

Creative Bursary 2023: Open Call Guide

Updated on 14 September 2023

PLEASE READ THE [ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA](#) CAREFULLY BEFORE WORKING ON YOUR APPLICATION. SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 (11.59 AM CET)**

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Creative Bursary

The Creative Bursary is a grant program created by The Supporting Act Foundation to help emerging artists at early stages of their careers who come from underrecognized and/or marginalized groups, and are experiencing financial hardship. This year we are focusing on undergraduate students in the final year of their studies who are looking to develop their practice towards arts for social change, and are creating solidarity networks for those in similar situations.

This grant program is built on extensive research into the challenges facing emerging artists in Europe, and aims to address the areas on which the foundation is focused: reducing precarity, fighting discrimination, and addressing vulnerability. Our priority is to support people who are underrecognized in the creative and cultural sectors, and who have fewer opportunities to fulfill their creative potential.

What are we offering?

We are offering 10 unrestricted bursaries of €10,000-. These will be transferred in monthly installments of €1,000- over a period of 10 months (December 2023–September 2024). They are intended to help cover your tuition fees, living costs, materials, and any other costs you may incur.

We will also provide non-financial support in the form of virtual meetings with mentors and other grantees, as well as featuring your work on our social channels, and on the social channels and advertising/editorial platforms of our funding partner WeTransfer.

Who can apply?

Eligibility criteria

Before preparing your application, please take care to check that you meet the following criteria. To apply, you should be:

- ❖ Enrolled as an undergraduate student in the final year of your studies (2023–2024) and looking to develop your practice towards arts for social change
- ❖ Able to provide an active bank account number under your name in the Netherlands, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Spain, or Italy*
- ❖ At least 18 years old
- ❖ Experiencing any form of financial hardship
- ❖ Experiencing, or have experienced, specific issues that affect people from underrecognized and marginalized groups
- ❖ Self-identifying as part of one or more underrecognized or marginalized groups

If you are selected for a bursary, we will request documents that confirm that you meet criteria 1, 2, and 3.

This open call is not for Masters/PhD students, organizations, art projects, or collectives.

How to apply?

Once you have read this guide and checked whether you are eligible, please follow these steps:

- Step 1: Go to the [Creative Bursary program page](#) and hit the Apply button. You will then be directed to our online application hub Submittable. Then log in or create an account.
- Step 2: Fill out the eligibility questionnaire (you can find the questions below). Only eligible applicants will then be able to continue with the application form.
- Step 3: Complete the application form (you can see all the questions below). You will be able to save your work at any time by clicking “Save Draft” at the bottom of the page.
- Step 4: Once your application is complete, hit the Submit button and you will receive an automatic confirmation email and further notifications from notifications@email.submittable.com. Please make sure to add this email address to your contact list to avoid these emails going to your spam folder. Once it has been submitted, you won't be able to make any further changes.

Deadline

The deadline to submit applications is **September 25, 2023** (11.59 AM CET).

Selection process

The selection process for the Creative Bursary 2023 has three rounds:

Round 1: Filtering applications

While we will accept as many applications as possible during the open-call period, we only have capacity to properly assess up to 100 applications. If we receive over 100 eligible applications, we will prioritize those applicants whose needs are most urgent, using information provided during the application process.

Round 2: Scoring by Creative Bursary Jury

An independent jury consisting of 6 educators and artists, including 2 grantees from the 2022 program, will review up to 100 applications. Each application will be scored by two jury members, and a ranking created according to the review criteria listed below. The top 20 applications will pass to the final round.

Round 3: Recommendations by Creative Bursary Jury

The top 20 applications will be evaluated by all 6 members of the jury, who will then meet to reach a consensus on the 10 applications that they wish to recommend for bursaries.

The 10 recommended applicants will be notified and requested to submit their proofs of eligibility. Once these are validated, an agreement form will be provided for signature. Once this has been signed, the transfer of the first of 10 monthly bursary installments will be scheduled.

Creative Bursary Jury

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| ❖ Malab Alneel | ❖ Elijah |
| ❖ Seonah Chae | ❖ Meryem Meghraoua |
| ❖ Lara Costafreda | ❖ Marco Palmieri |

Timeline of selection process

1. Call for submissions opens: August 29, 2023
2. Submission deadline: September 18, 2023 (11.59 AM CET)
3. Applications review: September 19—October 31, 2023
4. Notifications to grantees and applicants: November 2023
5. Transfer of first monthly installment: December 2023

Notifications to applicants

We will contact you through our online application hub with a decision or a request for further information. Unfortunately, due to limited capacity, we will not be able to provide individual feedback.

Review criteria

All eligible applications will be reviewed and evaluated using the following criteria:

- ❖ The level of **clarity** on how you plan to use the bursary and the difference this could make in your artistic practice
- ❖ The level of **alignment of your artistic practice** with the purpose of the Creative Bursary program
- ❖ The level of **intended community engagement** of your artistic practice
- ❖ The level of your **financial hardship**, according to the information provided in the application form

Eligibility questionnaire and application form

All the questions you will encounter in the eligibility questionnaire and the application form on Submittable are provided below. If English is not your first language, this will not affect the evaluation of your answers.

Eligibility questionnaire

Before submitting your application, please answer the following questions to ensure you are eligible for this bursary. Please keep in mind that, if your application is pre-selected for a bursary, you will need to submit documents to confirm your answers.

- ❖ Are you at least 18 years old?
- ❖ Are you a student currently enrolled in the final year (2023–2024) of an undergraduate degree?
- ❖ Are you based in either The Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain or Italy and do you have an active bank account under your name in one of those countries?
- ❖ Are you applying for funding for a specific project, or on behalf of an organization?
- ❖ Do you self-identify as an artist looking to develop your practice towards arts for social change?
- ❖ Do you self-identify as part of one or more underrecognized¹ and/or marginalized groups², and have lived-experience of specific issues affecting these groups?

¹ Underrecognized refers to an alternative and complementary term to underrepresented suggested by brand strategist and visibility expert N. Chloé Nwangwu (Source: [Harvard Business Review](#))

² Marginalized populations are groups and communities that experience discrimination and exclusion (social, political, and economic) because of unequal power relationships across economic, political, social, and cultural dimensions. (Source: [NCCDH](#))

- ❖ Are you currently experiencing financial hardship, meaning that you are not able to cover your basic living expenses.

Application form

SECTION 1: PERSONAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Full name (as it appears on your national ID or passport)
 - a. First name
 - b. Last name
2. What's your date of birth?
3. Where are you currently based?
 - a. Country
 - b. Town or city
4. What's your email address?

The Supporting Act Foundation is committed to support individuals representative of different and diverse backgrounds and experiences, including but not limited to diversity of gender, ethnicity, religion, ability, and socioeconomic background. Our aim is to give priority to applicants who self-identify as part of underrecognized or marginalized groups. This is why we ask you to answer the following questions, which will also help us learn about who is interested in our programs.

Your answers will be visible to the jury and will be considered in the selection process, but will not be made public and will not be used against you in any way.

5. Preferred pronouns
 - a. she/her
 - b. he/him
 - c. they/them
 - d. ze/hir
 - e. ze/zit
 - f. xe/xem
 - g. I have different pronouns
 - h. Prefer not to say
6. How old are you?
 - a. Under 18
 - b. 18–24
 - c. 25–34
 - d. 35–44
 - e. 45–54
 - f. 55–64
 - g. 65 and over
 - h. Prefer not to say
7. Please describe your gender identity (i.e., your innate sense of gender)
 - a. Female
 - b. Male
 - c. Non-binary (or genderqueer—those identities that do not fall under the male/female binary)
 - d. Gender fluid (no fixed gender)
 - e. Prefer to self-define _____
 - f. Prefer not to say
8. Do you consider yourself transgender or as having trans experience?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

- c. Prefer not to say
- 9. Do you consider yourself to be neurodiverse?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Unsure
 - d. Prefer not to say
- 10. Have you experienced any form of discrimination based on your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to say
- 11. Do you self-identify as having a disability?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Prefer not to say
- 12. How did you find out about this open call?
 - a. WeTransfer's Instagram
 - b. WeTransfer wallpaper
 - c. Supporting Act's mailing list
 - d. Supporting Act's Instagram
 - e. Supporting Act's LinkedIn
 - f. Supporting Act's Twitter
 - g. Search engine
 - h. Through a friend
 - i. Other _____

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SURVEY

- 13. Are you financially responsible for other people?
 - a. Yes, for one other person
 - b. Yes, for more than one other person
 - c. No
- 14. Did one of your parents or caretakers attend university?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
- 15. Do you currently receive any kind of stable financial support from the government, other organization or an individual?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 16. If you are currently working or looking for work, what is the main reason for this?
 - a. To pay for tuition fees and/or course materials
 - b. To pay for essentials (food, medicine, household bills)
 - c. To pay rent
 - d. To cover living expenses as a primary caregiver or single-parent household
 - e. To pay for leisure activities
 - f. To get work experience
 - g. I don't need to work
- 17. How frequently are you worried about running out of food or medicine because of lack of income?
 - a. On a daily basis
 - b. On a weekly basis
 - c. Sometimes, on a monthly basis

- d. Never
18. How often do you run out of money to cover your monthly expenses?
- a. Always
 - b. Often, more than once every 3 months
 - c. Sometimes, more than once a year
 - d. Never
19. Due to financial instability, have you carried out any kind of precarious or risky work?
- a. Yes
 - b. No, but I have considered it
 - c. No, never
20. How much is your financial situation affecting your mental health and wellbeing?
- a. Significantly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Not at all
21. How much do you need to spend per month to cover your living costs?
- a. €500/£430 or less
 - b. €501/£431 to €1,000/£850
 - c. €1,001/£851 to €1,500/£1,300
 - d. €1,500/£1,300 to €2,000/£1,700
 - e. €2,000/£1,700 to €2,500/£2,130
 - f. €2,500/£2,130 to €3,000/£2,500
 - g. €3,001/£2,501 or more
22. If you have a regular source of income, how much do you earn net per month?
- a. €500/£430 or less
 - b. €501/£431 to €1,000/£850
 - c. €1,001/£851 to €1,500/£1,300
 - d. €1,500/£1,300 to €2,000/£1,700
 - e. €2,000/£1,700 to €2,500/£2,130
 - f. €2,500/£2,130 to €3,000/£2,500
 - g. €3,001/£2,501 or more
 - h. I do not have a regular income
23. Will you have a regular source of income during the next 12 months?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
24. If there is anything else you would like to add about your current situation, please describe it briefly below (max. 200 words)

SECTION 3: YOUR ARTISTIC PRACTICE

25. What is the full title of the undergraduate course on which you are currently enrolled? (max. 50 words)
26. In which university or school are you enrolled? Please add the name and location.
27. How do you define your artistic practice? (max. 200 words)
28. Which underrecognized and/or marginalized group(s) do you self-identify as being part of? Please describe how your artistic practice is related to one (or more) of these groups (max. 200 words)
29. If you receive this bursary, which of the following categories of expenditure would you prioritize? Please choose a maximum of three categories.
- a. Groceries
 - b. Healthcare or insurance costs

- c. Childcare or caregiving costs
 - d. Rent
 - e. Household bills
 - f. Transport
 - g. Course materials or related equipment
 - h. Clothing
 - i. Recreational purposes
 - j. Other
30. What impact would getting this bursary have on your life and practice? (max. 200 words)
31. What would be your dream project after graduating? (max. 200 words)

More questions?

If you don't find answers in the [FAQ](#) on our website, you can email us with specific questions or feedback at hello@thesupportingact.org.

About The Supporting Act Foundation

The Supporting Act Foundation is an independent non-profit organization, founded and funded by WeTransfer. Our mission is simple yet powerful—to help emerging artists and grassroots arts organizations fulfill their potential, leaving no person or community behind. To this end, our grants and bursaries focus on artists and groups from marginalized communities who are seeking social, intersectional, and environmental justice. By creating opportunities and offering assistance to those underrecognized in the arts, we aspire to challenge its many barriers, shape a creative ecosystem open to everyone, and support meaningful change in the arts and society.

For more information visit our website www.thesupportingact.org