National Lottery Project Grants: June 2020 – April 2021

Easy read version

National Lottery Project Grants will be different between July 2020 and April 2021

This easy read guide can help you think about your project and our application form

July 2020
National Lottery Project Grants

National Lottery Project Grants reopens on Wednesday 22 July 2020. It was briefly closed due to coronavirus.

It will mostly be the same when it reopens as it was when it closed in March 2020.

However, we know that things are different now because of coronavirus.

To help, we’re making some small changes to the programme.

Some of these changes we expect to last until April 2021. Some changes are permanent.

We know things are likely to change in this time. So, we’ll try our best to be helpful and respond to changes during this time, if we need to.
Short term changes

We expect these changes to be in place until April 2021:

You won’t need to find 10% of the cost of your project from other sources. This means you can still apply even if you have little or no match funding.

We’ll be giving priority to applications from individuals and independent organisations.

We’ll be using five Equality Objectives to balance our decision making. Find out more about our Equality Objectives on our website.
Long term changes

These changes are permanent:

Libraries can now apply for projects that deliver against any of the four Universal Library Offers

There are also some small changes to what type of museums can apply for museum and collections activity

If you do not work for a Museum or Library, these changes will not affect you.

To find out more, see the Libraries or Museums information sheets.
How your project might be different

The application form and the criteria will stay the same. However, your work and the answers you give us might feel a bit different.

We understand things are different. So, we’ll be sensitive to the challenges everyone is facing when we read your answers to the four criteria in the form.

The four criteria are:

- Quality
- Public Engagement
- Finance
- Management

There is a part of the form for each criterion.

**Quality** is the first part of the form. Here, you’ll tell us about your past work, what your project involves and what you’ll learn or get out of it.
There are no temporary changes to Quality, but the type of work you do, or how you do it, might have changed. Tell us about it here.

**Public engagement** is all about reaching people, like audiences, communities or other groups.

Your project might involve fewer people for live activities than usual. Or, it might focus more on reaching people digitally.

Your project might not be about reaching people straight away, and this is ok.

It might be about time to think and plan, research or organisational development. If so, tell us how people will benefit in the future.
**Finance** is about where you’ll get the money for your project, and how you’ll spend it.

We know that the current situation makes finding money from other sources very hard.

If you don’t have match funding, or you have less than 10%, you will still be able to apply.

If you do have some match funding, include it in your budget.

This might be **cash** or **support in kind**, which is things like free services or discounted rates.

We can only pay for costs that will happen during your project. We cannot fund costs that have already occurred or past losses due to coronavirus.
Management is all about your partners, when and where your project will happen, and planning.

If your project involves working with people or performing live, you’ll need to have a plan in place to make sure you can deliver your project.

You’ll need to tell us how you can do this as safely as possible. For example, will you need to think about social distancing and hygiene?

If you’re working with venues, ask them what measures they have taken and whether they’ll be fully open. Think about how this might affect your work.

Remember, these measures might mean smaller audiences or fewer ticket sales than usual. Make sure you think about how this might affect Public Engagement and Finance.
How to approach challenges

Things are changing all the time. Think about what you’ll do if your situation changes. This is a contingency plan.

You can include a contingency amount in your budget to cover unforeseen costs.

These challenges will likely affect everyone that applies. When we make our decisions, we’ll take them into account.

So be as clear and as honest as you can in your answers. This will help us to understand your project and how you’ll cope if things change.
Help is at hand

Our friendly **Customer Services** team can help you with the form or talk about other ways we can help you.

Our offices and phones are closed, but you can still talk to us online:

✉️ [enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk)

🌐 [https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/contact-us](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/contact-us)

More help on answering the questions is in our **How to apply** guidance.

You might also find some of our **information sheets** helpful.

💻 Take the online **quiz** to find out if you’re ready to apply!

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