ACE Project Grants
old and new application forms comparison

Key aspects of the funds are the same:
- Project activity (e.g. specific activity with a start and end date) lasting up to 3 years
- Arts forms: Combined Arts including festivals and carnivals, Dance, Libraries, Literature, Museums, Music, Theatre or Visual Arts.
- Rolling applications- no application deadline
- Can apply as an individual or organisation, including libraries and museums. Basic eligibility is the same e.g. aged 18+, bank account in name of applicant etc
- They want to know it's a high quality artistic project that will engage the public, is well budgeted and will be well managed
- Can apply for £1,000- £100,000+

Key differences with the new fund are:
- Can apply for up to £30,000 with a quicker turnaround time or over £30,000 with a longer turnaround and a couple of additional requirements (previously under £15,000 or over £15,000)
- Decision within 8 weeks (rather than 6 weeks) for under £30,000 (over 30K still at 12 week decision turnaround)
- There are new questions for you to show how your project contributes to ACE's 10 year strategy, Let's Create, in particular their four Investment Principles and three Outcomes.
- Requirement for 10% match funding reinstated

A comparison of the questions from the new form, side by side with the old form is below.

The new application form has 4 sections:
- Essential information (about the project, project focus, project outputs e.g. numbers of artists, audience involved etc)

- Feasibility and Risk (financial management, budget, risk management, partners, activity plan etc)
- Let's Create Outcomes (how your project contributes to these)
- Let's Create Investment Principles (how your project contributes to these)

The old under 15K form had 15 narrative questions and a total of 19,200 characters available.

The new under 30K form has 8 narrative questions with a total of 9700 characters available, plus an additional optional 5 narrative questions (up to 2 additional Let's Create Outcomes and 3 additional Let's Create Investment Principles) and an additional optional 16500 characters available for these.

The new over 30K form is very similar in format except that you have 3000 characters to address each Let's Create Outcome that is relevant to your project and up to 2000 characters for each Investment Principle. As with under 30K, all over 30K applicants have to complete the Inclusivity and Relevance Investment Principles. Touring applications for over 30K also have to answer on the Environmental Responsibility Investment Principle. Applications for over £100K need to complete all four.

I'm delivering a workshop on the new ACE Project Grants application in early 2022. [More info and booking here](#)

Under 15K (until 19 November 2021)	Under 30K (22 November 2021 onwards)	Notes
	Basic details/ Essential Information	
Please give us a short summary of your project. (600 characters)	In your own words, tell us what your project is. Give us a 50 word summary (300 characters)	This appears further down in the 'Essential Information' section. It is not the first question for under 30K form
Tell us the total amount you are applying to us for, including any personal access costs* (£): * How much of this request is for your / your collaborators' personal access costs?* (£):	Tell us the total amount you are applying to us for, including any personal access costs	
Do you, or does your organisation object to receiving National Lottery funding for religious reasons?	Do you, or does your organisation object to receiving National Lottery funding for religious reasons?	

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Tell us the start and end dates for your project.	Tell us the start and end dates for your project	Question comes under 'Feasibility and Risk' section for under 30K
Outcomes		
Our 10-year strategy, <u>Let's Create</u>, has three Outcomes. Tell us which of our Outcomes, listed below, you think your project will contribute to. - Creative People - Cultural Communities - A Creative and Cultural Country		These questions appear in a more detailed format below in the new under 30K form
Quality		
Tell us about your (or your organisation's) relevant work and experience. (1500 characters)		
Tell us more about your project and what you want it to achieve. (1500 characters)	Give us a more detailed description of what you want to do using our funding (800 characters) We'd like to know: what your project is - what will happen - who it is aimed at; and - how your project is developing	This question appears under 'Essential Information' section for

	and delivering excellence	under 30K
* Tell us how this project will help to develop your work. (1500 characters)		
Project Focus		

*What will your project focus on?
 	
    '   working with new people
 	
    '   creating or commissioning new work
 	
    '   reaching new or different audiences
 	
    '   trying out new approaches
 	
    '   undertaking organisational development
 	
    '   undertaking professional development
	What type of activity does your project mainly focus on?
	Tick as many as you feel are relevant.
	• Developing new creative or cultural work mainly on my own, or within my organisation
	• Developing new creative or cultural work mainly with other people
	• Developing my own skills, or the skills within my organisation
	• Showing, performing or exhibiting something to/with, people in your/ their, communities
	• Working in a way that is focused on a specific place (a village, town, city or region) or community in England
	• Developing our organisation
	• Working internationally
	• Working at significant scale or scope, with a
		This question appears under 'Essential Information' section for under 30K

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	national impact • Working innovatively and/or collaboratively • Something else (narrative text box – 200 characters)	
Who is involved		
Table of artists and creatives involved, role and confirmed or expected		This appears later in the under 30K application, combined with the partners table
Attachment to give a sense of your work	Attachment to give a sense of your work	For under 30K application this option is at the end
Public Engagement		
Tick here if your activity is specifically aimed at any particular age group, identified ethnic groups, disabled people, individuals or groups	Tick here if your activity is specifically aimed at any particular age group, identified ethnic groups, disabled people, individuals or groups with a particular sexual orientation identity, either male,	

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with a particular sexual orientation identity, either male, female or trans people	female or trans people	
Who will engage with your project? (1000 characters)		
* How will people engage with your project and what experience do you want them to have? (1000 characters)		
* Tell us how you will make sure your project reaches people. (1000 characters)		
Beneficiaries: table with numbers of artists, participants, audience (live), audience (broadcast, online, in writing)	Who will experience your project? table with numbers of creative practitioners, active participants, volunteers, audiences, visitors and public (live), streaming audiences (live presentation through digital platform), digital audiences (Those who experience a creative product designed to be experienced through	This question appears under 'Essential Information' section for under 30K

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	digital technology)	
	How have you worked out these figures? (Up to 800 characters)	This question appears under 'Essential Information' section for under 30K
	How many of the people taking part in/contributing to your project are employed on a freelance basis?	This question appears under 'Essential Information' section for under 30K
	How will people experience your project? Tick boxes for: Live event- static Live event- multiple locations/ touring Digital experience Streaming or broadcasting Longer term public engagement in England (e.g. R&D, organisational development)	This question appears under 'Essential Information' section for under 30K
	If you select longer term public engagement an additional Q appears: Who are you hoping will benefit from your project	This question appears under 'Essential

	in the longer term, and how will they experience it? (800 characters)	Information' section for under 30K
	If you select "Live event- multiple locations/ touring" or "Live event- static" a table appears to complete with name of venue, local authority, dates, number of performances, expected/ confirmed etc (matches the previous touring table from the under 15K app). There are variants on this table for digital and streamed events	
Finance		
Income table (category/ income heading, description, expected or confirmed, amount)	Income table (category/ income heading, description, expected or confirmed, amount)	
Tell us how you have raised, or plan to raise, the income from other sources you have included in the income table. (1500 characters)	Tell us more about the match funding for your project? (Up to 1,500 characters)	
Tell us about the support in kind in your		Does not appear in

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budget (1500 characters)		under 30K application but guidance for previous question references partnership support so could include in kind there.
Expenditure table (type of expenditure, description, amount)	Expenditure table (type of expenditure, description, amount)	There is a new expenditure category for under 30K: Environmental Responsibility costs
* Tell us how you will manage the budget for this project, and about your previous experience of managing budgets. (1500 characters)	What experience do you have of managing a project budget of this size? Pick from the list below: • I have managed a project budget of this size or larger before (tick box) • I have managed a smaller project budget before (tick box) • I have not managed a project budget before, but I can draw on the experience of other people	For the options for the under 30K question which ask for additional information, the guidance does not give a character

	involved in this project - which people involved in the project will support you? (1500 characters) • This is the first time I've managed a project budget, it's a good opportunity to learn - what do you plan to do to manage the budget for this project? (1500 characters)	count.
* Tell us how you have worked out the costs in your project budget, including the costs of any purchases. (1500 characters)	How have you worked out the costs included in your budget? (Up to 1,500 characters)	
	How much of your total budget is being spent on international costs (such as visas, carnets, freight, travel, accomodation, per diems)?	
Have you used any recognised pay guidelines to work out pay for those involved in your project (including you)? If yes: Please explain in more detail. (600 characters)	Have you used a recognised industry standard to work out how to pay artists and professionals involved in your project (including you)? If you answer 'yes', tell us which one. If you answer 'no', tell us how you I have calculated fees in a different way. There are more detailed notes on this in the	In the under 30K app this question is at the beginning under 'Essential Information'

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If no: Tell us how you have calculated the fees in your budget. (600 characters)	guidance than previously, and it doesn't specify a word count for the explanation in the guidance.	
If there are other people included in the delivery of my project, as workers or volunteers, I am aware of my statutory responsibilities. Tick box		
Management		
* Tell us about your, and your partners', recent experience in managing similar types of projects. (1500 characters)	What experience do you have of managing a project? Choose from the list below: • I have managed projects like this before (tick box) • I have managed some tasks of projects like this before (tick box) • I have not managed a project like this before, but I can draw on the experience of other people involved in this project - which people involved in the project will support you? (1500 characters) • This is the first time I've managed a project like	For the options for the under 30K question which ask for additional information, the guidance does not give a character count.

	this, it's a good opportunity to learn - what do you plan to do to manage your project? (1500 characters)	
Table of project partners (name, contact, email, role, expected or confirmed)	Who will be working with you to deliver your project? (table)	For under 30K form this table includes partners and creative practitioners
Choose if your project: - focuses on touring - doesn't include any touring at all - includes touring, and other types of activity (Follow up table with venues/ local authority/ expected or confirmed)		
Tell us about the planning and preparation you have already done. (1500 characters)		
	What are the main risks and challenges to your project meeting its aims, and what will you do to manage these risks? (Up to 1,500 characters)	

Table of project timeline/ activity plan (start date, end date, activity, task lead)	Table of project timeline/ activity plan (start date, end date, activity, task lead)	This question appears under 'Essential Information' section for under 30K
Table of project results (number of new products or commissions, days employment for artists, performances or exhibition days, sessions of education, participation or training)		
* Tell us how you will evaluate your project. (1500 characters)		
	Let's Create Outcomes	
	Select which outcome your project contributes to: Creative People - Everyone can develop and express creativity throughout their life Cultural Communities -Villages, towns and cities thrive through a collaborative approach to culture	

	A Creative and Cultural Country - England's cultural sector is innovative, collaborative and international	
	For each outcome you have selected, you'll get a text box (up to 1,500 characters) to tell us how your project will contribute to that outcome.	
	Let's Create Investment Principles	
	Our Investment Principles are: • Ambition and Quality • Dynamism • Environmental Responsibility • Inclusivity and Relevance

In this section you can use the Investment Principles to build up an in-depth picture of your project, which in turn will give us a stronger understanding of your intentions and plans, and how your project will contribute to delivering our Strategy.

Each Investment Principle has 3 sub sections with a text box which has a limit of 1,500 characters for each.

All applicants need to complete the section on Inclusivity and Relevance. (1500 characters x 3) | |

	Select the other Investment Principles if they are relevant to your work/ project/ The breakdown of sub sections for each Investment Principle is listed on p15 onwards in this document.	
Monitoring information and declaration	Monitoring information and declaration	

Created by Christina Poulton Creative

I love working with artists and organisations on their company or charity set up, finance, policies, fundraising, organisational development and procedures -all the things that underpin the arts and allow amazing things to happen. I also run low cost, accessible training for freelancers and small arts organisations. Details and booking here.