



Bradford Literature Festival 2016
Sufiana Kalam with Hina Nasrullah
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NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

Literature Projects

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our funding programme
For arts, museums and libraries projects.

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Awarding funds from
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

[artscouncil.org.uk](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

What's Inside

This Information Sheet provides **additional information** for your Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants application.

Make sure that you have also read the main **Guidance for Applicants**. See our [website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

In this information sheet, we will talk about the following:

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Introduction

National Lottery Project Grants is open to applications for Literature projects from individuals and organisations. There are many ways in which literature projects can reach audiences, from traditional publication to digital forms of distribution and production, to a variety of live events and activities.

What you can apply for

Project Grants can support various forms of literature, including:

- prose fiction, for example
 - novels
 - novellas
 - short fiction
 - graphic novels
- poetry
- narrative non-fiction where the quality of language, form and/or style are a key focus of the project, for example
 - memoir travelogue or biography that experiments creatively with language, form or style
- writing and illustration for children and young people

We can consider funding a range of projects. This includes but is not limited to:

- digital literature (using technology to create new forms of work)
- literature festivals and programming – in person, online or hybrid
- live literature
- magazines publishing original fiction and poetry, including newly translated work
- participatory activities, such as workshops

- publishing
- reading for pleasure, creative reading and reader development
- residencies
- storytelling
- touring
- translation into English from other languages, for example fiction and poetry being translated
- writers creating new work

What you cannot apply for

We are generally unable to fund:

- screenwriting for film or television
- lifestyle or general arts magazines
- academic publications
- non-fiction where the literary quality of the language, form and/or style are not a key focus of the project
- translations from English into other languages

Before applying

As part of our National Portfolio, we fund a network of organisations across the country to support emerging writers to develop their work. They offer a range of different types of support including:

- manuscript assessment
- writing courses
- one-to-one mentoring

It might sometimes be more appropriate to first access support from one of these organisations, to help you develop your work, rather to apply for Arts Council funding straight away. You might do this if you are at an early stage in your development as a writer, or if you are just starting to think about your writing project.

These organisations currently include:

New Writing North

newwritingnorth.com

New Writing South

newwritingsouth.com

National Centre for Writing

nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk

Writing East Midlands

writingeastmidlands.co.uk

Writing West Midlands

writingwestmidlands.org

Literature Works

literatureworks.org.uk

Spread the Word

spreadtheword.org.uk

What funding programme to apply to

We have two funding programmes that individuals can apply to: National Lottery Project Grants and Developing your Creative Practice (DYCP).

Writers creating new work are potentially eligible for both programmes. Which one is best for you depends on the focus of your project.

When a writer might choose to apply to National Lottery Project Grants

Your project will include clear opportunities for people to read, hear, interact with or experience your work as a key part of it

- For example, through work-in progress sharings or blogs

Your project involves other partners or organisations

- For example, there is interest in your writing project from an agent, publisher or a literary magazine

When a writer might choose to apply to DYCP

Your project is mainly focused on developing your own creative practice.

DYCP supports people to carry out a short, focused programme of development work that does not necessarily offer any immediate public engagement.

If you want to experiment, explore ambitious new approaches to your writing, seek mentorship and can demonstrate that you are at a pivotal stage in your career, you might find that DYCP is suited to what you want to do.

The Guidance for applicants for [Project Grants](#) and [Developing your Creative Practice](#) can help you to decide.

Key things to remember

Creating new work

- You will need to demonstrate how readers or audiences will engage with your work as part of the activity you are applying for. This might be in print, through events, or online
 - We want to know how likely your work is to reach audiences in the longer term, for example through support from a publisher
 - Your application form and any letter of support from an agent, publisher or editor should indicate how likely publication or public engagement is for the new work.
- We encourage writers to consider proactive approaches to reaching audiences, whether in the promotion of completed work (for example, readings or online), as part of its development (such as research or sharing work-in-progress), or in specific community projects (for example, workshops or residencies)
 - Public libraries and reading groups may offer opportunities to share or test work in progress.
- Refer to our Fair pay section in the Project Grants Guidance library to help you to work out your payment to yourself to cover your time, or your fee for writing or developing new work
- You can include project-specific overhead costs in your budget, for example:
 - If you are using your home or office as the main location for your project you may be able to claim a percentage of your ongoing overheads as project expenditure. See our repeat projects, ongoing overheads and salaries information sheet under Types of projects in the [Guidance Library](#).
 - costs for printing and postage.
- If you are working with any publishers, literary agents, literature development organisations, (or any other related people or organisations), list them as partners in your project

Publishing

Publishers can apply for projects that may include a publishing programme or marketing activity.

- If your project is a publishing programme then include details of proposed titles and tell us how they fit into the development of your list.
- Consider how your publishing activity will be sustained in the longer term.
- Make sure that what you apply for is a self-contained project rather than a request for core funding contributing to your ongoing business costs.
- You should include details of your distribution and marketing plans to show the wider benefit of your project to people and communities.

Translation

Publishers and translators can apply for funding to translate work from other languages into English. We are generally unable to support translations from English into other languages.

We are particularly keen to encourage translation from languages and literatures currently under-represented in English.

- In your application explain the rationale for selecting the text or texts for translation, with brief information about the writer, translator, and the literary context
- Publishers should explain how the titles contribute to their list
- It is important that you show the benefit to people and communities in this case that usually means demonstrating that the translation will reach readers
- For information on how to pay translators, see the guidance published by the **Translators' Association**, available via the following link: [Groups | The Society of Authors](#)

Literature festivals

We focus on festivals with:

- diverse programming
- a robust approach to reaching people and communities

The festival could feature:

- literary fiction
- narrative non-fiction
- poetry
- storytelling
- international work
- new writing

We also support associated programmes such as:

- outreach activities
- talent development work

If you apply for an annual festival that we have funded before, it is important that your application clearly demonstrates how the activity has been developed since your last event or project. See our repeat projects, ongoing overheads and salaries information sheet under Types of projects in the [Guidance Library](#).

Live literature and storytelling

Individuals and organisations can apply for projects which may include a tour or research and development for a show. Funding is also possible for the role of independent producer.

If you apply to Project Grants as an individual, you can demonstrate the quality of the work and its ability to reach an audience through endorsements from or partnerships with a third party, such as a live literature promoter or festival.

There is a developed infrastructure for live literature in England, which includes specialist organisations, promoters, venues, touring specialists and festivals. For research and development projects, you should provide clear plans for how the public will be engaged with the work in the longer term.

Touring

We define touring activity as the distribution of the same product, programme or event to at least two different locations.

We have a separate **Touring projects** strand in Project Grants to support Touring applications for £30,001 or more. Please see the [Touring strand projects \(regional, national and international\) information sheet](#) for additional information.

Reader development work

We welcome projects that promote accessible approaches to reading the widest range of literature for pleasure, across all genres.

These projects might include:

- reading group activity
- events
- workshops
- residencies
- innovative or digital approaches to increasing reading for pleasure

They might also help readers to enjoy and engage with a more diverse range of literature, or reach new or reluctant readers with easily accessible opportunities to enjoy the richness of creative literature.

Public libraries

Arts Council England is the national development agency for public libraries. Public Libraries can apply to Project Grants. You could also be a project partner, venue or programmer.

Involving the public library network may be of value to your project, where this is appropriate.

We strongly encourage applications from Public Libraries for work relating to any of the **Universal Library Offers**. This is one of our Time limited priorities for Project Grants. For more information see our Libraries and Universal Library Offer information sheet under the Time Limited Priority section of the [Guidance library](#).

Bookshops

As a bookshop you might apply for:

- a readings series
- a programme of events in or beyond the shop
- a residency or reaching new audiences with a book group

We can't support core costs of running a bookshop through Project Grants.

Bookshops could also apply for projects that relate to any of the disciplines that we support through Project Grants.

We recognises that bookshops can offer strong partnership opportunities to other writing, performance, exhibition, residency, engagement or reading projects.

Contact us

Phone: 0161 934 4317
Email: enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk
Website: artscouncil.org.uk
Post: Arts Council England
The Hive, 49 Lever Street
Manchester
M1 1FN

You can also Live Chat with our customer services team by clicking the icon our Project Grants page on our website.