

THE FOYLE FOUNDATION

Main Grants Scheme Guidelines

Who Can Apply

The Main Grants Scheme supports **charities registered and operating in the United Kingdom**, the dominant purpose of which is to benefit either the Arts or Learning. Please note that we do not support applications from individuals.

We welcome applications from all parts of the UK, and we would like to encourage more applications from all regions and countries of the UK.

Social and community welfare organisations, whose overall purpose is not Arts or Learning, will not normally be supported under the Main Grants Scheme. Small and Community organisations with a turnover under £150,000 per annum can be considered through our Small Grants Scheme (separate guidelines available on the website). Small charities may be more suitable for consideration under this scheme, even if their core remit is the Arts or Learning.

What We Fund

Arts

The Foundation seeks applications that make a strong artistic case for support in either the performing or visual arts. Our Arts programme aims to help sustain the arts and to support projects that help to deliver your artistic vision. We look for value for money, long term benefit and sustainability in projects that we support. Typical areas of support include:

- helping to make the arts more accessible by developing new audiences, supporting tours, festivals and arts educational projects;
- encouraging new work and supporting young and emerging artists;
- building projects that improve or re-equip existing arts venues (rather than construction of new facilities, although this will not be excluded);
- projects that encourage sustainability by reducing overheads or which help generate additional revenue.

Generally, we make grants for specific projects/activities. We will consider applications for core funding (but generally only from smaller organisations or from those not receiving recurrent annual funding from the Arts Council or local authorities).

Learning

The Foundation will support projects which facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and learning and which have a long-term strategic impact. Key areas for support are:

- libraries, museums and archives;
- special educational needs;
- projects that encourage sustainability by reducing overheads or which help generate additional revenue;
- projects and activities which increase access and widen the diversity of attenders/visitors.

Citizenship, esteem-building, training, skills acquisition to aid employment, independent living, early learning projects or playgroups will not generally be considered under the Main Grants Scheme.

Schools

For state funded schools our main initiative is the Foyle School Libraries Scheme (separate guidelines available on the website).

Dedicated schools and colleges catering for those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) can be considered for other educational projects under the Main Grants Scheme.

State funded mainstream schools may be funded from time to time under the Main Grants Scheme for other projects with direct educational/arts benefits but must demonstrate why their project cannot be funded from statutory or other funding and also explain their long-term commitment to this activity. Please contact the Grants Team for further clarification.

Major school building projects, investment in IT (except for SEN leaning aids), PSHE curriculum related activities and sports projects are unlikely to be supported. Mainstream independent schools will not generally be considered.

Universities

For Universities we will consider supporting arts, museum, archive or special collection projects, usually for capital funding, which meet a clear public benefit. All University projects should enable general and not just specialist use, the majority of time, and not be limited to out of term use, or be relatively inaccessible by being sited in remote parts of University buildings or campuses where public access will be restricted. In all cases we will expect Universities to be contributing to the project in financial and not just in-kind terms. Some grants may be offered on a matched funding basis.

Further Information

The Foundation will consider both revenue and capital projects. We are unlikely to support startup costs for new charities. We are unlikely to consider a request for capital funding if your lease is less than 20 years.

Please note, most grants offered will be for restricted project funding and cannot be spent on any other purpose.

Organisations and projects that provide direct benefits and services to the general public (rather than special interest groups) will be favoured

Applications for grants because funding is difficult to obtain will be of particular interest.

Projects/proposals that help reduce fixed or variable costs or which enable the generation of higher income or additional revenue streams will be considered. This includes building or smaller capital projects that can promote efficiency savings, reduce costs, improve energy efficiency, or help generate higher revenues.

In the current financial climate, we will be looking to support sustainable projects that offer value for money and long-term impact. Applicants should demonstrate sustainability, if this is an ongoing activity, beyond the end of any grant.

We will also support projects/initiatives where applicants work in partnership on joint projects with other similar organisations. In such cases a lead organisation, to which any grant will be made, must be identified.

As part of the project appraisal process the level and purpose of the applicant's reserves will be taken into account.

Applicants that are in a loss-making situation, or have a carried forward deficit, will need to explain their deficit reduction strategy.

Retrospective funding will not be considered, nor will funding for projects that have already started (except for capital projects still underway and which will not be completed for some time).

Where an applicant that is part of a wider national organisation is supported, no other affiliated or regional branches of that organisation will be supported in that year.

Periodically the Trustees will make special grants in fields other than the Arts or Learning which the Trustees are persuaded constitute a special case. These are not part of our open grants scheme.

How Much Can You Apply For

Main Grant Scheme applicants can apply for between £10,000 and £500,000. The majority of grants will be in the range of £10,000 to £50,000, unless for large capital applications.

The maximum amount of a large grant, normally a capital project, will not normally exceed £500,000 and may be payable over several years. In exceptional circumstances, larger grants over this amount may be considered where, for example an overriding factor is that the project might not occur without Foundation support and where the project is of national importance.

Any grant should be able to be drawn down within two years of being awarded, otherwise the Foundation may withdraw the grant.

When Can You Apply

Applications are accepted all year round, there are no deadlines for submission. Except for large capital projects, it may take up to four months, occasionally longer, to receive a decision from the Trustees, so apply well in advance. Please note that competition is intense; we receive many more applications than we are able to fund.

Please note for capital projects seeking more than £75,000 the Foundation will now only consider these twice a year in the Spring and Autumn. Therefore, it could be six months or more before we take a decision on your project. Please note usually we will not accept an application if the design has not completed RIBA Stage 2 and reached RIBA Stage 3 (Developed Design).

If an application is declined, the charity is eligible to reapply 12 months after the previous request date.

Where a grant of £50,000 or less has been awarded, the charity is eligible to apply to the Foundation for 12 months after the approval date.

Where a grant of over £50,000 per annum has been awarded, the Foundation will not normally accept any further applications from the same charity within three years from the date of the award or final instalment.

Other Information

Please note that we purposely do not have a word limit to allow applicants the space to give us the information necessary to explain the project and the need for funding, but please keep answers relevant, clear and summarise information.

The Grant Appraisal Team may wish to discuss the application, request further information and visit the applicant, in order to appraise the application before it is presented to Trustees.

The Chief Executive and Grants Team will report to the Trustees at the first available meeting and will notify the applicant of the Trustees' decision.

Further information regarding the scheme, attachments and the application form can be found on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

How To Apply

Applications need to be submitted online.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PAPER APPLICATIONS TO THE MAIN GRANTS SCHEME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 30 SEPTEMBER 2019.

Information/Documents you will need:

- Email address
- Accounts:
 - i. Latest signed accounts
 - ii. Income and expenditure figures for the last financial year (if the year after your latest signed accounts)
- Annual Budgets:
 - i. Current annual budget
 - ii. Annual budget for year grant requested in (if for year after current annual year)
- Project budget
- Permission of the Chair/a Trustee and Senior Management Team to submit the request on behalf of the charity

Notes on Attachments




Please ensure all attachments are titled clearly, ideally in the following format:

'Your Charity Name – The Document Type – The Year/Time Period Document Relates to'.

The maximum size for all attachments combined is 25 Mb. Please note that files with certain extensions (such as ".exe", ".com", ".vbs" or ".bat") cannot be uploaded.

After browsing and selecting a file, make sure you click on **upload**.

Key for Symbols within the Online Application:

-  Answer Required
-  Spell Check
-  Further Information/Help

CREATING A NEW ACCOUNT & STARTING AN APPLICATION

You will need to create an account using your email address as part of the application process. Once an account is created, you will receive email confirmation of this within a few minutes. If this is not received please contact the Grants Team before proceeding.

You will be able to save an application you are working on and return to it later via your account. A copy of the application questions can be emailed to yourself or others after you begin to complete the form.

1. Click on the following link to create or access your [account](#). From here you can access in progress applications and view previously submitted applications.
2. Click on one of the following links to start a Main Grants Scheme application:
 - i. [Click this link if you are a charity](#)
 - ii. [Click this link if you are a state school](#)

Note that applications you are working on will **timeout after 60 minutes**. The timer is reset either when you save or navigate between pages. **Typing alone will not reset the timer.**

Some applicants choose to type their answers onto a Microsoft Word document and then copy and paste onto the online form once ready to submit their application.

Further information regarding the scheme, attachments and the application form can be found on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Personal Information

The Foyle Foundation is committed to protecting all personal information you provide to us. We will only use contact information you provide for administration, evaluation and research purposes to facilitate our grant making and to further our charitable activities. Personal contact information will not be made public in anyway. Please also see our [Privacy Notice](#).