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The Hatchling, Trigger

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

Nationally Significant projects

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our open-access funding programme for individual practitioners, arts organisations, libraries, and museum projects. We also use it to invest in 'nationally significant' projects.

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Awarding funds from
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

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What's Inside

This information sheet relates to Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants and how we use them to support 'nationally significant' projects. It can be used alongside the Project Grants 'How to Apply' guidance documents to support you to make your application.

See our [website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

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Nationally Significant Projects

We use National Lottery Project Grants to support projects that we view as having genuine national significance for the creative and cultural sector. We are looking for ambitious, high quality projects that we can see will have impact and relevance across England and are likely to leave a legacy beyond the life of the funded project. All successful applications must, over time, be able to demonstrate the benefits they will bring to audiences in England.

We expect these projects to make a strong contribution to our strategy, [Let's Create](#). We will only consider applications for projects that can demonstrate that they will deliver against at least one of our three [Outcomes](#). We will also expect successful applicants to Nationally Significant projects to be able to tell us how they will use the project to further embed some or all of our four [Investment Principles](#) in their organisation.

We define an application as Nationally Significant when it is for £100,001 or over and is:

- an activity that we view as having significant potential to develop the creative and cultural sector in England and/or a part of the creative and cultural sector in England; and/or
- an activity that we view as engaging and influencing significant numbers of people in England beyond the applicant's own geographic area

There is no upper limit but we will only support applications over £1,000,000 in exceptional circumstances as awards of this amount will significantly reduce the number of awards we can make overall.

If you apply to one of these types of projects, you must read the How to Apply guidance for applications over £30,000, in addition to this information sheet. You can find the guidance on our [website](#).

What you can apply for

Through the Nationally Significant projects strand of National Lottery Project Grants we can consider supporting projects that address the following **Areas of Focus**:

- **Creation of new work**

work that shows exceptional creative ambition and can demonstrate the potential it has to influence significantly the creative and cultural sector in England and/or internationally. We are especially interested in projects that will:

- establish long-term partnerships which will increase the creation, commissioning and distribution of new work, especially for diverse audiences (by geography and/or protected characteristics and/or socio-economic status)
- utilise new technologies to develop new forms of creative and cultural content and ways of reaching audiences

- **Sector development activity**

projects that are designed to improve the capability of those working in the arts and/or museums and/or libraries across England. This could include large-scale development programmes such as:

- provision of mentoring
- training and skills development
- increased networking and partnership building
- building new research and technology partnerships that support innovation in practice
- developing partnerships with organisations outside the cultural sector in order to increase the impact of culture on a national level

These projects must have the potential to deliver demonstrable outcomes across the cultural sector in England, including through a replicable approach to transformational change.

- **Innovation projects:**
 - exploring new ways of working with new technologies at a scale that is likely to have national and/or international impact
 - establishing new partnerships in practice and research that have the potential to be replicable across the country
 - supporting or testing new national or international touring models, including ways of removing barriers to access
 - testing new ways of reaching new and diverse audiences including through experimental practice in digital engagement. These must have the potential to be nationally replicable
- **National moments**
 - creative and cultural projects of scale that will reach a national audience through the celebration and promotion of national moments, stories and anniversaries
- **International collaborations**
 - co-commissioning of work of scale or ambition with international partners, especially where Arts Council investment will secure international co-investment
 - significant international collection loans into England
 - network and partnership development that builds international production infrastructure for the benefit of the wider cultural sector
- **International market development opportunities**
 - long-term initiatives that are designed to showcase to international promoters, partners and investors the work of cultural and creative practitioners based in England. These international showcasing initiatives must be able to demonstrate that they will reach a significant number of international partners and provide long term creative and financial benefits to cultural organisations and creative practitioners in England

Expression of Interest (EOI)

You need to ask our permission to apply for £100,001 or over for a Nationally Significant Project by making an Expression of Interest. This is because we want to make sure that your project clearly aligns with our aims for Nationally Significant projects (as set out above) before inviting you to develop a full application. Your EOI will also give us an opportunity to consider whether we have the budget available for your full application.

The Expression of Interest process can take up to eight weeks and is additional to the twelve weeks we need to make a decision on a full application. When planning your project, make sure that you leave enough time for us to complete this process.

See the [timeline section](#) of this information sheet for more information

Restrictions on applying for a Nationally Significant project

There are restrictions on applicants applying to **Nationally Significant Projects, Touring** and **Place Partnerships** strands of National Lottery Project Grants.

The restrictions below will apply from 1 April 2023-31 March 2026.

We don't count any Expressions of Interest (EOI) or full applications you made before 1 April 2023.

NPOs/IPSOs/Transfer organisations/National museums:

- Can apply to **Nationally Significant Projects, Touring** and **Place Partnerships**
- Can make a maximum of 2 full applications (successful or unsuccessful) within the period 1 April 2023-31 March 2026, across any combination of these strands
- Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to any strand can only be resubmitted once, revised after feedback, before a full application is made
- If unsuccessful at full application you can't resubmit an EOI for the same project

- We decide which period (22-23 or 23-26) your application falls into based on when you submit your EOI

Please see our [Funded Organisations information sheet](#).

All other applicants (non-NPO organisations and individuals):

- Can apply to **all** strands of Project Grants
- There is a **restriction** on the number of times you can apply to **Nationally Significant Projects** and the **Touring strand for £100,001 and over**
- You can make a maximum of 2 full applications (successful or unsuccessful) within the period 1 April 2023-31 March 2026, across any combination of these two strands
- Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to any strand can only be resubmitted once, revised after feedback, before a full application is made
- If unsuccessful at full application you can't resubmit an EOI for the same project
- We decide which period (22-23 or 23-26) your application falls into based on when you submit your EOI

Please think carefully before submitting an EOI, and make sure that you do so at a time that makes the most sense for your project and for your wider work. Once you are invited to make a full application you will only have four weeks to submit it. We strongly advise all potential applicants to have a conversation with us before submitting an Expression of Interest.

Match Funding

Nationally Significant projects require large levels of investment from the Arts Council. We are therefore, in general, looking to support applications that are able to demonstrate that they are likely to secure significant levels of partnership and match funding (both cash and 'in kind') for the project. This match funding gives us confidence that our investment will go further and that there is genuine demand for the project. It also shows us that work has been done in advance of application on building meaningful partnerships to deliver the project.

We recognise that the impact of the pandemic has, however, made securing match funding challenging and we will take this into account when considering your Expression of Interest.

Expression of Interest questions

We decide whether to invite a full application for Nationally Significant Projects by asking potential applicants to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).

An EOI is made using our online system, Grantium. It is accessed by working through the Eligibility Questionnaire for Project Grants. You can visit our [website](#) for more guidance on how to use Grantium.

In the EOI we ask:

Amount requested

- Total project budget amount (£)
- Amount being requested from Project Grants (£)
- Where will any match funding for this project be coming from?
Tell us about any earned income, fundraising activity, other public sources of funding, other Lottery distributors, and any other sources. Tell us whether they are confirmed or expected at this stage (1000 characters)
- Have you received advice from the Arts Council? If so, who from?
- Is this a resubmission of a previously submitted Project Grants Nationally Significant Expression of Interest?
Please note, you can only resubmit a revised Expression of Interest once

Your proposal

- Which [Area\(s\) of Focus](#) as set out in the applicant guidance are you responding to? (600 characters)
- Give an outline of the proposed project including how this project will deliver against our Outcomes and how you will use the project to embed our Investment Principles. (3000 characters)
- **If you have had any previous Arts Council funding (through any programme) for activity that relates to what you are proposing here, tell us about how this project builds on your previous activity. (For example: think about how you have used the learning from your evaluation.)** (1000 characters)
- How does the project fit the remit of Project Grants Nationally Significant Projects, as set out in the applicant guidance? Include reference to the legacy of the project. (2000 characters)

Investment Principles

- How will this project help you adopt our Inclusivity and Relevance Investment Principle? (1000 characters)

When considering your EOI we will think about:

- the information you provide in your EOI and how well we think it meets the aims of Nationally Significant projects
- considerations about our budget
- your total investment to date from Arts Council England to assess organisational capacity and risk in the context of the project you are proposing
- if you are a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) or Music Education Hub (MEH) we may also take your current risk rating into account when deciding whether to invite you to make an application

Timeline for consideration of an EOI

We will usually notify you whether we want to invite a full application for your project within eight weeks of the date you submitted your Expression of Interest to us.

We will inform you using our online system, Grantium.

If this process will take us longer than eight weeks, we will contact you and let you know as soon as possible.

If we invite you to apply

If you are invited to make an application you will have four weeks in which to develop and submit your full application and the mandatory supporting documents required, as detailed in the How to Apply guidance for applications over £30,000. Your invitation to apply will tell you the deadline for submitting your full application to us.

If you are invited to make an application we will usually provide feedback as part of your letter on Grantium.

If we don't invite you to apply

If we decide not to invite you to apply we will usually provide feedback as part of your letter on Grantium.

Remember that where we have decided not to invite a full application, that EOI can only be resubmitted in a revised form once. If you submit an EOI for the same project a third time, it will be ineligible.

Making a full application

Full applications for Nationally Significant Projects are made using the Project Grants application form on our online system, Grantium. Your invitation to apply notification will provide access to your application form.

See our Grantium guidance on our [website](#) for more information.

Guidance on completing the application form is set out in the Project Grants 'How to Apply' guidance for applications over £30,000.

Please be aware that as part of your full application you will need to submit the following as attachments:

- A detailed workplan for the project, including milestones and key review dates (mandatory)
- Partnership agreements between the lead organisation and all key partners involved in the project (if relevant)
- A cashflow for the project (mandatory)
- A copy of your accounts from the last financial year that have been certified by a qualified independent accountant (or that have been prepared to the relevant legal standard for an organisation of your size and status). (Mandatory)

Appraisal

Full applications for Nationally Significant Projects are appraised against the criteria set out in the Project Grants 'How to Apply' guidance for applications over £30,000.

If you are a National Portfolio Organisation or Music Education Hub: we will also take your risk rating into account in our appraisal of your application, and will expect you to include plans to mitigate against current and potential risk in your application.

For all applicants: we will review your total investment to date from the Arts Council to assess organisational capacity and risk in the context of the application you have made.

Please be aware that we may share your application with other organisations who are helping us appraise applications.

Decision making

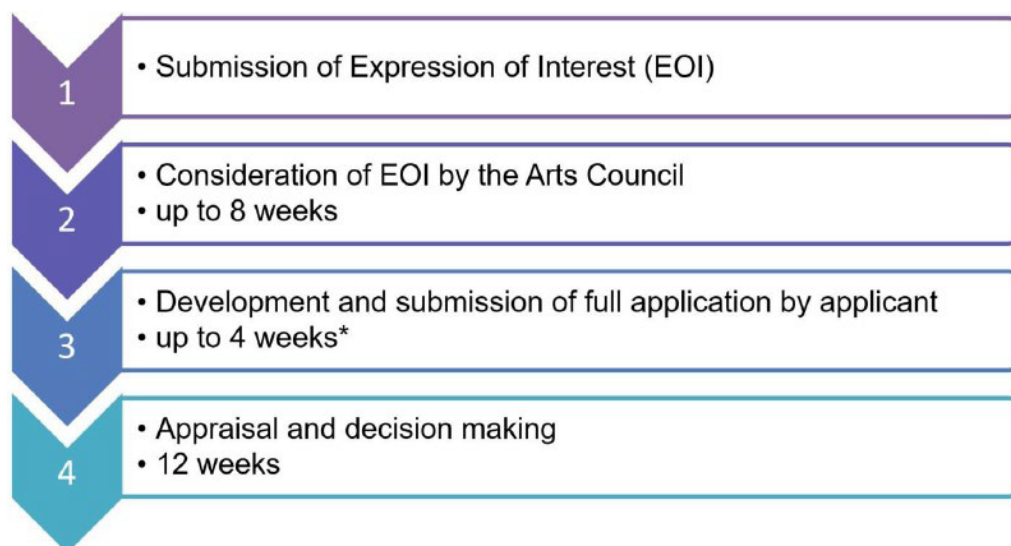
Decisions on whether to fund full applications we receive are made in the way that is set out in the Project Grants 'How to apply' guidance for applications over £30,000. Find the 'How to apply' guidance on our website [here](#).

Our National Investment Panel meets monthly to make decisions on applications for Nationally Significant Projects.

Timeline for the full application process: Nationally Significant projects

The process of making an Expression of Interest, making a full application and being notified of the outcome of your application can take up to 24 weeks (and sometimes longer in some circumstances).

When planning your project, make sure that you leave enough time for us to complete this process.



*Step 3 may be extended in exceptional circumstances with our permission.

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You can also Livechat with our customer services team by clicking the icon on our Project Grants page on our website: artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants