we will inform you by email by 5pm on Friday 20 May 2016. If you are invited to make an application you will have six weeks in which to develop your full application and the mandatory supporting documents required, as detailed in the guidance document. If we decide not to invite you to apply we will also inform you by email by 5pm on Friday 20 May 2016.

I was successful in my application to Research grants programme round one – can I apply for round two?

No – successful round one applicants cannot apply to round two. This includes applicants who were successful at round one as a lead applicant, a research partner or a consortium member.

I was unsuccessful in my application to Research grants programme round one – can I apply for round two?

Yes – unsuccessful round one applicants can apply to round two providing the proposed research project fits within the particular areas and themes that are the focus of round two.

Can I speak to someone from the Arts Council Research Team about my application?

The Arts Council Research Team can help with clarification questions about the guidance and application process but they cannot offer any advice or feedback on an Expression of Interest (EOI) or a full application.

Can I speak to my Arts Council Relationship Manager about my application?



Yes – all arts and/or cultural organisation with an Arts Council Relationship Manager are advised to let their Relationship Manager know that they are applying to the Research grants programme round two.

Will you accept multiple bids from the lead applicant?

No - the lead applicant can only submit one application as a lead applicant. However an arts and/or cultural organisation can submit one bid as a lead applicant and be a consortium member on other bids. It must be clear from the applications that the applicant has the staff and capacity to work on multiple bids if they are successful.

Can a research partner be involved in multiple bids?

Yes – research partners can be involved and named on multiple bids. It must be clear from the applications that the research partner has the staff and capacity to work on multiple bids if they are successful.

Partnership

Will you accept consortium bids?

Yes - consortium bids will be accepted providing the consortium includes at least one arts and/or cultural organisation and at least one research partner. One arts and/or cultural organisation in the consortium must act as the lead organisation and submit the application. Your application must show the benefits and rationale of working as a consortium.

Are new partnerships or consortia between arts/cultural organisations and research partners permitted?

Yes – however all partners must show a firm commitment to joint working and your application must show the strength, benefits and rationale of the proposed partnership/consortia.

Would you accept bids which are led by a research organisations, if they are working in partnership with an arts and/or cultural organisation?

No - the lead applicant must be an arts and/or cultural organisation

Methodology

Which research methodologies are within the scope of the Research grants programme?

Projects can involve collection and analyses of solely primary or both primary and secondary data. Primary data collection is an allowable activity, as long as a proposed project also includes analysis of that data. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- primary and/or secondary data analyses
- psychological studies that take place in clinical or non-clinical settings
- third-party evaluations of an arts project or programmes value and impact
- statistically-driven meta-analyses of existing research so as to provide a fresh understanding of the value and/or impact of the arts and culture;
- practice-based research;
- action-based research projects
- comparative studies of the effectiveness and efficacy of an arts and cultural intervention/activity compared to or in complement with other interventions/activity.

Which research methodologies are outside the scope of the Research grants programme?

The following research methodologies are outside the scope of the Research grants programme round two:

- secondary data analysis not combined with primary data analysis

- project or programme evaluation carried out for organisational benefit only
- pure evidence reviews

Are there any types of research methodologies which you are particularly interested in?

Priority will be given to applications that present theory-driven research questions and methodologies that will yield important information about the impact of the arts and culture on individuals, communities, society and economies. The Arts Council considers there to be under-used research methodologies in exploring the impact of arts and culture and we would especially welcome applications incorporating these methods:

- Larger quantitative and/or qualitative and longitudinal studies
- Experimental or quasi-experimental studies
- Mixed method research incorporating quantitative and complementary qualitative research

Does the Research grants programme also include evaluations?

Yes – however any evaluations we fund will need to be over and above a project or programme evaluation carried out for organisational benefit only. The evaluation must have wider applicability to the sector.

Funding

Will you fund international projects?

No - the arts and/or cultural organisation and the research partner must be based in England and all projects that we fund must have results which are applicable to England. However this does not necessary preclude studies that have a comparative element.

Can arts and/or cultural activities which are part of the research project be funded?



No - activities that directly cover the costs of arts and cultural work cannot be funded under the Research grants programme. It must be clear in your application how the arts and cultural work is being funded.

Do I need to find match funding to apply to the Research grants programme?

No - minimum match funding not applicable to this fund. However we will look favourably on applications that include other sources of funding, including support in kind.

How much funding can I apply for and how long can the project last?

Applicants can apply for between £50,000 and £200,000 for projects which start no earlier than 1 October 2016 and end no later than 31 October 2018.

Will you fund Full Economic Costs (FEC) for research partners working in Higher Education?

As the lead applicant, if successful the arts and/or cultural organisation will receive the direct grant funding from the Arts Council. It is the responsibility of the lead applicant to negotiate the funding arrangements with their proposed research partner. Therefore decisions about Full Economic Costs are for the arts and/or cultural organisation rather than the Arts Council.

Would activities which disseminate the research findings, such as conferences or symposiums, be funded?

Yes – Activities that disseminate the research findings are within the scope of permissible activities.