

# Connections Through Culture Grants 2025

## Applicant FAQs

**Connections Through Culture (CTC)** is a grant programme by the British Council to support artistic collaboration and exchange between creative professionals and arts organisations in the participating countries and all four nations of the UK.

It aims to support new connections, exchanges, and collaborations between the UK and participating countries that build long-term relationships among artists, creative practitioners, and art and cultural organisations, hubs, networks, and collectives through collaborative digital, face-to-face, and/or hybrid artistic projects.

### **How did you select the eligible countries? Why isn't my country/territory eligible?**

We have focussed on certain countries where we have the capacity to help facilitate each project. This year, we have introduced new participating countries across Asia and Europe. We hope to be able to offer the programme or similar work in other countries in future, and we recommend you keep an eye on our [Arts Opportunities page](#) for other opportunities that may come up.

### **Can an individual or organisation be part of more than one application?**

Yes. However, only one grant per individual/organisation will be awarded if successful.

We are keen to receive applications from partners we have not previously worked with, including applicants working with UK partners outside London.

### **How many project partners can I have?**

We will accept applications for multilateral projects and/or projects with more than one partner in the same country, with a focus on the programme being delivered mutually.

An additional partner (on top of the minimum two) from a non-participating country/territory can take part in the project but cannot receive grant funding.

In the case of multiple partners from participating countries involved, the amount of grant to be awarded is up to the threshold of the country of the Lead Applicant or where most activities will take place if the Lead Applicant is a UK partner i.e. up to £5,000 available for projects in Australia and New Zealand and up to £10,000 for projects in other participating countries.

### **What does it mean to be a Lead Partner?**

The Lead Partner will be responsible for making sure all monitoring, promotional and financial returns are completed.

If successful, the grant will be paid to the Lead Partner, who will be responsible for transferring funds to other partner(s) according to the project proposal approved and included in the grant agreement with the British Council.

[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

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We expect to contract the Lead Partner directly on behalf of the project partners.

The second partner, and any additional partners, will be detailed in the Contract Schedule. Any changes to this can be discussed as part of the contracting period if your project is successful.

Please note that due to our office's foundation status in Thailand, grants can only be processed through the Thai partner (Lead Applicant or Counterpart Applicant) of the CTC UK-Thailand grants.

**Can I apply for a grant without having any partners in place at the time of application? I can confirm later if successful?**

Unfortunately, we are not able to help support finding or identifying new partners. All applications must include at least one partner based in a participating country and at least one UK partner.

**Can I change my partners once I have been successfully awarded a grant?**

Any change in the partnership after selection needs the prior approval of the British Council. You will need to let us know of any changes at the earliest point.

**I have previously received funding from the British Council. Can I still apply?**

If you have previously received British Council funding (CTC or other programmes) for the same activity as described in your application, you will not be able to apply for a new grant to repeat it.

You can apply if your application proposes the development, or addition of new elements to a project previously funded by the British Council (this could mean having new country partnerships, new project objectives and activities, or new ways of working).

We are keen to receive applications from partners we have not previously worked with, especially including applicants working with UK partners outside London.

**Can I apply if I'm already holding a CTC grant / another grant from British Council?**

Yes, but it will need to be for a new project.

During the assessment, we will consider any live grants you may have and how this might impact your capacity to deliver.

We want to support a range of organisations, and we are keen to support organisations that have not received funding from us before.

**Are there matched funding expectations/requirements?**

The grant requested can be for a part or the full project costs. Matched funding from partners and/or other external funding is welcomed but not required.

We will look at the budget as part of the assessment; in the Feasibility and Project management criteria; paying attention to the amount requested from CTC against the total project budget, including the status of any matched funding (confirmed or pending).

**How will the grant be paid?**

The grant amounts will be paid via bank transfer based on the grant agreements signed with the Lead Applicant according to local tax legislation.

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All compliances under local or foreign laws need to be duly met by the Lead Applicant confirming that they are eligible to receive the grant and have the required registration and approvals in compliance with the respective country laws.

The Lead Applicant is responsible for transferring funds to other partner(s) according to the project proposal approved and included in the grant agreement with the British Council.

### **How will the funds be split between partners?**

We expect an equitable approach across the project and an equal split across partners. Where this is not the case, you will be asked to provide reasons why this is not possible.

### **How will currency fluctuation will be considered?**

If a non-UK organisation does not have an account in pounds Sterling (GBP), then the grant amount will be converted into local currency and fixed in the grant agreement according to the British Council's monthly currency bookkeeping rates.

Please take exchange rates and bank charges in to account as part of your budget and project activity.

### **Can I get access support to help me complete an application?**

If you identify as disabled and have any access needs to help support you to make your application, please contact us via <https://forms.office.com/e/rdFpf1c46e>

Depending on the type and level of support required, we may be able to assist you with your request.

### **Can I include access costs needed to ensure my project is accessible for audiences and participants?**

As an international cultural relations organisation, the British Council works towards mainstreaming our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) principles and practices across all our work strands.

We ask all applicants to include any costs linked to supporting audience/participant accessibility in their project budget. You will also be asked more about your approaches to equality, diversity and inclusion.

### **Can I include any personal access support costs needed for the core project team members so they can develop and deliver the project?**

Any request to support additional personal access costs is not guaranteed, although we will do everything we can to support your needs.

You can provide more information on any personal access costs needed in the application form. This is subject to approval and separate from the awarded grant amount.

### **How do I apply?**

All applications must be submitted via the [online application form](#) hosted by Good Grants by **23 June 2025 15:00 (BST)**.

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Good Grants is an online platform the British Council uses to manage its grant application rounds efficiently. The system is built by an external company and procured for use by the British Council.

To gain access, applicants need to register an account on the system. Setting up an account is free and requires an email address and a password. We recommend that organisations use email addresses which are not tied to an individual in case staff changes occur.

An application must be submitted by one lead applicant, either in the UK or a participating country, working collaboratively with all the partners. An application for the same collaboration project can be submitted only once by one partner.

We strongly recommend you do not leave it until the final day to submit your application to avoid high traffic volume and risk of potential technical difficulties.

### **Can I save changes to my application before submitting?**

You are able to edit your submission up until the deadline date.

We recommend that you initially refer to this [offline Application form document](#) to preview the questions before using the online portal and to keep a separate copy of your application in case you encounter any technical issues.

### **Who can I contact if I have technical issues submitting my application?**

Good Grants have their own Help Centre should you need help navigating the form or need troubleshooting assistance. To navigate to the Help Centre use the table of contents to the right of your screen whilst logged in or [follow this link](#). You can submit a request for support directly through the Help Centre.

If you have forgotten your password, click the 'Forgot Password' link on the login page and follow the instructions.

For any non-technical questions about the application form and the application process you can contact the CTC team using [this form](#).

We have provided supporting notes with further guidance on how to answer questions within the application form. Please make sure to read these hint notes that appear either above, below or to the right of each question.

### **How does the British Council contact applicants?**

We will email you to follow-up about your submission. Please be sure add Good Grants to your safe contact list and check the email address you used to sign up for your Good Grants account regularly.

### **Can I submit video responses?**

You are welcome to submit your answers to certain questions (where marked in the application form) via video. For video submissions, please submit a different video for each answer and share a private YouTube link within the response box. Videos will not be assessed on quality, but we ask that we clearly see and hear the speaker. Submissions can be in British Sign Language.

Please note videos should all be within the maximum time indicated after each question.

## **What other accessible versions of the application form and guidance documents are available?**

A version of the application form is available on the website that should be formatted for screen readers.

If you require another format of any CTC document (Audio, Large Print etc) please get in touch using this form <https://forms.office.com/e/rdFpf1c46e>. We will do our best to provide these formats.

## **Who assesses the applications?**

Applications will be assessed by a team of British Council staff from across our global network, together with a pool of external arts specialist assessors. All applications will be treated confidentially. All assessors will sign a no conflict-of-interest statement and non-disclosure agreement.

## **Can you review my application before I submit?**

We are not able to review your application before you submit to ensure fairness to all. If you have specific questions about the application process or are unclear about the application form questions when completing your application, you can send an enquiry to <https://forms.office.com/e/rdFpf1c46e> and we will respond to you.

## **What are the responsibilities and obligations of a successful applicant?**

The main areas include but are not limited to:

- Delivering the collaborations in accordance with the application submitted
- Timely reporting on the progress of collaborations in the form of interim and/or final reports that include financial and narrative sections. The completion report should be submitted within 30 days of the end of the project. For projects longer than 6 months, an interim report should be submitted by the end of month 5 of project
- Submitting audience numbers on a regular basis
- Adhering to branding requirements
- Attending any mandatory training we offer, for example in orientation and safeguarding.
- Following the British Council's policies according to the grant agreement, including, for example, [Safeguarding global policy](#), [British Council Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#)
- Adhering to FCDO travel advice for any of the countries involved in your project

## **What type of organisations and/or individuals can apply?**

### **Individuals**

For the UK, eligible individuals are those living and working in the UK and for participating countries, individuals need to be residents of that country.

We would expect individuals to have the necessary registration/s needed to comply with legal and/or tax provisions in the country in which they are based e.g. this could be a sole trader or an individual operating as a company with the associated registrations.

These could include, but are not exclusive to:

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- **Artists and Practitioners**

Individuals who produce works in any art form, such as performers, writers, filmmakers, designers, or curators.

- **Creative Entrepreneurs**

Individuals who are self-employed or have established a business within the creative industries.

## **Arts Organisations**

Must be registered in the country in which they operate.

These could include, but are not exclusive to:

- **Artistic, Creative, or Production Companies and Collectives**

A production company, house, studio, or team that provides the physical basis for works in performing arts, new media art, film, television, music, radio, comics, interactive acts, video games, websites, or videos. Creative/artistic companies or collectives can also include formal or informal groups of artists collaborating around a shared art form, ambition, or purpose.

- **Arts Venues**

Places dedicated to promoting artistic practice by providing infrastructure for performance, exhibition, or creation.

- **Exhibitions, Festivals, and Seasons**

Temporary or time-bound cultural events occurring at a specific time and/or place, focusing on a particular art form or theme. These can be recurring or one-off events.

- **Creative Hubs**

Physical or virtual spaces that bring creative people together. Hubs serve as convenors, offering networking opportunities, business development support, and community engagement within the creative, cultural, and tech sectors.

## **Can Universities / educational institutions apply?**

Yes, but we want to prioritise arts organisations and individuals. Applications from universities and educational institutions will need to demonstrate their primary arts and cultural focus in the 'Tell us about you' question and demonstrate how their arts and cultural focus in their proposed project is not just for academic research purposes.

## **Can newly registered organisations apply?**

You can apply if your organisation is newly registered. We will consider each organisation's ability to deliver the project as part of the assessment. We will also carry out ethical and credit checks as part of our due diligence for successful projects.

## **What type of projects will be considered?**

We want to support artists and cultural organisations working across all art forms to create new connections and collaborative projects. We want to support artists and cultural organisations to bring their ideas to life – with projects eligible at any stage of development.

The grant should be used to support the process of developing new projects with artistic expression or creativity at the core, and that will foster meaningful artistic and creative exchange of skills, knowledge and practice or collaborations that foster new creative work or ways of working.



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Projects could include any of the following activities, but collaboration between partners must be the primary focus.

- **Creation of work:** joint creation or production of a piece of art, film, writing, or music.
- **Residencies:** hosting or participating in artistic residencies.
- **Exhibitions, festivals, and showcases:** organisation or participation in cultural events.
- **Workshops and performances:** delivering interactive activities or live performances.
- **Digital innovation:** projects that combine art and technology in innovative ways.
- **Conferences, panels, and talks:** organising events to share ideas or showcase projects.
- **Creative use of archives:** exploring archives to inspire new artistic work.
- **Research and development:** developing ideas or concepts for future projects.

We accept applications from all artforms. However, proposals responding to the following themes may be prioritised during final decision-making:

- Diversity and Inclusion
- Climate Change.

We want to support a range of projects and organisations/individuals that reflect a breadth of geographical locations, art forms and themes across participating countries and the four nations of the UK. We will take this into consideration when assessing your application against others.

We will also assess applications for being achievable and feasible; within the time frame, this will include comparing the project budget (with any confirmed or pending other income) to the grant amount requested.

### **I am looking for funding that will include supporting the cost of production / distribution of a film / album. Can this fund support this?**

We recognise that many collaborations have resulted in fantastic films or music albums, but for this level of grant award available we want to prioritise projects that focus on the collaborative nature of activity between partners within the project rather than producing and distributing a finished product.

Your application will be reviewed on the merit of the collaborative activities first and foremost. We won't support projects whose primary focus is commercial.

### **Can all art forms/practices apply?**

Yes.

We recognise that many projects will be multidisciplinary and work across art forms. If your project features more than one art form, you must select the most relevant art form in your application.

This helps us assign the most appropriate assessor and, if successful, the most appropriate relationship manager to your project.

## **Are there priority project themes for this round of the Connections Through Culture grants?**

No, projects can address any subject or theme.

We want to support a range of projects and organisations/individuals that reflect a breadth of geographical locations, art forms and themes across participating countries and the four nations of the UK. We will consider this when assessing your application against others.

The British Council is more widely interested in the following themes, so may prioritise these in the final decision making.

- Diversity and Inclusion
- Climate Change

## **What support can I expect if my application is successful?**

- We will run orientation sessions for all partners of the successful projects that will cover delivery, reporting, our policies, international collaboration, etc.
- Upon confirmation of selection for a grant, the project is expected to be self-directed. However, if selected for a CTC grant, British Council staff based in the country and the UK can offer support in discussing your project. This could be helping you think through certain aspects of your project, or connecting you, where possible and relevant, with those outside of your network. For each project, we will allocate British Council Relationship Managers from their respective countries to support with issues, queries and communication. The British Council will not:
  - find a partner organisation or an artist for your project or help with developing further an idea for the project
  - review the application before it is submitted

## **Is there flexibility with the project end date?**

All projects need to be delivered within 12 months of the project start date.

There is no minimum project duration.

We anticipate that grantees will be able to start their project from 1 October 2025.

All projects will need to finish by 31 October 2026, regardless of their start date (e.g start date later than 1 October 2025)

Any exceptions to this (e.g. in the case of force majeure) will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis between British Council and grant holders.

## **How much funding is available?**

For CTC 2025, £880,000 is currently available, and we expect to make between 85–90 awards.

## **What should I do if the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) currently advises against travelling to locations in participating countries?**

We are unable to support projects which include travel to countries which contradict the FCDO travel advice.



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You will need to ensure that your project has contingency plans and can pivot delivery to other locations or online. You will also need to keep reviewing FCDO travel advice during the design and delivery of your project, as these might change within the duration of your project.

For projects with partners and/or activity in Ukraine, you will be asked to provide additional safeguarding information as part of your application.

**What if there is conflict or risk of conflict in any project's location?**

There may be cases where projects intend to work in locations affected by conflict or at risk of being affected by conflict. If this applies to your project, you must address the safeguarding and risk mitigation plans you have in place in the Feasibility and project management part of the application form.

You will need to ensure your project has contingency plans and can pivot delivery to other locations or online. You will also need to keep reviewing FCDO travel advice during the design and delivery of your project, as these might change within the duration of your project.

For projects with partners and/or activity in Ukraine, you will be asked to provide additional safeguarding information as part of your application.

Successful projects will receive further safeguarding training and support as part of the orientation sessions.