

Arts Council of Wales

COVID-19: Support for Individuals

Urgent Response Fund

Additional Clarifications

April 2020

Can recent graduates (i.e. 2019 graduates) apply as long as they are demonstrating a track record over the last 6 months since graduating?

We won't fund anyone who has been working for less than a year and who has not had at least one piece of work professionally produced, presented, published or exhibited. This is because we expect to see evidence of a professional practice as the foundation for the activity you want us to support. For the urgent response fund, we will accept applications from 2019 graduates where the applications are supported by evidence of sustained professional work in the not for profit arts sector in Wales since graduating.

Guidelines say PHD students are ineligible - does this only mean people in paid PHD positions?

This was said with a view to prioritising funding. It applies to people who are researching paid PhDs.

Education professionals are ineligible, does this apply to artists who sometimes guest deliver within education settings in a freelance capacity?

This clause would not apply to guest deliverers.

By immediate need do you mean financial need between April- Oct (while project grants are closed)? Freelance artists are unlikely to gain other work during this period, and while some might not be in financial need right now, they will be in 3 months and may not be well placed to go for stabilisation funds.

Yes. Our current timeframe is up until September. So many things could change by then so we can only take it step by step.

Does the list of supported disciplines (in 'Who Can Apply) to include film?

Whilst not mentioning film specifically, we feel that this covers the aspects of film-making that we'd be likely to fund under digital arts or writing or producing original artistic/creative material.

There is no current support available for sole traders (who are effectively freelancers who pay themselves through their business structure). Are they eligible to apply?

We've been including sole-traders in our working definition of 'freelancers' so this will apply to this fund.

Does the scheme need to follow UK Government's cliff-edge 50% of income via freelance sources? It can create arbitrary situations, works against those who have taken maternity leave (for example) and perhaps the more significant information is the level of income people make - rather than the proportion that is freelance generated?

There has to be some level of cut off for this scheme and 50% income is the route we've chosen to take. There may be instances (such as those outlined above) where we may need to use some discretion in assessing.

Eligibility – FAQs say the following can't apply:

- anyone who has access to other sources of funding or income
- anyone who is being 'furloughed' as part of the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme

But we say in the Guidelines: You'll be eligible if you're employed part-time and also have a freelance professional creative practice. Even if it's clear that over 50% of their income has to come from their arts practice, these conflict and imply that they can't have any other form of income.

This urgent response fund should be a response to immediate need, so if applicants are eligible for other government funding, being furloughed through their part time work (which may not be as an artist) or are in receipt of lottery funding we'd expect them to reflect that in their application to us demonstrating why they also need support from us at this time.

How will I know if I am eligible for the Government's Self-Employed Income Support Scheme?

We recognise that it may be too early for you to have received confirmation of eligibility for the UK Government's Self Employed relief scheme. If this is the case then please tell us if you believe you will be eligible and how any delay impacts your need at this time.

If you believe that you might be eligible but that the amount you will receive will not cover your immediate needs then you are eligible to apply to this fund for any shortfall (subject to the above comments on the impact of any delay).