

1. FAQs

What is the difference between the AIC Scheme Bursary award and other AIC Award?

The primary focus of the Bursary Award is on the artist and the exploration and development of the applicant's own individual artistic practice. The delivery of a project is not the focus of the bursary and is not expected.

The AIC Scheme offers a Project Realisation Award and the Arts Council offers a separate Arts Participation Project Award. Please review the guidelines for both awards, or contact a member of Create's staff team if you are unsure which award best suits your proposal.

What does meaningful collaboration mean?

Collaborative arts practice involves artists and communities working closely together, often over extended periods of time, to make art. Artists must aim to plan and develop a project from its earliest stages through to completion in collaboration with a specific group or groups, rather than seeking participants to join a pre-planned arts project.

What do you mean by Community?

A group of people drawn together by interest, place, shared history, cultural, social experiences etc. The community does not necessarily have to be already established, they may be a newly formed community due to their interest in the project.

Can I book a one on one session to discuss my application in depth?

We offer individual advisory sessions for prospective applicants. These can happen in person or over the phone. Please contact info@create-ireland.ie

We also regularly offer information sessions around Ireland and online. Keep an eye on our website for details.

Can artists who are new to collaborative practice apply?

No. You must be able to demonstrate a track record of working collaboratively with communities to make art. This award is not suitable for someone who is interested in moving into collaborative practice, or someone who has just begun working with communities.

Can I apply for access support?

Yes, there are three areas that the AIC Scheme offers access support for applicants.

1. Pre application supports
2. Participant or personal access costs
3. Costs for making your work accessible to others – public access costs

[Information on these supports is available on our website.](#)

Please see guidelines section **1.6 How much you can apply for? Access costs for artists or participants with disabilities**

What if my focus is young people, am I eligible to apply?

No. Individuals working in the area of Arts and Communities where the primary target group is children and/or young people cannot apply for the AIC Scheme unless there is at least an equal focus on intergenerational practice. See guidelines 1.4 Who cannot apply?

What if my aims are therapeutic, will I be eligible?

No, applications are assessed on the artistic merit of the proposed project.
See guidelines **1.5 Who cannot apply?**

Can I apply if I am an undergraduate or postgraduate student?

We cannot accept your application if you:

- are a full-time undergraduate student (including foundation courses).
- Looking for support towards fees for postgraduate/higher education or study (including unaccredited courses)

What do you mean by in-kind support?

Examples of In-Kind Support

In-kind support is valued as part of the total resources of a project and can include, but is not limited to:

- Venue and Space Use: Free access to rehearsal or performance spaces, meeting rooms, or other required venues.
- Equipment or Materials: Access to specialised equipment like audio-visual gear, studio materials, or construction supplies.
- Professional Services: Voluntary time offered by professionals who contribute their expertise, such as legal advice, graphic design, or technical support (not artists time)
- Promotion and Publicity: Donated media space, including social media boosts, event listings, or promotion by partner organizations.

What is Not Accepted as In-Kind Support?

Certain types of contributions do not qualify as in-kind support under the AIC Scheme:

- Cash Donations or Financial Sponsorships: These are categorised as direct funding rather than in-kind contributions.
- Discounts on Standard Rates: Reduced prices on services or materials can be noted but may not be claimed as in-kind unless the entire service or good is donated.
- Donations Without Clear Value: Contributions without a measurable value, like general moral support or unspecified “advice,” are also not counted as in-kind support.

In-kind support should be documented as specifically as possible, including an estimated fair market value for each item or service to reflect its impact accurately.

Can I work with a mentor from the Artist Mentor Panel for more than two sessions?

The two mentoring sessions are an additional support offered to the awarded artist. We cannot guarantee that your preferred mentor will be available. Your application should not be dependent on any one of these mentors. Once awarded, Create will work with you to discuss the best fit and their availability. If you would like to work with a mentor from the Artist Mentor Panel more deeply, you need to contact them directly to discuss that separately.

I would like to pick my own mentors to work with. Do I have to work with a mentor from the Mentoring Panel?

You can work with any mentor of your choice. You need to outline your mentoring need and why you choose your mentor in your application. You will need to include your mentor fee within the €20,000 budget. If you choose to work with mentors of your choice, you can also avail of the two mentoring sessions with the mentors from the Artist Mentor Panel. This is in additional support.

How can the partners support me?

The bursary award is intended to support the development of your collaborative practice, as defined by you. The additional partnership support is there to assist you with any personal challenges you may have/be experiencing, rather than challenges related to your practice itself.

If you feel one of the partners aligns with you, they can support you with up to two support meetings, where appropriate over the duration of your Bursary Award.

How many awards will be granted?

There will be two awards granted. One of the two bursary awards is specifically for an early career/emerging artist with a track record in collaborative arts practice.

2. Practical tips on filling in the application form

Guidelines	The guidelines have been revised and will help you include what is important for the application. Make sure you read them before beginning the application process.
Time	Give yourself time to complete the application form and avoid having to ask questions about the application a few days before. Please preview the questions, and prepare your answers, in advance of starting your application. You can save your application part-way through and access it again within 30 days but remember that you must submit in full before the deadline.
Preparing to apply	All applications must be made using the online form, which you will find on the Create website. We have also provided a reference-only version of the application form, which you can use to prepare your answers. You must submit your application using the online form, in advance of the closing date. If the online form is not accessible for you, please contact us. We will do all we reasonably can to assist you if you contact info@create-ireland.ie or call us on (01) 473 6600.
Language	Be clear, concise and to the point. Do not speak in the third person. Please use standard sentence case when completing the application form. We cannot accept applications written in Caps Lock.
Budget	You are asked to provide details of income (funding, other support, money generated by the project) and expenses (artistic, administrative and event/ production costs). Estimates should be realistic and should represent value for money. The difference between income and expenses is the amount you are seeking from the AIC Scheme.
Proof Reading	Allow fresh eyes to read over your application – ask someone who does not know what your project is about to give you advice on what is clear or unclear.

3. Troubleshooting for online application forms

If you are experiencing issues with accessing or submitting your online application, do not panic! We are here to help. Please find below a list of tips to try, which usually fix any issues.

First:

- Try restarting your device
- Clear the cache/ cookies/ history of your web browser
- Make sure your device is connecting to the internet and receiving good coverage
- Try using another web browser for your application

If the above suggestions do not help, you may contact us and report the errors

Steps to report errors on online application forms:

1. Indicate which form you use/ which award you are applying for
2. Did you try the suggestions above?
3. Provide details of the issue:
 - what's the issue?
 - what browser are you using (e.g. Chrome, Firefox, Edge, etc)?
 - what operating system are you using (e.g. Windows, Mac OS)?
 - what device are you using (e.g. desktop, laptop, tablet, mobile)?
 - If the issue is about uploading attachments: what is the file name, file format and send us the file
4. Provide a screen shot/ error message you received (this is very helpful for us to help diagnose the problem)
5. When did it happen (date and time)?
6. Email us (info@create-ireland.ie) with above details and attachments. Please note that it can take a number of days to address some issues.