

UNLIMITED...

Applying for a Main R&D Award

Introduction

In March 2018 Unlimited will award a number of awards to research and develop ambitious projects by outstanding disabled artists and companies across all artforms. These opportunities, which may also provide mentoring support, can be applied for from September 2017.

About Unlimited

Unlimited exists to promote high quality art by disabled artists and companies, challenging negative perceptions and attracting new cultural audiences. Unlimited stands for creativity, ambition, quality, diversity and equality – values that can be seen across everything the programme does and funds.

Unlimited was at the heart of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, celebrating the work of disabled artists on an unprecedented scale. Shape Arts and Artsadmin, along with Senior Producer Jo Verrent, were successful in securing a further award from Arts Council England of £1.8 million to act as national delivery partners for the next phase of Unlimited commissions and research and development projects from 2016-20. Additional support is provided from Arts Council of Wales, British Council, Spirit of 2012, and for this R&D commissioning round, Wellcome.

Who can apply?

Professionally established disabled artists and companies that support disabled-led work across all art-forms and who are based in England and Wales are encouraged to apply. By 'established' we mean artists and companies who have shown work widely in public, with strong critical reception.

Shape and Artsadmin use an inclusive definition of disability based on the **Social Model** approach, which, by focusing on the disabling barriers imposed by society, embraces all physical, sensory and invisible impairments, learning disability, mental health, neurodivergent and fatigue conditions. If you identify as such, and/or have experienced access barriers, we invite you to apply.

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What kind of work are we looking for?

Research and development grants are for artists/companies that wish to explore the initial stages of a new project. We are looking for work in any artform, that is: innovative, excellent, and led by disabled artists. Unlimited is about art, not about disability; some work may reference disability, some may not.

The work can be linked to any subject or theme.

It is anticipated that the results of all the R&D's will be shared or showcased in some form as part of each project.

The majority of the R&D's supported will be for artists/companies based in England as the main source of funding available is from Arts Council England. There will also be work supported from artists based in Wales, thanks to additional funding from Arts Council of Wales.



For this round, Wellcome are partnering with Unlimited to fund an R&D award for a project that engages with health or science research. This award will seek proposals offering innovative and exciting ways health-related science research is explored in the creative process, encouraging inventive and unlikely collaborations that can offer different perspectives to both an artist's practice and the work of researchers.

This funding is for R&D only. Applicants can go on to apply for a Main Commission at the next round, callout in Autumn 2018, which may include further R&D if necessary. However, gaining an R&D in this round is not a guarantee of receiving main commission funding in this next round.

How much can you apply for?

Unlimited Main R&D Awards, including the Wellcome supported award, will range between **£5,000- £10,000**, depending on scale and ambition, with an additional minimum match funding of 10% required. Applicants will be expected to include costs for access in their bids. It is expected that between seven and ten Research and Development awards will be funded.

Key Criteria:

- 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

The Wellcome supported award will also meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate potentials for a partnership in some form with a researcher from the health, biomedical or science field
- Creatively explore health-related science and research
- Take an inventive approach, expand on existing work or offer a new perspective on a subject

We will be looking to support a range of ideas – in relation to artform, scale, and location – across the awards.

How to apply:

The application process is in two stages:

1. Expressions of Interest
2. Full application, only from those shortlisted to apply

Apply online at: weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/

Access support is available for all applications, including Word documents available to download online.

Award Timelines

- **1 September 2017, 12pm:** application portal for Expressions of Interest opens
- **6 November 2017, 12pm:** application portal for Expression of Interest closes
- **4 December 2017:** Shortlisted and non-shortlisted applicants notified
- **5 February 2018, 12pm:** deadline for full applications from shortlisted applicants
- **March 2018:** selection panels, decision-making and launch
- **May 2018:** R&D processes begin
- **Sept 2019:** last dates for presentation of work-in-progress if applicable/suitable

Expression of Interest

You will need to supply:

- The answers to three eligibility questions
- Contact information and the name of the project, artist(s) and producer for the project
- Supporting material in the form of images, video, audio or documents, relevant to the project proposal or showing previous work. (Optional)
- A project overview (80 words maximum) and description (400 words maximum)
- Approximate amount you will be requesting from Unlimited, if shortlisted
- Short biographies for the lead artist/company and producing partner (100 words each)
- To indicate if you would wish to be considered for the Wellcome award

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full application and will receive tailored guidance from the Unlimited Team around the criteria in relation to their project idea.

Full Application

Shortlisted applicants will need to supply:

- The name of the project, artist(s) and producer attached to the project
- Summary of project (200 words maximum)
- A proposal detailing the project and its suitability for Unlimited (1000 words maximum)
- A detailed budget
- Further information about access for artists and audiences (200 words maximum)
- Full biographies or CVs for lead artist(s) and producer(s)
- Supporting material in the form of images, video, audio or documents, relevant to the project proposal or showing previous work.
- Peer endorsement and/or press coverage: a letter of recommendation and/or press or media coverage (2 pages maximum)

Please see our FAQ section for further information including how to apply in different formats.

Selection Process

All eligible Expression of Interest applications will be assessed by a panel including representatives from Arts Council England, British Council, Southbank Centre, Tramway, Wellcome Trust and five individuals which have been previously selected through an open application process. The panel is disability-led. For information on the Selection Panel please visit weareunlimited.org.uk/apply-to-unlimited/selection-panel

Will there be further opportunities to apply for Unlimited funding?

Yes. Unlimited will be awarding grants up to 2020. These will be:

- Call out in 2018 for awards in 2019. Types of award: Main Commissions; Main R&D Awards and Emerging Artist Commissions.
- Call out in 2019 for awards in 2020. Types of award: Main R&D Awards and Emerging Artist Commissions.

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

If after reading all information provided you have further questions, please let us know by emailing info@weareunlimited.org.uk or call Clara Giraud at Artsadmin on **020 7247 5102**.