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The Hatchling, Trigger

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

Major Projects strand

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®

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:

Introduction	3
Major projects.....	3
Definition and eligibility.....	3
Building a sector that is innovative, collaborative, and international.....	4
Major Projects and Touring.....	5
Match funding.....	5
Restrictions on applying for a Major Project	6
Expression of Interest (EOI)	7
Expression of Interest questions	9
If we invite you to apply.....	11
If we don't invite you to apply.....	12
Contact us	12

Introduction

This information sheet tells you everything you need to know about Major Projects, Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants strand for applications of £100,001 and over that deliver against our Outcome, A Creative and Cultural Country. It provides a definition of Major Projects, explains what you can and can't apply for, and gives an overview of the application process and timeline. You should read it alongside the [Project Grants 'Guidance for applicants, £100,001 and over' document](#) to support you in making your application.

Major projects

This strand of National Lottery Project Grants is designed to support cultural projects of scale and ambition that will help us to deliver our third Outcome, **A Creative and Cultural Country**. Through this strand of Project Grants, we are therefore seeking to back projects that push the boundaries of creative and cultural practice: projects that are bold, exciting, and distinctive; that take risks; that seek to try new things, or to exhilarate audiences in fresh ways.

Definition and eligibility

A Major Project is defined as an **ambitious, high-quality project** that is likely to leave a **legacy** beyond its funded life.

The funding request to Arts Council England for a Major Project will be **£100,001 or more**.

To be eligible for funding through this strand, projects **must** be grounded in at least one [Element of the Creative and Cultural Country Outcome](#) of our strategy. Projects that can't deliver against at least one Element will not be considered. The Elements are:

Element M: Supporting new types of creative practice, new forms of cultural content, and new ways of reaching new and existing audiences and participants

Element N: Collaborating with other cultural organisations, and/or with the commercial creative industries, and/or with further and higher education institutions, especially with a view to supporting innovation, research and development, new skills, and the use of new technologies

Element O: Strengthening the international connections of cultural organisations and creative and cultural practitioners, including co-production and touring

Element P: Bringing world-class culture to audiences in England (i.e. international work)

Element Q: Giving more opportunities to people (especially those who are currently underrepresented) to start a professional career in the creative industries

Element R: Ensuring people (especially those who are currently underrepresented) have opportunities to sustain their careers and fulfil their potential in the creative industries.

Additionally, we require applicants to demonstrate how they'll use all four of our [Investment Principles](#) in the way they deliver their project.

Building a sector that is innovative, collaborative, and international

The purpose of A Creative and Cultural Country is to ensure that the cultural sector in England is innovative, collaborative, and international. We therefore particularly want to support applications to the Major Projects strand that we believe deliver at least one of the following:

- **Innovative approaches.** This refers to innovations in creative or cultural practice. Examples might include work that is novel or original in its form; or work that is produced or presented in a novel or original way; or the use of new technologies in the creation and distribution of content. In all cases, innovations supported via Major Projects should offer the potential for learning to other practitioners or organisations.

- **Noteworthy collaborations**, especially those that see cultural organisations partnering with organisations or institutions beyond the cultural sector, and particularly where this is intended to lead to long-term partnerships.
- **Advancing this country's cultural reputation on the world stage.** This might involve the presentation of work by major international artists; the exhibition of work from significant international collections; or long-term collaborations between English-based organisations and their international peers.

Major Projects and Touring

We can support projects that include an element of touring activity through Major Projects, but touring **cannot** be the primary focus of a Major Project. If your project focuses on touring – defined as distribution of the **same creative or cultural work, programme or event to at least two different locations** in England, the other UK nations and/or internationally – it may be better suited to our Touring Projects strand. Please see the [Touring Projects strand \(Regional, National and International\) information sheet](#) for more detail.

Match funding

Major Projects require high levels of investment from Arts Council England. In general, therefore, we look to support applications that can demonstrate significant levels of partnership and match funding (including 'cash' and 'in-kind') for the project. This match funding gives us confidence that our investment will go further. It also offers applicants a way to show that there is genuine demand for the project from partners, and that work has been done in advance of applying to the Arts Council on building meaningful partnerships to deliver the project.

We recognise, however, that the current economic climate makes securing match funding challenging. Finding income can be more difficult for some applicants due to their personal circumstances or due to the type of project they're applying for. We will take this into account when considering your Expression of Interest.

Restrictions on applying for a Major Project

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

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

They do not apply to full applications you made before 1 April 2023.

NPOs/IPSOs/Transfer organisations/National museums:

- Can apply to **Major Projects, Touring Projects** and **Place Partnerships**
- Can make a maximum of two full applications (funded or not funded) within the period 1 April 2023-31 March 2026, across any combination of these strands (this includes applications to Nationally Significant Projects, which is what Major Projects were before November 2023).
- For Major Projects and Place Partnerships, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) can only be resubmitted once before any full application is made
- For Major Projects and Place Partnerships, if your full application is not funded you can't submit another 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 under the Funded Organisation section of the [Guidance library](#).

All other applicants (this includes 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 **Major Projects** and **Touring Projects for £100,001 and over**
- You can make a maximum of 2 full applications (funded or not funded) within the period 1 April 2023-31 March 2026, across any combination of these two strands (this includes applications to Nationally Significant Projects, which is what Major Projects were before November 2023)

- For Major Projects, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) can only be resubmitted once before any full application is made
- For Major Projects, if your full application is not funded you can't submit another EOI for the same project.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

To apply for a Major Project for £100,001 or over, you first need to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). This is because:

- We want to make sure that your project clearly aligns with our aims for Major Projects (as set out above) before potentially inviting you to develop a full application.
- We want to ensure that we have the opportunity to consider whether we have budget available for your full application.

We **strongly advise** all potential applicants to have a conversation with us before submitting an EOI.

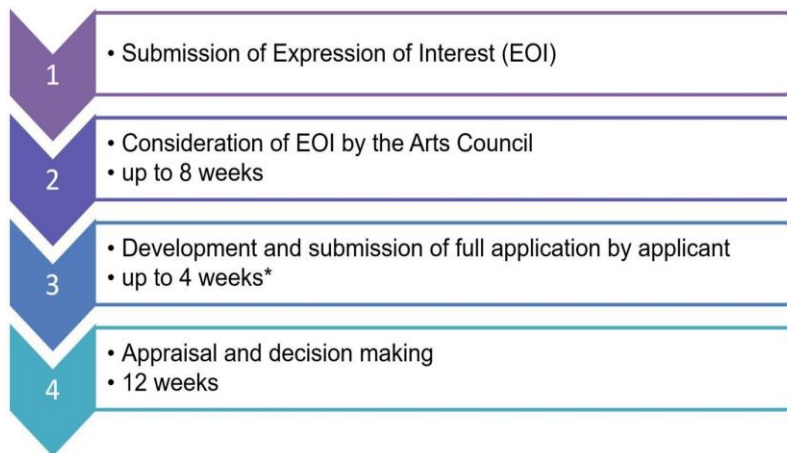
From receiving your Expression of Interest, it usually takes no longer than eight weeks for us to respond. If it will take us longer than eight weeks, we will contact you and let you know as soon as possible.

If you are invited to make a full application, you will have four weeks to submit it.

It then takes up to 12 weeks for us to make a decision on a full application.

The whole process can therefore take **up to 24 weeks in total**. When planning your project, make sure that you leave enough time for us to complete this process.

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.



Applicants to Major Projects should also note that we may need to request additional information to allow us to consider Subsidy Control implications. Reviewing this additional information can mean that the process of making a decision can take us longer than the usual 12 weeks. You can help us by responding promptly to requests we make for any additional information.

You can find out more about Subsidy Control [here](#).

Expression of Interest questions

An EOI is made using our online application 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 amount (£)**
- **Amount requested from Project Grants (£)**
- **Where will any match funding for this project come from?**
 - Tell us about any earned income, fundraising activity, other public funding, funding from other Lottery distributors, or any other sources
 - Are these sources of match funding expected or confirmed at this stage?
 - If you've struggled to find match funding you can tell us about it here.

(1000 characters)

Essential information

- **Have you received advice from the Arts Council? Y/N**
If so, from whom?
- **Is this a resubmission of a previously submitted Major Project Expression of Interest? Y/N**
Please note, you can only resubmit a revised Expression of Interest **once**

Your proposal: Outcome

- **Which is the primary [Element](#), as set out in the applicant guidance, that your project is grounded in? *Drop down list of 03 elements***
This is about the **primary** Element your project will be contributing to. If invited to make a full application you'll be able to select more than one Element.
- **We want to support projects which ensure that the cultural sector in England is innovative, collaborative and international. Which of these does your project focus on? *x3 tick box options***
Tick as many as relevant
- **Give us an outline of your proposed project**
 - What do you want to do?
 - How will you know you've achieved it?
 - How will your project deliver innovation and/or collaboration and/or internationalism?
 - How will it deliver the Element you've selected?(3000 characters)

Your proposal: Investment Principles

- Give us an overview of how you will use all our [Investment Principles](#) to shape and deliver your proposed project. (2000 characters)

Our Investment Principles are:
 - Inclusivity and Relevance
 - Environmental Responsibility
 - Ambition and Quality
 - Dynamism
- **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've used the learning from your previous project (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 Major Projects
- how much budget we have
- the total funding you've had from Arts Council England, thinking about organisational capacity and risk in the context of the project you are proposing
- if you are a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), IPSO, CPP or Music Hub (MH) we may also take your current risk rating into account when deciding whether to invite you to make a full application.

If we invite you to apply

You will receive your invitation to apply via Grantium. We may provide feedback as part of this, which may identify issues that we expect you to address in your full application. You will have **four weeks** to develop and submit your full application, including the mandatory attachments. Your invitation to apply will tell you the deadline for submitting your full application and will provide access to your application form.

If invited to apply, please read the [Guidance for applicants: £100,001 and over](#) before submitting your application to make sure you're providing everything that we need. The Guidance for applicants also explains how we make decisions on applications.

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).

If invited to apply, please read the [Guidance for applicants: £100,001 and over](#) before submitting your application to make sure you're providing everything that we need. The Guidance for applicants also explains how we make decisions on applications.

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.

Contact us

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