



INDIVIDUAL EMERGENCY RESILIENCE PROGRAMME 2 FAQs

When is the deadline?

Closes 4pm on Thursday 7 January 2021.

How do I know I am eligible?

If you work in the creative sector in any capacity, then you will be eligible for support.

But while I work in the creative sector, I am not an 'artist'. Am I eligible?

*Yes, you are eligible if you can show you have been working in the sector in any way. There is a very large number of people who work in the creative sector whose input into making the arts and creative industries possible is indispensable. You will find your contribution makes you eligible for support in this programme. Check out the list of sample roles in the Guidance Notes and you will see the very wide range of skills and jobs which are included. **Please note this list is not exhaustive. If you have a query regarding your eligibility due to your role in the creative sector, please contact us.***

Can I apply for training or mentoring or other personal or professional development costs?

Yes. Requests for development of all your skills are eligible if they can be completed by 31 March 2021.

Can I apply for support to sustain my practice and/or skills after loss of earnings due to COVID-19?

Yes. Requests for support based on the impact of COVID-19 on employment are eligible.

Can I apply for the cost of equipment or materials?

Yes. Requests for equipment such as cameras, perspex, storage, sound equipment, bookcases, filing cabinets, iPads will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Second hand equipment is not eligible for support.

How long will it take after I apply to get a response?

We will do our best to make a decision in February 2021.

What is the total budget for the scheme?

The total budget for the scheme is £3 million.

If I apply for the creation of work does it have to relate to the Covid-19 pandemic?

No.

What should the CV/Career Statement be like?

*If you have a CV, you can simply provide that. If you prefer, you can submit a Statement which will describe your working life in the creative sector, with (for example) some key dates, training received, length of service, organisations or groups you are linked with, key milestones reached, and so on. It should give a sense of what you have done in the sector. **See note below re CVs for group/collaborative proposals.***

What should the reference be like and who should it be from?

Simply, it will be a short statement verifying that you have been working in the sector in the way you describe. It can be from anyone - employer, tutor, convenor, promoter, booking agent, local arts officer, venue manager, senior colleague, medical practitioner etc - who can vouch for you in your role. If possible, it might also confirm loss of earnings. The reference should be signed unless there are extenuating circumstances which prevent this. Digital/typed signatures are acceptable.

The referee does not need to be living in Northern Ireland, however must be familiar with and can vouch for your work and they should not be closely related to you.

*If making an application for a group/collaborative proposal, one reference for the group/collaborative proposal will be sufficient, **if** the referee can vouch for the work of the group/collaborative proposal, otherwise individual references will be required.*

*However, please note that for group/collaborative proposals, **a separate CV for each member of the group must be uploaded.** Each CV must relate to the working life of the individual applicants covered by the collaborative proposal and the contents should be as per the advice given above under “**What should the CV/Career Statement be like?**”*

Can I collaborate with someone else?

*Yes. Group proposals are eligible though an individual must be the lead applicant. One application should be submitted by the lead applicant for the complete collaborative/group proposal. One reference for the group/collaborative proposal will be sufficient, **if** the referee can vouch for the work of the group/collaborative proposal, **otherwise** individual references will be required*

Can I apply if I am a student?

Yes: please note:

Undergraduates and postgraduates are eligible to apply but they must prove that the funds which they are seeking are for work/costs which are not properly the concern or are not related to their academic study.

*Undergraduates and postgraduates must **submit** evidence of this in the form of a letter on headed paper from their Head of Department.*

In the case of post-graduate students, the letter must clearly state the title of the student's Masters/PhD thesis and include a declaration by the Head of Department. This declaration must state "The proposal for which funds are being sought does not form part of any academic work undertaken in relation to the above-titled Masters/PhD nor will it be assessed as part of any academic course".

*Please note that the Arts Council may use its own judgement in determining this matter. Applicants undertaking a Masters or a PhD must **also** include a separate statement which provides information on how the proposal applied for differs from their Masters or PhD work.*

What would a description of the benefit of the award on sustainability be like?

It will describe the benefit the award will bring to your practice. This may be as simple as helping you 'buy time' from non-arts related work; or helping you maintain a presence in the creative sector you wish to work in; or enabling you to develop new ideas, on your own or with others. It might also assist you in maintaining a focus on your work practice threatened by loss of opportunities due to COVID-19.

Can I apply to this scheme if I am currently in receipt of an individual's award from the Arts Council, eg AEP, IERP 1 or Support for the Individual Artists Programme ?

Yes, but not for the same application description or for the same costs. New or unsuccessful applicants will be a priority; if previously funded from the schemes detailed above; your application will be held in reserve and funded if it scores sufficiently and if the budget permits.

Please note we expect this to be a heavily subscribed programme so even if you are eligible we may not be able to fund you or fund your full request if others score better against the published criteria.

Is there an end date for the duration of the award?

The award completion date is 31 March 2021.

Can I apply to sustain my practice in a way that best meets my needs?

Yes. The first objective of the programme is to sustain artists and creative sector workers in their practice. This can take many forms.

Do I have to 'make work' as a condition of an award?

No. You can tell us why you need an award and what you wish to do during the period of the award. There is no requirement to do anything over and above what may sustain your practice as an artist or creative sector worker.

What type of evidence do I need on the impact of COVID-19?

A note from an employer, emails or correspondence detailing cancelled work, contracts which couldn't be fulfilled, a medical statement ...

Does Universal Credit count as support/funding?

We would ask that you provide us with information relating to Universal Credit if you have received this as a consequence of Covid-19.

Please be aware that if you are in receipt of means tested benefits and your application is successful, you are responsible for disclosing the award. You should seek advice from the government department or agency which handle your benefit before making an application as in certain circumstances, it may have implications for future benefit entitlement should there be a break in claim.

How can I apply?

Applications to the Individuals Emergency Resilience Programme will only be accepted online.

The online application system has been tested and is sending out relevant notifications. We are, however, aware that some applicants to online grants programmes may experience issues such as the account holder not receiving links to reset passwords, not receiving notifications of when applications are edited and saved, nor when applications have been submitted. These issues relate to those account holders with email addresses from the following email providers – btinternet, yahoo and virgin – and customised email addresses.

The potential issues lie with those email providers and are beyond the control of Arts Council; if encountered they need to be addressed by the relevant email provider.

Should you be affected by a problem which cannot be resolved with an email provider, we would strongly recommend that accounts are set up using Gmail or Outlook email addresses. Where applicants may have previous accounts with other email addresses, we will be able to transfer historical information to new accounts if required.

Arts Council will update these regularly throughout the duration of the submission period.