



wales arts international  
celfyddydau rhyngwladol cymru

# International Opportunity Fund Guidelines

October 2019

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Noddir gan  
Llywodraeth Cymru  
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Arts Council of Wales operates an equal opportunities policy.

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## Purpose of the fund

The purpose of the **International Opportunities Fund** is:

- to help develop and enrich artistic practice and international ambition
- to raise the profile of Wales' arts internationally
- to strengthen international artistic connections back to Wales

The fund supports overseas visits aimed at the development of international work (both in Wales and overseas) 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 £5,000. 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 based professional artists and arts organisations.

See help notes for detailed information on eligibility criteria and required bank information.

## Fund priorities

We will prioritise our investment in activity that contributes to the following outcomes, in line with our International Strategy, [Wales Arts: A Bridge to the World](#):

- development of international artistic partnerships, exchanges and collaborations
- increased participation in international networks
- engagement with international sector professionals leading to increased profile and new international opportunities
- knowledge and connections that can be shared in Wales
- opportunities to create and present new work

### 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 art form development in Wales.
- The international profile of the event or venue hosting the project
- The project is sustainable without repeat funding from the International Opportunities Fund.
- The project demonstrates both artistic collaboration and partnership
- The long term outcomes of the project both for the artist and for the sector in Wales have been considered
- The financial viability of the proposal and level of partnership funding, including funding support from international sources.
- Demonstration of strong commitment from international partner(s)
- Alignment with the objectives of the [Arts Council of Wales Corporate Plan 2018-23](#) in promoting equalities and strengthening the capability and resilience of the sector.

## We are unable to support:

- Events which have already taken place or will be taking place during the assessment process.
- Study or professional training.
- Purely promotional activity.
- Participation in or attendance at competitive events.
- Presentation of work by amateur/non-professional artists.
- Individuals to lead or manage participatory projects with young people or vulnerable adults.

- 100% of the project or visit costs
- Artists invited to play at international showcasing festivals or conferences which are eligible for funding through PRS Foundation's [International Showcase Fund](#) in partnership with Wales Arts International.

## The application process

Before starting an online application, you must contact the Wales Arts International team to check that you and your project are eligible.

If you have any access needs and are considering submitting an application, we can help to make sure that you're supported during the application process. You can also apply for access support costs for you, or anyone directly involved in developing and delivering your project. Please get in touch with the Wales Arts International team to discuss how we can help.

Before you submit your application you must check that you meet the following criteria: -

- 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, including from international sources.
- You must have a letter of invitation from your international partner, detailing the nature of the partnership, and confirming the value of the financial support. If the support is in-kind, the partner must detail its estimated cash value.
- There is at least 5 weeks between when you submit your application and the project start date.
- If you are a first time applicant to the fund, you should also submit a letter of support from an established creative professional based in Wales.

The International Opportunities Fund is a rolling programme and there are no deadlines. You will receive a decision within four working weeks of submission of a completed application.

Grant decision meetings are chaired by one of our Portfolio Managers or Senior International Officers. Panels consist of Development Officers and Senior International Officers, and can also include Arts Associates who are from all parts of Wales and have a wide range of expertise.

## Useful links and guidance for international projects

### Artist Fees

Your project should include fees to cover your time, and that of the members of your project team. The table below details some Unions and support organisations which can offer guidance, and also notes the current absolute minimum gross rates (as of August 2019) in the UK.

Who/Link	For	Minimum rate
<a href="#">a-n</a>	The Artists Information Company for visual artists	£168 daily
<a href="#">BECTU</a>	The Broadcasting, Entertainment, Communications and Theatre Union for technical staff	national living wage of £8.21 hourly (this is higher than the minimum BECTU agreed hourly rate)
<a href="#">Equity</a>	For actors, singers and dancers	£483 weekly
<a href="#">itc</a>	Independent Theatre Council for theatre practitioners	£483 weekly
<a href="#">Musicians' Union</a>	Musicians' Union for musicians	£556.23 weekly
<a href="#">UK Theatre</a>	For theatre staff and musicians	£450 weekly

### Fair International Collaboration

We fully support fair international collaboration, and applicants should consider, with their international partner, how their project addresses issues such as economic disparity; political contexts; historical links and traditions. More useful information on fair international collaboration projects can be found in this [toolkit](#) produced by IETM, the International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts

### Sustainability

Applicants should consider the environmental impact of their project. Resources to help with this include:

[www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx)

Resources on [Julie's Bicycle](#) website

### Travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Applications should consider the safety of those travelling internationally as part of the project. Guidance issued by the UK Government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office can be found [here](#).

## Contact us



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