



# **Criteria and Guidelines for Applicants**

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## 1. THE FUND

Traditional Arts and Culture Fund (TACF) is a fund devolved from Creative Scotland, managed by TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland) and open to organisations and individuals. TACF is designed to provide support for traditional artists, craftspeople and organisations to create, perform, tour and showcase work. The fund can also support professional development and learning projects. £43,000 is available to disburse in 2025-26. Although the fund is managed by TRACS, grants will be agreed by a panel of advisers and projects will be monitored and evaluated by staff from both TRACS and Creative Scotland.

## 2. WHO CAN APPLY?

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK YOU ARE ELIGIBLE BEFORE APPLYING](#)

Eligibility for TACF is in line with Creative Scotland's general priorities for funding, guidance for which is available by clicking on the link above. In general, individuals over 18, groups and organisations either based in Scotland, or undertaking work in Scotland, may apply, but please check your eligibility before completing the application form.

Applicants must demonstrate a positive track record in and/or professional commitment to one or more of the following traditional artforms as they are practised in Scotland today:

- Traditional Craft
- Traditional Dance
- Traditional Music
- Traditional Storytelling

Applicants should consider the part their project will play in helping to explore, realise and develop their creative potential, help sustain artistic practice and address any personal development needs to build resilience.

Some examples of successful applications from past rounds of TACF (formerly Tasgadh) are available [here](#) as a guide.

See the table below for an overview of what TACF can and cannot fund; note also that TACF **cannot** be used to match other Creative Scotland funds.

<p><b>Traditional Arts and Culture Fund</b> <b>CAN FUND:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation, performance, touring and showcasing of traditional arts and crafts practised in Scotland today</li> <li>• Professional development and learning projects</li> </ul>	<p><b>Traditional Arts and Culture Fund</b> <b>CANNOT FUND:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment purchase*</li> <li>• Album or EP recordings, or preparation for such, unless recordings are for promotional purposes only where no sales are to be generated</li> <li>• Film / video projects unless the benefit to traditional arts, or artists, is very clearly defined</li> <li>• Work by students currently in education</li> <li>• Competitions</li> </ul>
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\* Craftspeople looking for assistance with purchasing equipment should also consider [Creative Scotland's Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards \(VACMA\)](#), which does support the purchase of “*Essential equipment [...] that clearly helps you experiment or develop your practice*”.

### 3. PLANNING AN APPLICATION

If you require clarification on eligibility or assistance to complete your application, please email TRACS at [finance@tracscotland.org](mailto:finance@tracscotland.org).

Each applicant may apply for an award of between £250 and £1,200. (Applicants who require more than £1,200 should consider applying to the [Creative Scotland Open Fund for Individuals](#).)

There are two deadlines for 2025-26:

- **Monday 16th February 2026**
- **Monday 4th May 2026**

We normally acknowledge applications for TACF funding within 48 hours of receipt. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within that time, please [contact us](#) to ensure your application has been received.

If you would like some general information on writing a successful funding application you may find this [briefing from Creative Lives](#) helpful. Please be succinct but ensure you give us enough information to be able to assess your application fully

Although TACF is a light-touch funding scheme, the panel will prioritise applications that demonstrate artistic integrity, a well-researched and planned project, and (where appropriate) benefits and legacy.

## **4. TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- 4.1. You must leave at least six weeks from the application deadline to the project start date.
- 4.2. If known, please provide the names of artists or tutors you expect to work with, even if their involvement is dependent on availability and/or securing funding. This will help us assess the artistic and creative quality of your project.
- 4.3. TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland) and Creative Scotland are committed to fair pay for artists and you can view Creative Scotland guidance here which applies to TACF applications. Industry standard rates (Musicians Union, Equity etc) must be offered to tutors/performers and the costs reflected in your budget. It is recognised some artists/practitioners may wish to work for less/contribute free of charge. If so, you should make their wishes explicit in your application and your budget should reflect, as 'in-kind' support, the contribution of an artist/practitioner by including the difference between the industry standard rate and what they will actually be paid. See example budget 4 below.
- 4.4. Please think carefully about your budget and consider the appropriateness of costs and income you wish to include. Give as much detail as you can and ensure you submit a balanced budget, i.e. income - including the expected contribution from TACF - should match expenditure. See sample budgets 3 and 4.
- 4.5. You must also provide details of all matching funds, and whether they are confirmed or pending, as well as evidence of 10% generated income. Generated income could take the form of ticket sales, partnership income from another source or the applicant's own contribution.
- 4.6. It is a priority to support and encourage Environmental Sustainability. We do not expect projects to have an environmental

focus, but ask that all applicants consider the environmental impact of their activity and explain the steps they are taking to mitigate this impact within their bids. We will take this into consideration when prioritising applications so, when faced with high demand, we may prioritise offering support to projects and activities that consider and work to mitigate their environmental impact.

- 4.7. Please be realistic about any sales and ensure they reflect the value of the event or product. We would be unlikely to fund a print-run of 1,000 books if the applicant expects to sell only 25. We would be unlikely to fund the production and promotion of a performance if the applicant expects to attract 20 people paying just £2 each. Be sensible about pricing and place a realistic value on the offer.
- 4.8. While £1,200 is the maximum grant available, please only ask for what you need. That way more people may benefit from limited TACF funds.
- 4.9. Your application and budget may include elements that put the delivery of your project in context. However, when deciding upon an amount of funding for which to apply, please bear in mind that the TACF aims to support the creation, performance, touring or showcasing of Scottish traditional arts, or professional development in the Scottish traditional arts. The panel will prioritise support towards those elements of an application.
- 4.10. Applicants may submit more than one project for consideration but please be aware that competition for TACF funds is such that it is unlikely we will be able to offer more than one grant in any financial year and we may prioritise support for applicants who have not been funded previously.
- 4.11. Applicants may apply for an annual event, or a similar event each year, but there is no guarantee that because your project was funded once it will be again. TACF should not be relied upon as a form of regular/core funding.
- 4.12. It is up to the applicant to provide enough information to enable the panel to assess their application. In some cases, where further information may be required to make a decision, applicants may be asked to resubmit an application at the next deadline date. If the panel thinks it appropriate, in offering feedback applicants may be signposted to alternative Creative Scotland funding or other funding streams.

## **5. EQUALITIES, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**

TRACS is committed to ensuring equality in all its activities and has a contractual obligation to monitor that commitment. We therefore need to collect information on defined protected characteristics in The Equality Act 2010 as well as the Gaelic language.

It is important you provide this information, used for statistical reporting only, to assist our implementation of the above act and to help us improve services. It is managed confidentially, not personally attributable and will not be shared with any third party for any purpose. The information provided will have no bearing on your application and will be processed in accordance with our Privacy Notice. If you do not know some of the information, or prefer not to provide it, you can fill in the 'Prefer not to answer' box. Access the questionnaire [here](#).

## **5. SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

TRACS will notify all successful applicants within 4 weeks of the relevant submission deadline. Successful applicants will be notified with a letter of offer detailing how funds will be paid and any conditions attached to the award.

Any subsequent changes to project plans must be submitted in writing to TRACS. The submission of a final report in the correct form will be required within two months of the project end and may select some projects for evaluation to ensure they are being implemented as planned. We may also feature some completed projects as case studies on our website to illustrate the kinds of projects the fund can assist.

## **6. UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

It is anticipated that there may be more qualifying applications than available funding. Unsuccessful applicants will be offered feedback on their application with the reasons for the decision. Unfortunately, due to the anticipated volumes of applications, we will not be able to provide any additional feedback beyond this.

## **7. SAMPLE BUDGETS**

Please pay close attention to points 4.3 to 4.9 in the guidance above and note that the figures in the sample budgets are illustrative and not to be used as endorsed rates of pay, ticket prices or similar.