

UNLIMITED...

Frequently Asked Questions

For Unlimited Main Research and Development Awards 2017

Please contact us if you would like this information in an alternative format.

How do I apply?

Artsadmin has an online portal for all applications to Unlimited.

To start completing your application go to <http://weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/>

If this is inaccessible to you, you can apply by using a Word version of the application form. To do this, or you have any other access related questions in relation to applying, please contact Sara Dziadik at Shape on 020 7424 7336 / sara@shapearts.org.uk.

When can I apply?

The application portal for all Expressions of Interest applications is open from 1st September 2017. Deadline for all submissions is 6th November 2017 at 12 noon GMT.

Shortlisted applicants will be notified week of 4th December 2017, and they will be invited to submit a full application by 5th February 2018.

Is there any support available to help with submitting an application?

Yes. If you need any assistance with the language and terminology in our application form, or want to discuss your eligibility for an Award, contact Clara Giraud (clara@artsadmin.co.uk) at Artsadmin or call **020 7247 5102**.

If you require access support in completing your application, we can help. Please contact Sara Dziadik at Shape on 020 7424 7336 / sara@shapearts.org.uk.

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Why is there a two-stage application process?

Unlimited is asking applicants to submit an Expression of Interest, and then inviting shortlisted applicants only to fill out a more detailed application form. This two-stage process saves time for artists, producers, and selection panel members, by only asking shortlisted applicants to develop a detailed project plan and budget.

Shortlisted applicants will also have direct contact with a named Unlimited Team member in order to seek advice regarding their application.

How competitive are these opportunities?

Unlimited expects to receive a large number of high quality applications, and we will not be able to fund all of the good applications we receive. In 2016, we received many Expressions of Interest applications - 48 were for the Main Research & Development and 100 for the Emerging Artist strand. We shortlisted 15-16 and awarded support to 5-6 projects in each strand.

Do I need to be registered disabled to apply?

No. There is no longer a register of disabled people. We base our work on the Social Model of Disability. If you self define or view yourself as a disabled person, then you are eligible to apply. You do not need to disclose details of your disability or supply any medical evidence. For a definition of the Social Model of Disability visit the Shape website: www.shapearts.org.uk/News/social-model-of-disability

My artistic practice is not related to disability. Can I still apply?

Yes. Applications are welcome from artists who work within a disability arts context, and from those disabled artists whose practice is unrelated to disability and/or impairment. Unlimited is about art, not about disability; some work may reference disability, some may not.

Can individuals / organisations apply?

- Individual artists:

Individual disabled artists are encouraged to apply. Please think about how the reporting, finances, administration and production of your project will be supported. We recommend that individual artists apply with an individual producer or producing organisation already in place.

- Organisations and companies:

The aim of the Unlimited commissions is to support work **by** disabled artists, not work **for** disabled people. Organisations and companies are welcome to apply and must clearly demonstrate how the creative elements are led by disabled people.

What do you mean by 'disability led'?

At Unlimited we take a flexible view on the term 'disability led' – we expect applicants to clearly demonstrate how the creative elements are led by disabled people. The key is in your articulation - you need to explain how 'disability-led' applies to your situation.

Will I be eligible for Access to Work* funding and support during the programme?

It is the selected applicant's responsibility to apply for Access to Work funding, if the support is necessary and relevant to their situation. It is anticipated that for most artists, costs for support workers and/or access equipment/technology will be funded via Access to Work.

*Access to Work is a government scheme that is designed to meet the additional costs of employing a disabled person where they are directly a result of that person's impairments. For more information go to: www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview

Will my access costs be covered?

Any access costs you incur as an artist or practitioner should be covered by Access to Work if you have self-employed artist status or work as part of an organisation or company. You should include these costs in your budget, both as expenditure and expected income. If you do not draw an income from your work, we will work with you to meet your access costs if you are selected, please still include these figures within your project budget.

Will audience members' access costs be covered?

It is the responsibility of the applicant to consider how their work will be accessible for audiences and participants in their full application proposal. These costs should be covered within your project budget.

The Unlimited team can provide further advice on how audience members' access requirements might be met if required.

Can I apply with one or more collaborators?

Yes, but the proposed work must be led by disabled artist(s).

Can I submit several applications?

You can be the lead artist in one application.

You can also be mentioned as delivering in up to 2 other applications (across both the Main R&D and Emerging strands).

Can I apply if I have received an Unlimited commission before?

Yes. If you received a main award, you can apply for a new and different project. If you received an R&D award you may apply to continue that project or you can apply for something completely different.

If you received an Emerging Artist 'Create' Award you can apply to continue to R&D that project, apply for something completely different or apply under the 'Participate' strand.

What artforms are eligible?

We welcome application proposals from all artforms, this includes visual arts, music, performing arts and literature. Film is only suitable if it is moving image work for a gallery or art context, as opposed to cinema. If your work is related to cinema, you may want to check Arts Council's recommendations for film funding: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/other-sources-funding>

Can I submit a portfolio, reviews, publications or slides?

No. Please only submit the support material as outlined in the application form. You may consult the Word versions of each application form by downloading it from here: <http://weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/>
These forms list what can be submitted with your application.

What are we looking for in Research & Development stages?

We're interested in Research & Development that looks both inward and outward. This might mean considering an artistic idea and the form it might take, and also developing relationships with organisations that can help you take the project further.

How do I calculate how much money I am applying for from Unlimited?

You will need to create an estimated budget for each of the stages of your project, making sure you include professional fees for everyone involved, equipment and materials, access costs, access for audiences, marketing, contingency and more. Note that fees should be aligned with industry standards following guidance from artists unions and industry agencies.

Then, consider all potential income sources, including other funding partners (confirmed or expected), in-kind support, grants from other organisations, and fees for the presentation of the work if relevant.

The balance between your income and expenditure is the amount you are requesting from Unlimited. Read a blog we've written about balancing a budget [here](#).

Why are different awards only open to artists and companies based in specific countries?

Each award is supported by different funders, therefore the funds can only be used to benefit of artists based in those countries.

Is there going to be a representative spread of commissions across UK?

Yes. The funding from Arts Council England and Arts Council of Wales is dedicated for artists/companies based in those locations.

The Emerging Artist Awards may fund work across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, depending on the locations of the successful applications; location is not a selection criteria for these awards.

When and how will the decisions be made?

The Expression of Interest Applications will be shortlisted by a panel of industry professionals using the criteria mentioned in the FAQs and in the brief. The panel includes representatives from key partners and 5 members who have been selected through an open application process. Find out more about how the panels work and who is on each panel [here](#). Unlimited staff support the application process but do not vote in the final selection process.

All applicants will be told if they have been shortlisted or not by 4th December 2017. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit full applications, providing more detailed information about their project, by 5th February 2018.

The panels for all of the commissions and awards will meet in March 2018 and awards will be announced end of March 2018.

Where can I find a producer?

We recommend you contact people you already know, and tap into your networks to see if anyone familiar with your practice might be interested in supporting your project. Alternatively, we will have contacts of some producers happy to be contacted about potential Unlimited projects (please email james@artsadmin.co.uk for this information), or you could advertise through a platform such as the Artsadmin e-digest: <http://artsadmin.co.uk/resources/e-digest>. Read more about what a producer might mean for your project, through these blogs: [What do we mean by producer?](#), [This thing called producing](#), and [Working with a Producer](#).

Expression of Interest Forms: what kind of information should the 'Project Description' contain?

This is the section of the form where you tell us about the project you would like Unlimited to support. Tell us about your idea, and what context you aim to deliver it in. Remember that Unlimited works across all art forms, at all scales, so be clear as to what type of work you want to create and what setting the 'final product' will be suitable for. This short section should give the selection panel a clear sense of what you are looking to do or create, without going into too much detail. If your application is shortlisted, you will be invited to provide much more detail about your project and how you will deliver it.

Can Unlimited give me advice about writing a good application?

The Unlimited Team are available to support you and answer any questions you have regarding the application process. They cannot advise you regarding the content of your application at this stage, or read any draft applications. However, we have a range of resources on our blog about what makes a strong funding application:

- [Sharing a vision](#)
- [Ambition vs Realism](#)
- [Being the right match](#)

I don't have any documentation of my work – can I still apply?

No. You need to be able to show examples of your work to the selection panel using either still images, audio, video documentation and/or written documents.

Will I be penalised for submitting just one instance of past work/document on the online application portal?

No, the work will be judged on quality and relevance, not the number of supporting documents submitted. It is advisable to submit your best work(s).

I don't have my own website – can I still apply?

Yes. But you must have an established profile evidenced by other relevant links, your letter of recommendation or media coverage.

Do I need match funding in place to apply?

Main R&D applicants are not required to provide match funding. However, the grants available are limited and so match funding – confirmed, applied for or anticipated –

may strengthen your application, whether in cash or in kind. Grants for the Arts or project-based funding from Arts Council England and Arts Council Wales, **cannot** be used as match funding.

What do we mean by disabled artists and companies having a strong track record in their artistic field?

We are looking for artists and companies who have shown work widely in public, with strong critical reception. Artists and companies who are at an early stage of their artistic career can apply for Unlimited Emerging Artist Award.

What are the criteria for the selection process?

The Key Criteria are:

- disability-led
- quality, innovation and ambition
- strong track record of creating work and reaching audiences
- existing collaborations and partnerships (these can include those with non-disabled led companies/artists/producers) – or plans to develop these through the R&D
- lead artist or company is resident in England or Wales

We will be looking to support a range of work – in relation to artform, scale, and location - across the R&D awards.

How many Main R&D Awards will Unlimited be funding this round?

Unlimited is aiming to fund between five to seven Main R&D Awards across England and Wales.



In order to qualify for a Wellcome-supported Award, does my project proposal need to include a named researcher from the health, biomedical or science field?

No, you do not have to include a named researcher at this point.

Proposals for the Wellcome-supported Award will need to demonstrate the potentials for a partnership in some form with a researcher or clinician from the health, biomedical or science field. Examples of this could be initial conversations, or details of an organisation, researcher, or clinician you are intending to approach, and how these partners will be involved in the development of the idea. Wellcome are particularly interested in proposals that value the input and perspectives of all partners. Where Wellcome feel an idea is strong but needs more input from a health or research partner, Wellcome may be able to help with building relationships with appropriate researchers / clinicians.

Do I have to apply for the Wellcome-supported award if my project tackles health-related themes?

No. Your project may tackle health-related themes but not fulfill other criteria of the Wellcome supported award, or you may choose not to apply to the Wellcome-supported Award even if you have such themes within your project. This will not impact on your project being considered for the Main R&D awards supported by Arts Council England or Arts Council Wales.