

## Scottish government Creative Freelancers Hardship Fund

Notes from SCAN meeting with Amanda Catto, Head of Visual Arts at Creative Scotland and Sarah Calmus President Visual Arts Scotland. Thursday October 22

**Please note this document was prepared on October 22 at 2pm, the information in it may be updated as full details of the guidance emerge.**

### Where do I apply?

An overview of the Scottish Government Hardship Fund for creative freelancers can be found on the Creative Scotland website [here](#) and more detailed guidance has just been published [here](#)

Creative Scotland has announced delivery partners for different areas of creative work.

Visual Arts Scotland will distribute fund for artists

Other freelancers such as curators, educators, technicians in the visual arts will apply through Creative Scotland.

If you are a craft maker you can apply to the fund led by Craft Scotland and the Crafts Council.

Everyone applying for the funds, whatever your area of work, must first register through the Creative Scotland website portal. This opens at 12 noon on Monday October 26. Registering [here](#) will give you a unique reference number and explain where to apply for support.

### About The Fund

This fund is non-competitive and will operate on a first come first service basis, for applications that are deemed eligible.

Criteria are requests for hardship funds, this is not about assessing applications for grants or projects but proving eligibility for support.

There will be residence qualifications, and qualifications around savings etc and other forms of support. These should be detailed in the Creative Scotland guidance.

### Who is eligible?

You need to evidence your position as a creative freelancer with a career that was established by March 2020 and has been impacted by Covid.

A CV can demonstrate a freelance practice prior to March 2020. For similar emergency funds like Bridging Bursaries a statement was possible as an alternative, links to work and projects can also demonstrate a freelance creative practice. You could also include information about your membership of a professional body or trade union to show .

The guidance and FAQs on the Creative Scotland website give much more detail about eligibility.

### **How much can I ask for?**

The fund will offer a single payment of between £500-£2000. Apply for what you need. These funds are emergency funds from the Scottish government and there is currently no expectation of further rounds or opportunities.

### **Are there tax or benefit implications?**

Creative Scotland suggest taking advice on this. It is likely that funds could be considered income for self-assessment tax purposes. Please take advice if you are in receipt of benefit and you believe that receiving funds may put your benefit at risk.

### **What is the timescale?**

Funds will open and be disbursed until they are exhausted. It is expected that like the Bridging Bursary launched earlier this year there will be a pause once around 60% of funds have been allocated. This will provide a chance for potential applicants who may not yet have applied because of ill health, access requirements or those who were not aware of the fund launch.

### **Turnaround of applications?**

Creative Scotland aim to ensure that eligible recipients will receive money within 6 weeks of a request.

Where else can I get help to support my work as a creative freelancer?

The Creative Scotland Open Fund is currently open to support projects and creative development. More information here.

### **Concerns raised**

SCAN remains concerned that many creative freelancers are still not accessing support. Please let us know about this on [covid@sca-net.org](mailto:covid@sca-net.org)

# SCOTTISH CONTEMPORARY ART NETWORK

SCAN is requesting more detailed information about the rules regarding those who have been in receipt of funds through the self-employed income support scheme.

Contact us on social, join our mailing list and if you see us surveying do let us know about your urgent needs. We continue to work on advocacy with colleagues at SAU, Engage, Culture Counts, and other cultural bodies at such difficult times for artist and freelancers.

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