

Guidelines

International Opportunities Fund

purpose of the fund

The purpose of the International Opportunities Fund is to encourage Wales' professional arts practitioners and arts organisations to develop their practice internationally and raise the profile of the arts from Wales abroad.

The fund supports overseas visits aimed at the development of international work (both in Wales and abroad) and the presentation and delivery of artistic activity outside the UK. Grant support is available primarily towards travel and accommodation costs, although costs relating to the delivery of project activity will also be considered.

The scheme is competitive, and the maximum level of support is £3,000. Wales Arts International will consider the level of financial support requested and will make a decision based on the priorities and criteria outlined below, together with the level of funding available.

eligibility

The fund is open to Wales' professional artists and arts organisations.

fund priorities

- Artists seeking to present work at significant international venues, events and showcases (e.g. performances, exhibitions or readings) where the full costs of travel cannot be met either by the artist, company or international presenter.
- Collaborative projects with practitioners, producers, presenters or promoters in countries outside the UK.
- Projects aimed at exploring partnerships with a view to future collaborations.
- Residency projects where there is a significant opportunity to develop an artist's work and gain experiences that would not be possible in Wales or other UK regions.

We are unable to support:

- Events which have already taken place.
- Study or professional training.

- Promotional activity.
- Participation in or attendance at competitive events.
- Presentation of work by amateur/non-professional artists.
- The cost of transporting artworks for exhibition in international galleries.
- Individuals to lead or manage participatory projects with young people or adults.

Examples of eligible activities include:

- Delivery of a collaborative project with an international partner
- Research to develop new collaborative work with international partners.
- Performance at a significant international festival or venue.
- An exhibition of visual arts or applied arts at a prominent gallery outside the UK.
- International research and development for a project to be produced in Wales.
- A residency at an international centre of excellence that provides opportunities not available in the UK.

what are we looking for?

The following factors are taken into consideration when assessing applications:

The Applicant

- The professional experience and proven track record of the applicant to present work internationally and their commitment to contemporary practice in Wales.
- Professional commitment to international exchange and collaboration.
- The opportunity to significantly develop the artist's international career.
- Enthusiasm to co-operate with international practitioners and organisations and to actively engage with international networks.

The Project

- The likely delivery of high quality, contemporary work with significant potential for contributing to artform development in Wales.
- The international profile of the event or venue hosting the project
- The legacy and sustainability of the project
- The financial viability of the proposal and the level of partnership funding.
- Alignment with Wales Arts International's broader strategic priorities. Please visit <http://www.wai.org.uk/aboutwai> for our Creating 2013 strategy.

submitting an application

Deadlines for receiving applications to the International Opportunities Fund are the last Friday of each month (please note that there are no deadlines in August or December 2011).

Please ensure that you meet the following criteria: -

- There are at least two clear months between the application deadline date and the start date of your project.
- Your project is a good fit with at least one of the scheme priorities detailed above.
- Eligible costs have not yet been committed and there are no retrospective costs in the budget.
- There is significant partner support (either financial or in-kind) towards the project costs.
- There is confirmation included in the application of significant partner support (either financial or in-kind) for the project.
- You must have a letter of invitation from your international partner, detailing the nature of the partnership and showing evidence of support. Awards will be limited to one per twelve month period, measured from the activity start date. However, exceptions may be made for additional awards where the proposed activity clearly offers significant opportunities for the sector in Wales.

Please contact Wales Arts International to discuss your project.

contact details

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Once you're ready to apply, we will provide you with a form with an individual application number. Please note that we are unable to release a form within one week of your deadline date.

what happens next?

Once you have submitted your application, an officer will complete a preliminary assessment. The application submitted must be complete with all necessary information included.

The grant decision-making meeting usually takes place within four weeks of the deadline date, and we aim to notify applicants of the outcome of their application within six weeks of the deadline.

If your proposal is successful, you will need to return your Project Completion Report within 30 days of the end date of your project. This should include images or other materials where relevant and evidence of the actual expenditure you incurred on the project. Where appropriate, reports may be posted on Wales Arts International's website as examples of good practice. With your prior agreement, the report may also be shared with others planning to work in a similar or related area.

other sources of funding

You can find information on many other sources of funding on our website at www.wai.org.uk but some key schemes are listed below.

PRSF British Music Abroad Scheme

Emerging music acts that have been selected to perform in key international showcase events can apply for travel funding from the Performing Rights Society Foundation's British Music Abroad scheme.

www.prsformusicfoundation.com/funding/britishmusicabroad.htm

British Council International Short Film Festival Submission Scheme

The British Council works to promote short films from the UK at over fifty key international film festivals and can also contribute towards artist travel costs. Please visit www.britishcouncil.org/arts-film-short-films-scheme.htm for more information.