

UNLIMITED ...

British Council Unlimited Micro Awards full brief and FAQ

We are delighted to announce that British Council and Unlimited are working together on these awards, which are funded by British Council and administered by Unlimited. In total, we'll award grants to 20 pairs of disabled artists.

International arts projects sometimes focus on wealthier countries. However, with this initiative, we aim to strengthen links between UK artists and practitioners from countries that are low to middle-income.

The British Council Unlimited Micro Awards will help facilitate partnership and collaboration between artists and/or collectives in the UK and in these selected Official Development Assistance (ODA) countries and territories:

Albania, Argentina, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Serbia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

For more details about ODA, see [OECD's](#) website

What's being funded?

These Micro Awards are to support artists to build connections/collaborations in this uncertain time and not to create work.

The funding can cover a range of purposes which could cover (but are not restricted to): reflecting on past work, using the time to explore different creative processes together or planning to create small iterations of new work.

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How much is available?

Each application can be for up to **£2500**.

This includes up to **£1000** for each artist or collective, and up to **£500** for administration, translation and equipment.

Funding can cover 100% of the project costs, or part-fund them if other sources of funding are available.

It is assumed that activity will be remote. Any activities that are not, must comply with the Covid-19 restrictions in the artist's areas throughout.

Who can apply?

The lead applicant must be based in the UK. This can be an artist or artist/company/collective based anywhere in the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). They must be linked to a disabled artist based in a selected ODA country.

Criteria

- The project and/or idea should be disabled-led (It is acknowledged that in many countries, disabled artists are in a different position to those in the UK). Artists whose work centres around disability and/or impairment are welcome to apply, as are those whose work does not
- The partnership or the idea/s being explored should be innovative and/or ambitious
- The partnership and/or project should have the potential to lead to future developments

We want to hear from the full diversity of disabled artists, working in any discipline across the four UK nations. By the term 'disabled artist' we aim to include artists who identify as being disabled, D/deaf, neurodiverse/ neurodivergent and those experiencing chronic illness, mental health conditions and more. We understand that different people prefer different terminology. You do not have to prefer the term 'disabled person' to apply.

How to apply

Application is via **Submittable**, our online portal; information below.

In the application form, we ask for a brief overview of your idea, information on both artists / collectives and your previous work, an idea of how you would spend the funds, and a sense of the impact you think a Micro Award could make.

Applications are available in alternative formats, (see below) and can be made in alternative formats, including video.

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Deadlines and selection

There are two rounds:

- Deadline for round one: **12 noon, Tuesday 23 March 2021**
- Deadline for round two: **12 noon, Tuesday 18 May 2021**

For the first round, we expect to make decisions by **30 April 2021** and all projects must be completed by the end of **September 2021**.

For the second round, we expect to make decisions by **25 June 2021** and all projects must be completed by the end of **November 2021**.

Panel members for both rounds will be announced at a later date. These will be disability-led.

Any questions, please email info@weareunlimited.org.uk or phone **07506 679968**.

Applying

Applications can be made via the Submittable platform – [you can apply here](#).

You can apply by uploading video or audio formats if you wish.

If preferred (for access) you can apply via completing this [Word application](#) form. Please return it to info@weareunlimited.org.uk Please read the full brief before applying.

FAQ for applicants

Can I apply for access support?

Access funding is available separately – both to support making applications and to support your project, if selected.

Please arrange access cost support to help you make your application before costs are incurred. Please [contact us](#) in advance to discuss your access costs in relation to making an application.

Please include your access costs to support the project within your budget information when you apply.

If access costs are higher than anticipated, fewer awards will be made to ensure access costs can be covered for all.

Why do partners need to be based in ODA countries?

The British Council Unlimited Micro Awards are funded as Official Development

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Assistance (ODA). Official Development Assistance is a term coined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to measure aid.

Through these awards, we aim to make a positive contribution to disabled artists in ODA countries and to strengthen their connections with UK disabled artists.

For more about the British Council's work with ODA, see the British Council's website: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/finance/official-developmentassistance>

For more details about ODA, see OECD's website: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-financestandards/official-development-assistance.htm>

Why isn't every ODA country eligible?

The British Council's global teams have identified a wide selection of ODA countries across the regions they work in. They have also identified ODA countries with practitioners who have participated in Unlimited events previously. The aims are to offer this opportunity to countries that will benefit most from the additional support, and to strengthen UK-international disability arts networks.

Can Unlimited or the British Council help me find a partner artist?

Sadly we do not have the capacity to help artists find international collaborators for this opportunity. However, you could check out the [Disability Arts International website](#) for international resources and inspiration.

Can I be the lead applicant if I don't live in the UK?

No, applications must be led by and submitted by artists based in the UK - England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.

What artforms are eligible?

Unlimited supports artists working in visual arts, performing arts, literature, music, craft and combined arts - or any combination of these. In addition, the British Council's programme includes film, architecture, design and fashion. Artists may be working in any of these areas.

Criteria

What do we mean by disability-led?

When we say 'disability-led,' we mean that the creative idea and the creative control must reside with the disabled artist(s) involved. Artists may collaborate with non-

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disabled people, but the creative ideas and direction should be led by disabled people. Both the UK based artist and the artist based in an ODA country must be disabled (or disabled led, in the case of a group, collective or ensemble).

What do we mean by quality, innovation and ambition?

We understand that assessing 'quality' is contentious. We are looking for work that will be considered of quality within the individual definitions of the type of work and the artform itself.

We are looking for work that is innovative, fresh and pushes boundaries. We do not fund ideas that are not original to the artist/s applying. We want artists to be ambitious. Applications should include a sense of stretch for artists.

The application form

How much should I write?

To make the application as easy as possible and fair to every applicant, we restrict word counts (not the number of characters) for all of the answers. These word counts are noted at the start of every question. You don't have to use up all the space or write exactly the number of words suggested. If you exceed the word count, the form will either note that you have made an error, or cut off your text so we are unable to read it.

We recommend that you plan your application using the offline form that is available, so you can check your text and word counts before you use the online application portal.

If you are making an application in an alternative format, you should answer the same questions in the same order, and limit the length of your responses to the word count we have provided. Again, we recommend that you prepare your answers before you record your audio, video or other alternative format application. Refer to the **Access** section of this FAQ for more information on accessible application formats.

What kind of information should my project/idea description contain?

This is where you need to tell us what you wish to do. We need a short, concise description of this, in language that all the panel can understand (they will not all be specialists in your artform/s). Tell us why we just have to shortlist this idea!

The selection process

How competitive is this opportunity?

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This is a competitive opportunity but we do not know how competitive it will be as we have not run this scheme before.

Who will be on the selection panels?

All applications will be read by a selection panel of six. This will be formed of two people from Unlimited's delivery team, two from [British Council](#) and two independent disabled panellists. All panels will be 50% minimum disabled people.

What feedback will I receive?

Depending on the numbers of applications, a shortlist of up to 25 projects will be drawn up for each round from the highest scoring applications, balanced to ensure geographic representation. Projects that do not make the shortlist will have simple feedback provided, drawn from panel members brief written comments. Those who make the shortlist and are not funded will have more detailed feedback, drawn from the panel discussion when their application was discussed.

Can I apply again if I'm not successful in the first round?

You will not be able to apply with the same idea or partnership. You may apply with a new idea and partnership.

If you have questions please email info@weareunlimited.org.uk or phone **07506 679968**

This opportunity is brought to you by British Council in partnership with Unlimited.