

International Residency Initiatives Scheme

2025

Guidelines for Applicants

**Deadline: 5.30pm (Ireland time), Thursday 3 April 2025**

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| **Applicants with disabilities**The Arts Council makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities to engage with our services. If you have a disability and need help with submitting your application, please contact us as early as possible before the deadline.Contact: Disability Access OfficerPhone: 01 618 0200 or 01 618 0243Email: **access@artscouncil.ie** |

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# Getting help with your application

If you have questions about using the Online Services website, visit the FAQ section on our website: [www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/](http://www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/)

If you have a technical question about the online application process and your question is not answered in the FAQ section, you can email onlineservices@artscouncil.ie or call the Arts Council on

* **01 618 0200**
* **01 618 0243**

If you have a query about your application that is not technical in nature, you should email or phone the arts team to which you are applying for funding **at least forty-eight hours** before the advertised deadline. <http://www.artscouncil.ie/Contact-us/Staff-and-adviser-lists/>

To watch our YouTube guide on making an application, go to

<https://youtube/artscouncildemos>

# Key points to remember

In order to make an application, you **must** be registered for an Arts Council Online Services (OLS) account. If you do not have one, you can sign up for one [here](https://onlineservices.artscouncil.ie/Register.aspx). Please note that it can take up to **five working days** for a new user to be registered on OLS, so give yourself plenty of time to do this ahead of the deadline.

We strongly advise that you read this document carefully before beginning the process of making your application.

We also strongly advise that you start the process early, and give yourself **plenty of time** to make your application.

We recommend that you aim to upload your application **at least forty-eight hours** before the advertised deadline. That way, if you encounter a technical problem, you will have time to contact us so that we can assist you in resolving it.

Please note that, on account of the large volume of applicants using the online system on the last day of the deadline, we cannot guarantee that we can resolve any technical issues you may have if you contact us **after 2.00pm on the day of the deadline**.

Please read the following checklist carefully:

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| [ ]  | I have read and understand these guidelines. |
| [ ]  | In the event that I have had an issue, I have contacted the Arts Council for assistance well in advance of the deadline. |
| [ ]  | I have filled in all of the sections of the application form relevant to my application. |
| [ ]  | I have prepared all required supporting material as set out in these guidelines, and have this ready to upload.  |
| [ ]  | I have asked someone else to check over my application to make sure there are no errors and that nothing is missing. |

# 1. About the International Residency Initiatives Scheme

* 1. **Purpose and priorities of the scheme**

The purpose of the scheme is to support arts organisations in the delivery of residency initiatives and to create opportunities for transnational exchange and cooperation across all artforms. The scheme aims to facilitate diverse residencies programmes that involve partnerships with organisations based abroad, thus creating a supportive framework for the international mobility and professional development of artists and arts practitioners.

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate:

The clarity of the proposed residency programme in terms of: artistic aims, feasibility and cooperation frameworks

The high quality of supports and opportunities offered to artists and/or arts practitioners

A high level of reciprocal engagement and a balanced level of investments between partners

The coherence between the proposed artistic activities and the resources available to the residency.

The residency initiatives do not require the delivery of public-facing artistic activities; however, in line with the MGAW priorities, the inclusion of elements that engage the public will be an added benefit to the application within the competitive context of the scheme.

All awards and schemes are informed by the Arts Council’s ten-year strategy (2016–25), *Making Great Art Work*, see here: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/arts-council-strategy/>.

All awards and schemes are also informed by the Arts Council [Equality, Human Rights & Diversity Policy & Strategy](http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/EHRD%20Policy%20English%20version%20Final.pdf) and our policy on [Paying the Artist](http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/About_Us/Paying%20the%20Artist%20%28Single%20Page%20-%20EN%29.pdf).

**Additional information**

Residencies programmes must have a minimum duration of seven days

Individual residencies as part of a programme may not last longer than a
six-month period

Remote residencies are eligible under the scheme. This might involve artists establishing collaborative structures that do not require a physical presence in the location of the host organisation

Residencies programmes may include both elements of inward and outward mobility.

* 1. **Who can apply?**

The scheme is open to organisations working in all artforms and arts practices. To be eligible, an organisation must be based in the Republic of Ireland and be able to demonstrate the active involvement of at least one other partner organisation based abroad.

Organisations may submit only one application as a lead applicant in each year.

An applicant may be directly involved in residency initiatives applied for by other Irish organisations working with partners abroad. In these cases, there must not be a duplication of purpose or activity across applications – e.g. a national festival may apply for an initiative that also involves a national arts centre, and then the same arts centre may make a separate application for costs related to an entirely different initiative involving different partners abroad.

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| As part of its [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/EHRD%20Policy%20English%20version%20Final.pdf), the Arts Council is committed to offering **equality of access, opportunity and outcomes**to all potential applicants regardless of their * Age
* Civil or family status
* Disability
* Gender
* Membership of the Traveller community
* Race
* Religion
* Sexual orientation
* Socio-economic background.

In this funding scheme the Arts Council particularly welcomes applications that are representative of the diversity of Irish society, including but not limited to any of the characteristics outlined above, and/or initiatives that deliver equitable opportunities or outcomes for those involved. |

* 1. **Who is the applicant?**

The applicant is the organisation that will receive any funding offered and that will be required to accept the terms and conditions of that funding.

Any funding offered will be paid only into a bank account held in the name of the applicant organisation.

All documentation provided must be in the name of the applicant organisation – e.g. if you apply to the Arts Council for funding under the name Ballyfermot Arts Centre, then all documentation, including bank and tax details, must be in that name.

* 1. **Who cannot apply?**

Applications from the following applicants will be deemed ineligible for assessment:

Organisations not based in the Republic of Ireland

Non-art organisations

Organisations without a proven professional track record

Individual applicants

* 1. **What may you apply for?**

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| The maximum amount awarded to each successful application is:    |  **€50,000**  |

The emphasis of the scheme is on enabling arts organisations to initiate or consolidate collaborative frameworks with partners based abroad. While these frameworks must be exclusively focused on the delivery of residency initiatives that will benefit the artists and the public, the nature of each proposal can flexibly respond to the specific needs of each partnership, artform and artistic goals.

Costs eligible under the scheme can include, although they are not limited to:

Artists’ mobility within and between countries (e.g. travel, accommodation, subsistence, etc.)

Artists’ fees

Related administrative costs

Branding and marketing of funded initiatives

Artistic research and development

Critical research and exchange

Publications and translations

Professional training

Audience engagement, such as participatory events, talks, classes, etc.

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| **Access costs for artists or participants[[1]](#footnote-1) with disabilities** We are committed to making our funding schemes and the work we fund accessible to everyone. To meet this goal, we offer financial supports to remove barriers for artists and participants with disabilities. These are known as disability access costs.We take the description of disability from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, together with Irish legislation and case law. We broadly include all people with disabilities. For example, people with physical, medical, cognitive, intellectual, learning, emotional, or sensory impairments.There are two types of disability access costs that you may need to consider for your application: personal disability access costs and audience disability access costs.The Arts Council provides separate funding for personal disability access costs in addition to your core budget. You must fund audience disability access costs from within your core budget. **1. Personal disability access costs**These supports should help you to remove barriers for artists or participants with disabilities who are delivering your proposal. For example:YouThe main artists, individuals, groups, or organisations involved in your proposal * Partners, mentors or collaborators
* Production staff
* Core staff or key administrative personnel.

Examples of supports are, but not limited to, the following:* An ISL interpreter for a participant or participants
* Services of an access support worker
* Additional rehearsal or studio time.

**Note:** You can apply for these costs in addition to the maximum amount available for the award.**2. Audience disability access costs**These are costs for making your work accessible to people with disabilities. We want to ensure that more people enjoy high-quality arts experiences and that everyone can access and enjoy the work we fund. Access for disabled audience members should be considered a normal part of your work.Examples of supports to make your work accessible to your audience may be:* Having an ISL interpreter for your event or performance
* Using an audio-description service
* Making your website compatible with screen readers
* Producing exhibition materials in other formats such as Braille or audio.

**Note:** the Arts Council does not currently provide additional funding for these costs. You must include these costs in your core application budget.**How to apply for disability access costs**If you include disability access costs in your proposal, you must upload a document listing these costs with your supporting material. An optional template is available on the [International Residency Initiatives Scheme](https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/International-Residency-Initiatives-Scheme/) funding page on the Arts Council website. You must also show the costs in two separate lines in your application form:* A line for personal disability access costs
* A line for audience disability access costs

**Note:** whether you use your own document or the Arts Council template, the two types of disability access costs must be shown separately.**What if the funding I am offered is less than I requested?**If you are offered funding that is less than you requested, we will discuss with you how you plan to deliver your proposed activity when reviewing the revised budget. We will also discuss an appropriate adjustment to your disability access costs.**How do I claim my personal disability access costs?**If your application is successful, we will give you information on how to draw down your funding. Personal disability access costs are drawn down separately from your core funding. You may be asked to complete a short report on how you used these funds. |

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| **Note on in-kind support** | If you expect to receive in-kind support, you need to put a financial value on it so that the contribution it makes to the real value of your proposal is clear. You should think of in-kind support both as expenditure and as income: whatever amount you declare on the expenditure side, you should also declare on the income side.Time contributed by directors or board members may not be included as an in-kind cost. |

* 1. **What may you not apply for?**

Costs that you may not apply for include the following:

Major capital purchases

Ongoing core costs

Costs that do not fit the purpose of the scheme.

Activities that you may not apply for include the following:

Activities that do not fit the purpose of the scheme

Touring and dissemination of artworks abroad

Activities that would be more appropriate for consideration by another funding body – e.g. other state agencies, such as Culture Ireland, third-level institutions, etc.

Activities that have already taken place or that will have commenced before a decision is made about your application

Activities by registered charities that are for fundraising for other organisations

Activities that are for participating in a competition

Activities that are for profit-making

Activities that have already been assessed by the Arts Council, unless you demonstrate that you have developed the proposal since previously applying **or** if the Council has specifically advised you to redirect your application to this award. Please bear in mind that such advice is not an indication of a successful outcome.

* 1. **What supporting material must you submit with your application?**

Supporting material means material that is **separate from** and **additional to** your application form. This helps the person assessing your application to get a clearer understanding of your proposal. Please read the following list of what supporting material is required very carefully, as failure to comply with this is the most common reason for applications being deemed ineligible.

In order to be considered eligible for assessment for funding under the International Residency Initiatives Scheme, you **must**submit the following support material online with your application form:

A detailed budget setting out proposed income and expenditure for the proposed residency programme; this must be in addition to the summary budget information provided in the application form. The detailed budget can be submitted **either** by using your own budget document **or,** if preferred, by using the IRIS budget template available to download from the Arts Council website (see link below).

A completed and signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the applicant and the main partners (you **must** use the MOU template provided in the link below).

**Note:** both the IRIS budget template and MOU template can be downloaded from here: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/International-Residency-Initiatives-Scheme/>

**Additional material required in certain circumstances**

* If you are seeking additional participant or personal disability access costs or audience disability access costs, please provide a document outlining these costs, and outlining how they have been arrived at. Please also ensure that you include this additional amount as part of your budget.
* If your proposal involves working with animals, you must provide a copy of your *Animal Welfare Protection Policies and Procedures*.

**For applications involving children and young people under the age of eighteen**

The Arts Council requires all individuals and organisations providing services (e.g. cultural, recreational, educational) to children and young people under the age of eighteen to have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place. When making an application, you **must** indicate in section 1 of the application form whether or not your proposal is relevant to this age group.

If you answer ‘Yes’ to this question in the application form and your application is successful, as a condition of funding you will be required to confirm and demonstrate that you have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place.

If successful, you will be required to complete the Arts Council’s Child Protection and Welfare Quality Assurance Self-audit at <https://childprotection.artscouncil.ie/>. Please visit [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) for more information on Children First.

You will also be required to update your details in the Profile Information tab in your Online Services account (do this by going to the ‘Update your account’ section).

**For applications involving vulnerable adults**

When making an application, you **must** indicate in section 1 of the application form whether or not your proposal involves work with or for vulnerable persons. By ticking the Yes box, you are indicating that you will work with, or present work to, this cohort as part of your proposal, and that you acknowledge that you have familiarised yourself with and adhere to the *National Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse*\* (see [here](https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/socialcare/safeguardingvulnerableadults/)).

**\*** You may be asked to provide more evidence of adherence to these policies should your application be successful.

**If you do not submit the required supporting material, your application will be deemed ineligible.**

### Format for supporting material

All supporting material for this funding programme **must be submitted online**. Hard-copy supporting material will not be accepted. Please follow these guidelines for the different kinds of supporting material.

For further information on the formats you may use for supporting material you wish to upload as part of your application, see section **2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application**.

**Note:** links to streaming platforms may be used to provide samples of work. Stand-alone supporting material such as CVs and letters of support, etc. must be uploaded as separate documents with your application.

##  Eligibility

Your application will be deemed **ineligible**, and will not go any further in the process, if any of the following is true:

1. You miss the application deadline.
2. You do not submit a completed application form through Online Services (an application form attached as a supporting document will not be accepted).
3. You fail to complete all of the sections in the application form relevant to your proposal
4. You cannot apply as set out in sections 1.2 to 1.4 above.
5. You apply for an amount of funding greater than the maximum amount allowed for within the award to which you are applying, as set out in section 1.5 above (except where you are applying for an additional amount to cover participant or personal disability access costs).
6. You apply for an activity or purpose that you cannot apply for, as set out in section 1.6 above.
7. You fail to provide all mandatory supporting materials, as set out in section 1.7 above.
8. Your application is better suited to another funding programme offered by the Arts Council or by another funding agency (in this case we will redirect you to the more appropriate funding opportunity).

**Note:** in the event that your application is ruled ineligible, it will not be assessed, and you will be able to apply again with the same proposal in future funding rounds.

#  How to make your application

* 1. **Register with the Arts Council’s Online Services**

All applications must be made through the Arts Council’s Online Services; applications made in any other way (by post, fax or email) will not be accepted.

You must have an Online Services account to make an application. If you do not already have an Online Services account, sign up by filling out the registration form here: <https://onlineservices.artscouncil.ie/register.aspx>.

Within five working days you will be emailed a unique ARN (Artist Reference Number) and password that you can use to sign in to Online Services.

**Requirements for using Online Services**

**Note:** you will need to use a computer or laptop to submit your application. Our Online Services website does not work on phones or tablets.

Your computer and web browser will need to meet the following requirements to use Online Services successfully:

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| --- | --- |
| **PC** | * Windows 7 operating system or a newer version of Windows
* OLS will work with the latest versions of all browsers – e.g. Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, Mozilla Firefox
 |
| **Mac** | * Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard or a newer version of the Mac operating system
* OLS will work with the latest versions of all browsers – e.g. Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, Mozilla Firefox
 |

**Note:** you will also need to have Microsoft Word (Desktop) or OpenOffice Writer installed to complete the application form itself. OpenOffice Writer is free software that can be downloaded here: <https://www.openoffice.org>.

**OpenOffice Users**

Please refer to our video *Using OpenOffice to download, complete and upload the application form* at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iT9XxgmgoEo](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DiT9XxgmgoEo&data=04%7C01%7Cmaeve.giles%40artscouncil.ie%7Cafa307ec655549eaf30008d900000e9a%7C795081b8031247148b9b47a38385ea5e%7C0%7C0%7C637540822510970809%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=N%2B1rk4Wdph%2Blz%2F65w8uLB3uVo66%2B%2Bj5xHydRj6aogZs%3D&reserved=0)

You **must** use OpenOffice Writer version 4.0.1 or earlier. More recent versions of OpenOffice Writer than 4.0.1 have changed how our application forms appear when they are submitted through Online Services.

**Important notes for Apple Mac users**

Note the section in the YouTube video (at 1 min. 20 secs; link provided above) that deals with the issue of downloading version 4.0.1 on Macs with the operating system Mac OS Mojave or an earlier version installed.

You cannot download OpenOffice 4.0.1 onto a Mac with the operating system Mac OS Catalina. If your Mac has this operating system or a newer version installed, you will have to download and use OpenOffice version 4.1.9 or newer.

If you cannot meet, or do not understand, any of these requirements, please contact us for advice as far as possible in advance of the deadline.

**Give yourself enough time to complete the application**

You should become familiar with the Online Services website well in advance of the deadline and in advance of preparing an application. It is likely that there will be heavy traffic on the site on the final afternoon of the closing date. You should prepare your application and submit it well in advance of the deadline.

Upload times can be much longer than download times. It may take longer than you think to upload your supporting materials.

**Getting technical support**

If you need technical support while making an online application, you can contact the Arts Council by emailing onlineservices@artscouncil.ie or by phoning 01 6180200/01 6180243. We recommend you report any technical issues with us well in advance of the deadline. Please provide a contact phone number and make sure that you are available to receive a return call from us.

We deal with queries on a first-come first-served basis.

Please note that there is often a high volume of calls as the deadline approaches and that technical-support calls received after 2.00pm on the closing date may not be resolved before the deadline.

* 1. **Fill in the application form**

If you have not already done so, download the application form for the award you wish to apply for. The application form is a Microsoft Word (Desktop)/OpenOffice Writer document that you fill in offline (on your own computer). The application form includes guidance on how to fill in each of its sections.

**Note:** the application form is formatted in such a way that the Arts Council can extract information from the form for assessment purposes. It is **very important** that you type inside the grey boxes in the form, and that you do not delete them and/or type outside them. If you do this, the form will not upload properly.

* 1. **Prepare any supporting material required for the application**

You are required to include supporting material with your application. For example, this might include a CV or samples of your current work – e.g. text, video, images or sound recordings (see section **1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?**).

You must submit all such supporting material online – if necessary, you should scan or save material in electronic format.

**Acceptable file formats**

The following table lists file formats for your supporting material.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **File type** | **File extension** |
| text files  | .rtf/.doc/.docx/.txt |
| image files  | .jpg/.gif/.tiff/.png |
| sound files  | .wav/.mp3/.m4a |
| video files  | .avi/.mov/.mp4 |
| spreadsheets  | .xls/.xlsx |
| Adobe PDF files | .pdf |

For convenience, gather together all the files you need in an accessible location on your computer.

**Submitting URL links**

**Note:** links to streaming platforms may be used to provide samples of work. Stand-alone supporting material such as CVs and letters of support etc. must be uploaded as separate documents with your application.

Instead of uploading material directly, you may provide links to material hosted on streaming platforms that do not limit access through financial subscription. To do this, copy the URL (the full address of where your material is hosted) into a Microsoft Word (Desktop)/OpenOffice Writer or PDF document and upload it as a weblink-supporting document.

While not an exclusive list, examples of acceptable sharing platforms would be YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud, Bandcamp.

Please note that we will not accept links to the following sources:

File-sharing sites – e.g. Google Drive, OneDrive

Social-media platforms – e.g. Meta, Instagram

Your personal website.

**Note:** assessors will only view materials in the URL links that you provide. It is important that you check that any links in the document work **and** that they bring the viewer to the correct source to be able to access and view your supporting material.

Please do not flag your material as ‘private’ as it will not be accessible for the assessment. Change the settings on your video to ‘unlisted’ if you do not wish the application supporting material on your YouTube channel to be publicly viewable.

**Naming files appropriately**

Give all files that you intend to upload filenames that make it clear what they contain or represent – i.e. it should be clear from the filename whether the document is a CV, a sample text, or a review of previous work.

Please submit supporting documents in separate, appropriately named files.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Good filenames for an applicant called Jack Russell** | russelljack Architecture Project application.docrusselljack performance clip.mp4russelljack Architecture Project budget template round 2.xlsrusselljack youtube link.doc |

The total combined limit for all supporting material uploaded with a single application is **40MB**.

**Note:** characters not allowed in the file names: " \* : < >? / \ .

* 1. **Make your application online**

To make your application online, you go through four main stages. Click **Save draft** at the end of each stage. You can come back to your application and revise it at any time before you finally submit it.

* + 1. **Choose a funding programme and download application form**

To start a new application, click the **Make an application** button on your home page, and follow the prompts to choose the funding programme you wish to apply for and to give your application a unique reference by which to identify it. At this stage you can also download the application form (if you have not already done so).

* + 1. **Request funding amount**

At this stage specify the expenditure and income related to your proposal, and the amount of funding you are requesting. The **Amount requested** should equalthe **Total expenditure** minus the **Total income**. The final figures you enter here should be the same as those you enter in section 3 of the application form and in your detailed budget.

* + 1. **Upload application form and supporting material**

Follow the prompts to upload your completed application form, CV or CVs, detailed budget and any other required supporting material (see section **1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?**). You do not have to upload everything at the same time. You can save your application as a draft and come back to it later.

**Note:** if you have completed your application form as a **.docx** file, and you are confident that your application form is filled in correctly (including typing inside the grey fields), but Online Services displays a message saying ‘Cannot upload form’, please try saving it as a **.doc** file and uploading it again.

* + 1. **Submit application**

When you are satisfied that you have uploaded everything you need to support your application and ticked the declaration, click **Submit**.

Once submitted, your application cannot be amended. Do not submit your application until you are completely satisfied.

You should receive two emails. The first will be issued immediately your application is received by the Arts Council. The second may arrive a few minutes later and will contain your application number, which will be used in all correspondence relating to this application. **Note**: it is important that you contact onlineservices@artscouncil.ie if you **do not** receive the second confirmation email containing the application number.

# How we assess your application

* 1. **Overview**

The Arts Council considers all applications, makes decisions and communicates these to applicants in accordance with set procedures. The aim is to ensure that the system for making awards is fair and transparent.

* 1. **The assessment process**

All applications received are processed by the Arts Council as follows:

1. Your application is checked for eligibility – all eligible applications then progress to the assessment stage.
2. Adviser(s) and/or staff make an assessment of the application.
3. Adviser(s) and/or staff recommend an application as shortlisted or not shortlisted.
4. A peer panel reviews all shortlisted applications and associated materials, then scores and makes decisions.
5. Decisions are communicated in writing to applicants.
6. Decisions are noted by Council.
	1. **Criteria for the assessment of applications**

Application forms and supporting material will be assessed and scored against the following three criteria:

1. **The quality and suitability of the proposal**
* Track record of the applicant organisation and all partners involved
* Quality of engagement with artists, arts practitioners and the public
* Coherence of activities in relation to the overall artistic aims.
1. **The extent to which the proposal meets the purpose of the award**
* Level of reciprocal engagement and balance of investments between partners
* Quality of supports offered to artists and/or arts practitioners
* Capacity to enable active engagement with new and diverse artists, communities and audiences, and/or
* Will build on new opportunities, and/or
* Likely impact in the short term, medium term and long term.
1. **The feasibility of the proposal**
* Capacity to deliver on the proposal in terms of operational planning
* Quality of reciprocal engagement between partners
* Level of available resources in relation to programmes
* Financial information provided.
	1. **Peer panels**

The purpose of peer-panel meetings is to allow for a diversity of expert views to inform the decision-making process. Peer panels normally consist of at least three external adjudicators with relevant artform and/or arts practice expertise.

Each meeting is usually led by an Arts Council member acting as non-voting chair. Arts Council advisers and staff attend as required, and those involved in the initial assessment of applications are on hand to provide information as required. Panellists have access to all shortlisted applications and associated materials prior to the day of the meeting, at which point they review, discuss and score shortlisted applications. Following this, applications are ranked by score. In light of the competitive context and the available budget, it is likely that the Arts Council will be able to fund only a proportion of the applications received.

* 1. **Scoring process**

The panel is asked to score applications according to the following system:

* **A – Must Fund** (10 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have fully met the criteria for the award and merits funding on that basis, to the amount requested where possible.
* **B – Should Fund** (8 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have met the criteria to an extent sufficient to merit funding should resources allow.
* **C – Could Fund** (5 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have met the criteria, but to a lesser extent within the competitive context than other applications.
* **D – Not a Priority** (2 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have not met the criteria to an extent sufficient to merit funding.
	1. **Declaration of interest**

In order to ensure fairness and equity in decision-making, a panel member must declare an interest where they have a close personal or professional link with the applicant or are linked in any way with the application. An ‘interest’ is either ‘pecuniary’ or ‘non-pecuniary’ (e.g. familial relationships, personal partnerships, or formal or informal business partnerships, etc.).

The interest must be declared as soon as the panellist becomes aware of it. This may be at the point when they are approached to sit on the panel (if the ‘interest’ is known at that stage) or following receipt of the list of applicants. Where an interest is declared, the panellist will not receive papers relating to that applicant and will be required to leave the room when the specific application is being reviewed. Where this situation arises, the chair will vote in lieu of the panellist.

In some instances a panellist may not realise that a conflict of interest exists until they receive and review the panel papers. In such instances the panellist must alert an Arts Council staff member or the panel chair as soon as they become aware that a conflict may exist.

In the event of two panellists declaring a conflict of interest for the same application, the chair will be part of the decision-making process for that specific application.

If the nominated panel chair has a conflict of interest they must declare it in writing in advance of the meeting as soon as they become aware of it. In this instance the head of team will chair the discussion on the conflicted application.

* 1. **Outcome of applications**

All applicants are informed in writing about the outcome of their application.

You will be informed by email if your application has not been shortlisted. If your application has been shortlisted, it will go forward for panel review.

If your application is successful, you will be sent a letter of offer detailing the amount of funding you have been awarded and the terms and conditions of the award. You will also be told how to go about drawing down your award.

The Arts Council receives a large volume of applications, and demand for funding always exceeds the available resources. If your application is not successful, you can request feedback from Arts Council staff. Eligibility and compliance with application procedures alone do not guarantee receipt of an award.

Unsuccessful applicants are not eligible to apply for another Arts Council award to undertake the same activity. If the Arts Council feels that the proposed activity would have been more suited to a different award programme, an exception may be made. In such circumstance you will be informed in writing.

* 1. **Appeals**

Applicants may appeal against a funding decision on the basis of an alleged infringement or unfair application of, or deviation from, the Arts Council’s published procedures. If you feel that the Arts Council’s procedures have not been followed, please see the appeals process at <http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/fundInfo/funding_appeals.aspx> or contact the Arts Council for a copy of the appeals-process information sheet.

1. The Arts Council defines participants as those who express themselves creatively by taking part in artistic activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)