

## International Opportunities Fund

# A National Lottery Arts Funding Programme

February 2022



## Accessibility

Arts Council of Wales makes information available in large print, braille, audio, Easy Read and British Sign Language. We'll also try to provide information in languages other than Welsh or English on request.

If you have any access needs and are thinking about making an application, we can help to make sure that you're supported during the application process. Please contact us at [grants@arts.wales](mailto:grants@arts.wales) to discuss how we can help.

Arts Council of Wales operates an equal opportunities policy.

## What to do if you're not able to accept money from the National Lottery

If you're unable for any reason to accept Lottery funding, please upload a letter with your online application explaining why this is the case. If your application is successful, we'll try and fund your project from money that we receive from other sources.

## Welcome

Welcome to the International Opportunities Fund, one of our National Lottery funding programmes.

Here you'll find all the information you need to prepare your application. Our guidance note [National Lottery Funding: what you need to know](#), if you're making an application, should be read alongside this document. This is where you'll find all the information you need on our overarching priorities, eligibility, appropriate costs and additional support available to help you submit the best application possible.

The two previously published deadlines for the year have now closed; however, we are able to add an additional deadline.

**PLEASE READ THESE GUIDELINES IN FULL – FOR THIS ADDITIONAL DEADLINE THERE ARE SPECIFIC PRIORITIES AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.**

### **Deadline:**

**Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 5:00pm GMT**

**Applications will open on Tuesday, 15 February 2022**

Please note that we will reopen the Fund for applications with revised guidelines in April 2022. **FOR ACTIVITY STARTING AFTER 31 JULY 2022 YOU WILL NEED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WHEN THE FUND REOPENS IN APRIL 2022.**

## About the International Opportunities Fund

The purpose of the fund is:

- To support the development of relationships, collaborations and networks between Wales' creative professionals and arts organisations and international partners.
- To share experiences and skills through the arts within an international context.
- To raise the profile of Wales and its connections through the arts internationally.

There remain a number of international travel restrictions and uncertainties. So, for the time being the fund will primarily support the development of international relationships, collaborations and networks using digital platforms and tools.

Physical travel can be included alongside digital activity, but you must have contingency plans in place should this not be possible.

We will support each successful applicant to review and further develop their project plan and budget breakdown following the award. We will also discuss the development of contingency plans should this be necessary.

### Fund priorities

For this additional deadline our overall priority will be investment in activity that contributes to the following outcomes, in line with our [International Strategy, Wales Arts: a bridge to the world](#):

- development and testing of new ideas and ways of working in collaboration with an international partner(s), with a view to longer term international partnerships which are mutually beneficial
- shared learning, connections and experience through mutually beneficial international exchange
- increased participation in international networks, both formal and informal

We are looking to prioritise the following activity for this additional deadline:

- Activity that contributes to the outcomes detailed above that BEGINS BEFORE 31 July 2022.

Activity can take place in person, digitally or as hybrid. There must be an international partner in place and activity must start prior to 31 July 2022. The partner can be based in any location outside of the UK.

For activity that commences after 31 July 2022, there will be an opportunity to apply to the International Opportunities Fund when it reopens in April 2022.

- Activity that contributes to the outcomes detailed above and develops connections with a partner based in Canada.

Activity can take place in person, digitally or as hybrid and will take place between April 2022 and March 2023.

Wales Arts International is supporting a Wales focus in Canada (led by Welsh Government) and a Canada focus in Wales (led by the High Commission of Canada in the UK) between April 2022 and March 2023.

- Activity that contributes to the outcomes detailed above and develops connections with a partner based in France.

Activity can take place in person, digitally or as hybrid and will take place between April 2022 and March 2023. We are particularly interested in supporting a) research and development activity and b) the development of connections with Brittany.

Wales Arts International supports the Welsh Government's memorandum of understanding with the Breton Government, and the support for cultural exchange and connections.

We are looking to support a balance between creative professionals and arts organisations.

What we can't support:

- Activity that does not include an international partner

An international partner can be:

- a collaborator in the creative process

- the organisers of a network or event, (where the activity proposed is for the Wales based applicant to attend an arts and cultural network or event)
- Activity that is solely reliant on physical travel and where a digital alternative is not possible
- Projects that are predominantly Wales focussed with an element of international artist or company participation (for these projects, please refer to [Create](#))
- Study or formal training
- Participation in or attendance at competitive events
- Activity that has already taken place
- The costs associated with quarantine and Covid testing either in the UK or in another country. These include:
  - costs related to self-isolating before and after travel (including any loss of income)
  - costs related to quarantine on arrival in your destination country
  - costs related to quarantine on return to Wales
  - costs for any fines for breaking the quarantine rules
  - costs that cannot be covered by travel and professional insurance costs caused by Covid.

## The types of projects we want to support:

We are most keen to see...	As opposed to...	This might look like...
<p>The development and testing of new ideas and ways of working in collaboration with an international partner(s), with a view to longer term and mutually beneficial international partnerships.</p> <p>International exchange which shares learning, connections and experience for mutual benefit.</p> <p>Increased participation in international networks or events, both formal and informal.</p>	<p>Projects created and led within Wales that may include the participation of an international artist or company as part of a wider Wales based activity.</p> <p>Projects that invite the world to Wales, in person or digitally, to experience arts and culture from Wales.</p> <p>Learning and professional development opportunities delivered by an international company.</p> <p>[Please refer to other Arts Council scheme guidelines]</p>	<p>Participation in projects led by artists or organisations outside the UK.</p> <p>Projects that are primarily focussed on mutually beneficial creative collaborations with international artists or companies taking place either outside the UK or digitally.</p> <p>Taking part in events or networks hosted by international partners which help to share learning and create new connections.</p>

## Who can apply?

Arts organisations and individual creative professionals based in Wales.

Applications are welcomed from informal or formal artist collectives and from arts organisations supporting a number of individual creative professionals from Wales as part of the project. We will need one Wales based partner to be the named applicant who will take financial and reporting responsibility should an award be made.

See [help notes](#) for detailed information on eligibility criteria and required bank information.

## How much is available?

The total budget available per round will be approximately £50,000.

The maximum level of support per award is £5,000.

For those participants in Wales or internationally not in receipt of a salary or a salary for work linked to this project, fees relating to their involvement can be included within the budget.

## When to apply

The deadline for this additional opportunity:

**Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 5pm GMT**

The Fund will open on Tuesday, 15 February 2022.

## What happens next?

You will receive a decision within three weeks of the deadline date.

If your application is successful, we will support you to review and further develop your project plan and budget, including the development of a contingency plan, if necessary.

We will also ask you to answer some questions about the project 30 days after the end date.

We will also ask you to send some updated information one year on from the date of the visit. Your feedback and experiences will be essential as we develop our approach to future support.

Please bear in mind that you need to allow a minimum of 6 working weeks between the deadline date and the start date for your project. We won't accept your application if your project's start date comes before this.

Applications must be complete. We won't accept further supporting information after you've submitted your application (unless we request it as part of the application process).

## What questions will I need to answer

Before preparing an application, feel free to contact the Wales Arts International team to discuss any ideas or questions, or to discuss access support costs for you or anyone directly involved in developing and delivering your project. We are here to support you through the process.

You will need to complete the application form online through the Arts Council of Wales new online portal; information can be found [here](#).

The application form is set out as follows:

### **Contacting You**

We will need information about who to contact in relation to the application. This will include:

- Your name or organisation name & contact details
- Start and end date of activity
- Amount applied for
- Language preferences
- Bank account information.

### **Project Proposal**

In this section we will ask you to tell us in detail about your activity.

Please give us a short summary of your project. We may use this information in any publicity we produce about your project [character limit 480].

Please provide information on the following points in relation to your project, focussing on how and why you are connecting with international partner(s) [the character limit on the form is 3000 but you may upload an additional document, if necessary, in order to cover all the points].

- What you will be doing and why it is important to your practice.
- What you hope to achieve or learn from working with your international partner(s) or from participating in the selected international event or network.
- Name of and a link to your international partner(s)
- Country/countries to which you are connecting
- Brief information about the international partner(s) and your relationship with them. If this is a creative project, briefly describe how all partners will benefit.
- If you will be supporting a group of Wales based individual creative practitioners, how you will select the participants and how you plan to support them.
- If you are including travel within your plans, what the rationale is for travelling and your alternative plans should travel not be possible.
- What the potential legacy might be.

## **Artform**

We will need information about the range of artform activity that will be part of your project.

## **Activity Types**

We will need information about the types of activity that will be part of your project.

## **Language**

We will ask you about the impact you think this project will have on the Welsh Language. We will ask you describe your plans using the following summary words:

Positive, Negative or Neutral

## **Location**

We will ask you to tell us where your project activity will take place.

If the activity is digital, please give the location of the Wales based participants. You can also tick 'outside the UK'.

## **Equalities**

Please give us equalities monitoring information for your project.

## **Supporting documentation**

We will need some specific documentation in support of your application:

1. A short letter or email from your international partner that notes their support for your project and their commitment to working with you.

If you are applying for support to participate in an event or network, a link to the relevant website is sufficient.

2. A link to online information about your work or a CV.
3. A budget detailing all expenditure and income (cash and in-kind support) using the budget template available to download [here](#).
4. A continuation document telling us about your project, should you need additional space, to cover the points under the section 'Project Proposal'.

### **What if I have a question or would like access support?**

Contact us

+44 29 2044 1300

info@wai.org.uk

Wales Arts International - Celfyddydau Rhyngwladol Cymru

@WAICymruWales

We will also be offering bookable surgery sessions on two dates prior to the deadline.