

JERWOOD ARTS

Frequently Asked Questions – Jerwood Bursaries

What are the selectors looking for?

The assessors and selectors will be looking for well-planned activity that is proportional to the £250-£1,250 available through this fund. A strong application will tell us what you are currently doing, how the funded activity might shift your approach or get early ideas off the ground. The opportunity will be timely and enable you to take a meaningful step forward in your practice. They will assess: the quality of your current practice; how well the professional development activity has been chosen and planned; and the potential impact of the activity on your practice.

How important is my track record and past achievements?

Due to the high level of competition for the Jerwood Bursaries, we will not 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 career as the foundation for the artistic development activity you want us to support. In the application form, we ask for examples of what you have worked on in the last 12 months to help us understand how the proposed activity relates to your current practice, and the momentum it is building on.

What do you mean by professional practice?

By 'professional practice', we mean the work of an artist, curator or producer who thinks of their creative role as their primary professional identity and has the track record to show this.

I work for an organisation as a curator and/or producer, can I apply?

The Jerwood Bursaries are designed for independent practitioners. If you are employed full or part-time in a creative role with an organisation, you are still welcome to apply if you can show that the professional development activity benefits your independent practice rather than the organisation or your role with the organisation.

Can I apply to develop a creative business?

You cannot apply for support to develop your business skills, for creative business support or for any commercial aspects of your practice. The Jerwood Bursaries are for the professional development of your artistic practice only.

Do you fund the costs of residencies?

If the residency is self-initiated and self-directed then it is something we can support with a Jerwood Bursary. However, if you have been offered a residency by another organisation and you are applying for funds to cover the costs then it is not something we can support. We make this distinction so that Jerwood Bursaries are not used to subsidise established residency programmes offering insufficient fees or resources for artists to undertake them. We are also keen to ensure that Jerwood Bursaries are used for artistic development activity where individual artists can take full ownership.

Should I include a fee for myself?

Yes, you should include a fee to cover your time whilst preparing, participating and reflecting on the professional development activity. Fees may be up to 100% of the budget. You should use the industry standard day/week rates relevant to your discipline. We will not fund applications where the applicant is not paying themselves or the people they work with, or only paying a low fee.

Some unions and support organisations, which offer guidance:

- [a-n The Artists Information Company](#) for visual artists
- [Artists' Union England](#) for visual and applied artists and artists with a socially engaged practice
- [The Broadcasting, Entertainment, Communications and Theatre Union \(BECTU\)](#) for technical staff
- [Equity](#) for actors, singers and dancers
- [Independent Theatre Council](#) for theatre practitioners
- [Musicians' Union](#) for musicians
- [Society of Authors](#) for writers, illustrators and literary translators
- [UK Theatre](#) for theatre staff and musicians
- [Writers' Guild](#) for writers in TV, film, theatre, radio, books, comedy, poetry, animation and videogames

I want to apply for mentoring support, should I name the mentor in the application?

You do not need to have a mentor confirmed before making an application, but a stronger application will indicate who the mentor might be, what the objectives are for working with that person and how that will positively impact your practice. If you do not have one confirmed prior to application, we recommend you outline in the application how you would go about finding the right mentor, what skills/experiences you are looking for in the person and what you hope you would achieve by working with them.

I work in collaboration with another artist, curator or producer. Can we apply together?

You can apply if your practice is collaborative or collective and with a track record of 1-10 years. Where there is more than one person involved in an application, please be realistic about how much time and activity the Jerwood Bursary can support and what impact you want it to have.

You can also apply to collaborate with someone for the first time if there is a strong rationale to do so. However, both beneficiaries must be within the first 10 years of establishing their practice.

Can I make more than one application?

You can choose to apply as an individual or you can make a collaborative application, but you cannot do both. If you make an application to support your individual practice, you cannot also appear as a collaborator or mentor in someone else's application.

I'm working on a few things right now which might be a good fit for the Jerwood Bursaries. Can I submit more than one application for support?

We want people to think carefully about which activity would make the strongest case for support. In 2020 we will open two rounds of Jerwood Bursaries, but you can only apply once per calendar year. If you apply multiple times to the same call for entries, we will only accept your first application. If you submit an application and then want to make a change to it before the deadline, please contact us at info@jerwoodarts.org. We will not be able to make changes to applications after the deadline.

I've applied before, can I apply again?

You can make an application to the Jerwood Bursaries once per calendar year. If you applied to the Jerwood Bursaries in 2019, you can still make an application in 2020. Please make sure you have re-read the guidance as we have made updates for 2020 based on feedback from applicants. Also, bear in mind that if you apply to the current round of Jerwood Bursaries, you will not be able to apply again when the fund re-opens for applications in October.

I've received funding from Jerwood Arts before, can I apply again?

If the activity supported by your previous Jerwood Arts' award has been completed and you fulfil the Jerwood Bursaries criteria, you are welcome to apply again.

What supporting evidence should I provide with my application?

The application form provides space for you to share pictures, links to video/audio and upload text/pdf files. You are welcome to use as many of the options available as you would like. In all cases, please make sure that the supporting evidence best exemplifies your work and stronger applications have good quality images/video/audio. This can form a part of the final decision-making so strong applications show work that helps the assessors understand the relevance of the professional development activity they want the Jerwood Bursary to fund. In all cases, we suggest you clearly label the work with a title (i.e. in the file name) to show what it is or where it was shown. If your practice is performance-based, we recommend you share a clip of a relevant event/show, rather than still images. We also recommend you choose a clip from a performance, rather than promotional film: we want to see examples of your work, not marketing.

If the video/audio is more than five minutes long or the uploaded evidence contains large amounts of text, we cannot guarantee that they will be reviewed in full.

What UK travel costs can I apply for?

You can apply for UK-based travel costs of up to 50% of your overall budget. In line with our commitment to environmental sustainability, we will only pay for flights within the UK where there is no reasonable alternative. We are keen to encourage travel to be carefully considered, and undertaken with minimum negative impact on the planet wherever possible.

Can I apply for international travel and activity outside the UK?

No. International travel and artistic exchange is often an invaluable part of an artist's development and we recognise its transformative power. Our funding, however, is focused on activity in the UK only.

Can I apply for care and/or access costs?

Yes. We see these costs as essential to allow you to fully participate in your professional development activity. You can request up to an additional £250 on top of the main professional development activity budget. There is space in the application form to show this separately.

Can I apply for equipment and/or material costs?

You can apply for the costs of equipment and/or materials if a strong professional development argument is made for their inclusion. The Jerwood Bursaries is not an equipment purchase fund and in all cases where equipment/materials are shown in the budget, adequate paid time for the individual to develop their practice using these items should also be shown.

Why does Jerwood Arts want to be the sole funder of the activity?

Whilst Jerwood Bursaries offer a relatively small amount of funding, from experience we know that they can be transformative for the recipient, especially if it gives a period of time for them to focus on their professional development. The Jerwood Bursary is not designed to match funding from other sources nor be part-funding for a larger project.

There may be circumstances where a small amount of in-kind is required to make the professional development activity viable. For example, a mentor from an organisation has offered their time to work with you without charge. In such cases you should be clear why this is the case and the outside support should be in place before making the Jerwood Bursary application.

We will not offer funding where the applicant is using their personal funds to self-fund part of the activity, or donating their time for free.

What is an 'in-kind' contribution?

This is something that you have been given for free but would otherwise have had to pay for, including a meeting or rehearsal room, equipment and materials, or someone's time if it is covered by a salary. If you have in-kind support that you would like to put towards your professional development activity, please mention this in the budget notes.

Why do I need to provide a referee?

A commonly-reported problem in the arts is that you have to be known by the right people to get funding and opportunities. Often this is because those in positions of power reward people known to them or want to avoid risks. Our intention is that our processes are genuinely open and we want to meet new people through the Jerwood Bursaries. Therefore, the referee is someone we can check in with before making a final decision. This will help us to support you better, and to ensure that the activity you propose is the best way to enable your professional development. You should choose someone who knows you and your work well, rather than someone who looks impressive on paper. They do not need to necessarily work in the arts. We will only contact the referees of those who reach the final stages of our selection process.

I have access requirements which make it difficult for me to make an application in this format.**What support is available?**

We can cover the cost of an access support worker for any artist, curator or producer who identifies as disabled and/or has a neurodiverse condition facing barriers to apply. If you would like to discuss this, or other ways that we might make the application process more manageable for you, please contact us on info@jerwoodarts.org or on 020 7261 0279. We are not able to recommend specific access support workers.

I've read the guidance and FAQ but still have a question. What should I do?

Please send an email with your question to info@jerwoodarts.org. We will acknowledge your query within three working days and answer your questions within five working days.