

## Briefing document

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# Connections Through Culture: India- Wales

### Overview

The British Council is inviting applications by Individual artists, arts organisations and festivals based in India and Wales to apply for a one-year research and development grant of up to £10,000 by submitting co-created project proposals. The commissions will be part of the Connections Through Culture: India-Wales grant scheme by the British Council supported by Wales Arts International and Arts Council Wales to develop cross-cultural creative collaborations and new artistic work between India and Wales with scope to tour arts festivals in both countries over the longer-term

### About the British Council

The [British Council](#) is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. We work with more than 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, the English language, education and civil society.

### Connections Through Culture: India- Wales

This grant scheme builds on the success of [India-Wales](#), the joint funding programme between British Council and Wales Arts International/Arts Council of Wales, and Wales' involvement in the UK-India Year of Culture in 2017, that marked the 70 anniversary of independence in India. India Wales was an ambitious programme that supported more than 2000 participants across 13 projects, within theatre, dance, film, literature, music and visual and applied arts, engaged

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more than 80,000 audience members in Wales and India and reached over 4.9 million people through social media.

Connections Through Culture: India-Wales is a grant scheme by the British Council supported by Wales Arts International and Arts Council Wales to develop cross-cultural creative collaborations and new artistic work between India and Wales with scope to tour arts festivals in both countries over the longer-term.

The grant is designed to provide support to individual artists, arts organisations and festivals based in India and Wales to co-create new artistic work, embed creative skills and develop capacity and share practice through a one-year research and development grant from April 2021 to February 2022

The programme offers opportunities for:

- mutual and equitable collaboration in India and Wales with research and development grants for emerging and established artists and independent festivals or arts organisations in India and Wales.
- sharing the rich cultural heritage of India and Wales through innovative, new artistic works that have been co-created for touring to festivals in both the countries
- artists, arts organizations and festivals in both countries to benefit from the inspiration gained from exchanging ideas and sharing their cultural history through development of new arts product

## **Eligibility for Connections Through: India- Wales**

- The fund is open to any individual artist, arts organisation or festival who wants to develop an arts project with a counterpart arts festival, organization or individual resulting in an exhibition, performance or public event.
- Members of staff of arts festivals or arts organisations are also eligible to apply.
- Project alumnus of the 2017 Wales-India Year of Culture are eligible to apply
- Individuals, organizations or Festivals that already have existing partnerships with counterparts in India/Wales are eligible to apply.
- The partnership must consist of at least one lead partner from Wales and one partner from India.
- Lead applicants must have a bank account that accepts GBP.
- In general, funding should be split equally between the partners
- Applicants can apply for up to £10,000 to realise their creative idea and we are looking to support 5 projects. Applicants with in kind or matched support are welcome, although this is not essential. Match funding cannot be provided through other British Council funded programmes.

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- Applications should be jointly submitted with one lead Wales partner who will be contracted and responsible for disseminating the grant to all collaborators.
  - Applicants must be able to demonstrate clear benefits to both India and Wales, which should be reflected through the project design, planning (including budget allocation), delivery and dissemination. This includes demonstrating how each partner or their audiences/communities may benefit from societal impact, opportunities, new networks and/or capacity building. Mutuality must be a central component to this India-Wales collaboration
  - We expect applications to embed principles of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) through their core proposal and design (e.g. captioning videos, translating content, recruitment of interpreter, gender of the beneficiaries or project team etc). For more information on our EDI policy, please refer to this link <https://www.britishcouncil.org/aboutus/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion>
  - The application must include a communication strategy to share knowledge and outputs with a wider audience.
  - We are interested in new, original ideas in response to this call. Existing projects and programmes will be ineligible.
  - Applicants are expected to deliver and complete all project activities from **April 2021 to February 2022** and submit two interim project reports by **July 2021 and November 2021** and a final project report in **February 2022** to the British Council
  - Applicants can use any platforms to showcase their project idea, but must provide detail on how this will be realised and confirm that agreements in principle are in place with host organisations, festivals, online sites, media partners etc.
  - The co-created projects may include (but not be limited to) digital, performing arts, visual arts and exhibitions, literature, music, or public events.
  - Successful applicants will own the copyright of any work created but must grant the British Council, as the commissioning partner, free and unequivocal use of any arising outputs, which may include promotion of works through our digital channels or exhibiting works in the future.
  - Successful applicants will be required to keep in regular communication with the British Council, offering project updates and support the project monitoring and evaluation by submitting two interim project reports by July 2021 and November 2021 and a final project report in February 2022 to the British Council

## Who is not eligible?

- Funding bodies and government departments in India or Wales are ineligible.
- Ongoing projects or ones that have already started are ineligible
- Previous grant recipients of the Connections Through Culture: India Wales programme are ineligible

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- For Indian applicants, individuals based (living) outside of India are ineligible, unless temporarily living outside of India but retaining a home address in India.
  - For Welsh applicants, individuals based (living) outside of Wales are ineligible, unless temporarily living outside of the United Kingdom but retaining a home address in Wales and defined by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs as 'resident in the UK' for tax.

## Number of grants available

There are five grants of up to £10,000 available to artists, arts organizations and festivals in Wales and India to research and develop new collaboration projects

## What the Grant covers

The grant will enable an individual artist, or creatives from a festival or arts organisation to work with counterparts in India or Wales. **Given the current situation, digital formats of working are expected.**

### Research and development – April 2021- February 2022

- Enable the use of digital/ virtual platforms and formats to support remote collaboration including mentorship, skills sharing, workshops and development of arts products
- Support Face-to-face arts project development between festivals, arts organizations and artists e.g. R&D residencies for creative collaboration including artists fees, materials, and contractual negotiations.
- Seeing and evaluating festivals and artworks of partner arts organisations.
- Developing staff skills needed to realise a creative project through shadowing or training counterparts in partner arts organisations.

**Please note that for face to face project development, grant recipients will adhere in accordance with both country governments regulation and guidance on travel and work to ensure the safety for the public, your wellbeing and associated collaborators.**

### Future funding round – April 2022

- Further to the research and development phase, scaling the arts project to production and festivals touring, as well as the purchase or hire of materials, equipment, venues, goods and/or services, and artists fees.
- Sharing the combined creative practice of Wales and India with festivals and audiences

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## What the grant does not cover

The grant cannot be used for overhead costs, staff salaries, and general running costs. Please note, applicants will need to make their own travel, visa, and insurance arrangements

## Example project types

We are expecting to fund the following kinds of projects (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Research and development of new project, arts products or festival ideas
- Research and development of virtual art residencies, exhibitions or showcases, conferences, performances
- Research and development for mixed, augmented and virtual reality projects

## Application questions

Expect to be asked to provide the following:

- A project summary
- Backgrounds on all partners
- A breakdown of partners roles and responsibilities during the project
- A budget and project timeline/ milestones
- Expected reach (both face to face and digital)
- What challenges you foresee and how you plan to overcome them
- Your approach to equality, diversity and inclusion

## Expected outcomes

### Research and development

Research and development support for diverse and inclusive artistic practice across all art forms aimed at touring festivals

### Future funding for public facing artistic output

Successful projects from the Research and development phase will be invited to apply for additional grant funding support in April 2022 to ensure sustainable, structured and systematic creative collaboration focused on creation of new touring products.

The programme seeks to reflect the creative diversity of UK and India with specific focus on Wales and India

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## Selection criteria

Applications grants will be evaluated by the Wales-India Connections Through Culture panel including external guests. The decision of the assessment panel will be final.

Applications will be judged across the following areas (these areas will be clearly marked in the application form):

### 1. Activity and Innovation - 45%

- Evidence of project concept development to date
- Evidence of clear activity outline
- Evidence of sharing the rich cultural heritage of India and Wales

### 2. Partnership - 20%

- Evidence of a sound partnership

### 3. Project Viability- Budget and Milestones- 25%

- Usefulness of the grant to further development of the activity
- Evidence of estimated cost breakdown and timescales

### 4. Equality, Inclusion and Diversity- 10%

## Key dates

| Milestone                                                                                             | Date                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Application window opens                                                                              | Thursday 21 January 2021                      |
| Application deadline                                                                                  | Sunday 14 February 2021                       |
| Assessment and clarification questions to applicants and interviews (as appropriate and if necessary) | w/c 15 February 2021 and w/c 22 February 2021 |
| Successful applicants informed and grant agreements issued                                            | w/c 8 March and w/c 15 March 2021             |
| Project and activity window                                                                           | April 2021 – February 2022                    |
| Interim Reports                                                                                       | July 2021 and November 2021                   |
| Final report                                                                                          | February 2022                                 |
| Programme evaluation                                                                                  | March 2022 – April 2022                       |

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## How to apply

- Complete this [online application form](#) via the Submittable platform.
- Submittable works best on Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Internet Explorer is not supported. Please make sure you are using a supported browser.
- You will need to create a free Submittable account or sign in with Google or Facebook credentials in order to submit the forms.
- The platform has a collaboration feature, which enables you to invite your project partner in India/Wales to collaborate on the form. You can use this feature by clicking on the '**Invite collaborators**' option in the top right-hand corner of the form and adding the details of the partners you'd like to invite.
- You can save a draft of your work if you would like to finish filling out the form at a later date.
- Applications should be submitted by Sunday 14 February 2021, 23.59 hours (GMT). Applications submitted after this date may not be considered by the reviewing panel.

For questions, please write to [ConnectionsIndia@britishcouncil.org](mailto:ConnectionsIndia@britishcouncil.org) and allow at least five working days for a response.

We look forward to receiving your application.