



Cirque Bijou - Collaboret
in the Big Top
Photo © Andre Pattenden

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

Research and Development projects

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

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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:

Research and Development (R&D) projects	3
What you can apply for	3
R&D projects outside England	4
Key things to remember	4
Contact us	5

Research and Development (R&D) projects

R&D projects are typically where a person or group develop a new idea or explore a new way of working. We are keen to support projects that allow creative and cultural practitioners and organisations to develop their work. An R&D project can have a significant effect on an individual's or organisation's work.

How long an R&D project takes, how it is structured and what it focuses on will depend on the nature of your work. R&D projects can often involve other practitioners, particularly when exploring new ideas or looking at shifting to a new model.

R&D projects might be self-contained or might form part of a wider programme of work. For example, a project might start with a period of R&D that will guide the development of a script, which will then become a play.

What you can apply for

These are some examples of the types of R&D projects we can support through Project Grants:

- Developing and testing new ideas and work.
- Taking up creative residency opportunities, in England and internationally, that will have a longer-term effect on your future practice in England.
- Getting access to mentoring and shadowing opportunities, including peer networks and critique groups, to trial new ideas and develop a market or commissioning opportunities.
- Having access to production space or workspace to develop new ideas and work.
- Taking up opportunities to 'go see' to guide your own practice, where that would have a longer-term effect on your work in the future.
- Developing new partnerships and networks.

- Training and continuing professional development opportunities for creative or cultural practitioners.

R&D projects outside England

Project Grants can fund R&D activities that happen outside England, but the project needs to demonstrate longer-term benefit to individuals and communities within England. You can show these benefits in different ways, depending on the nature of your project.

For more information see our International activity information sheet under Types of projects in the [Guidance Library](#).

Key things to remember

- As R&D projects are usually exploratory, you should have a clear sense of what you want to explore and why.
- Clearly explain how the project will develop your work (directly or in general).
- Tell us how communities might get involved with the outcome of your project, both during its lifetime or in the future, even if there are no immediate opportunities to involve people as part of the project itself.
- Involve relevant partners to support the project.
- Show how learning from the project will be shared with others.

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