

FUND GUIDELINES – JULY 2025

Who can apply:

Funding is available for individuals in dance and the performing arts, researchers, and artists looking to accelerate their careers or make a career transition across the arts and creative industries by furthering their artistic or academic practice. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

Collaborative projects and group applications are welcome, provided the collaborators are individuals applying as a collective – not on behalf of a company, organization, or commissioned entity. If selected for funding, the bursary amount will remain the same, and all collaborators must agree in writing that one designated individual will serve as the primary contact and recipient of funds.

Applicants must be residents in the UK, Ireland or USA.

Funding is available for individuals for:

- Dance and Performing Arts,
- Researchers,
- Choreographic artists looking to accelerate their careers or make a career transition across the arts and creative industries by furthering their artistic or academic practice.
- Mental health and physical well-being

What is the fund for:

The bursaries help sustain dancers, performing arts, choreographers, researchers and scholars in the arts and creative industries. Funds must be used within 12 months of receipt.

There are four categories under which people in arts and creative industries can apply:

1) Dance & Performing Arts:

Formal education: this strand is for applicants who have been accepted into an arts and creative industries education programme and are seeking financial support.

Informal education: applicants to this strand will have to show a clear plan of activity that demonstrates how they will be gaining knowledge in their chosen activity.

2) Academic researchers in arts and creative industries: Research can be multimodal. Assistance with financing areas of the research that may include data collection, books, publishing, research training, equipment, and conferences.

3) Choreographic artists looking to develop their own work for an audience that takes place in a theatre, festival, or community setting. This can include artists who are looking for support to develop and produce their own solo work. This is geared towards freelance choreographers.

4) Mental health and physical well-being support: Funds are provided to support individuals seeking professional advice that would support their return to peak health and fitness, allowing them to continue performing, rehearsing or training. Qualifying treatments include face-to-face therapy sessions with professional therapists across the UK, rehabilitation costs (following injury), the cost of some physiotherapy sessions, or consulting a medical practitioner with dance specialist knowledge working in a dance injury clinic or similar establishment for medical advice.

Exclusions:

We do not provide support for companies, fees for formal educational courses, living expenses, or gap year programs. For dance artists we will not be funding work for cruises, films or competitions. Work for schools and colleges or commissioned projects for choreographers will not be covered.

The fund will not cover the cost of surgery or other major treatment requiring hospitalisation in extreme circumstances.

What to include with your application:

- CV - Include relevant information to your current training, employment, or specialism
- Outline of proposed activity (including dates)
- Draft Budget - Budget for the project. Please note, if awarded you will be asked to provide evidence on how the funds have been used.
- Two reference letters (This should be someone in a position of responsibility who can comment on your work, your competence, voluntary, artistic, or academic experience, etc. References from family members or friends are not considered appropriate and will not be accepted).

For further questions or clarifications, or if you have accessibility needs and would like to submit a video application please email us at: info@theabarneslegacyfund.org