

THE SUPPORTING  
ACT FOUNDATION

**Creative Bursary**

**2024**

Open Call Guide

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# Creative Bursary 2024: Open Call Guide

Updated on April 16, 2024

PLEASE READ THE [ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA](#) CAREFULLY BEFORE WORKING ON YOUR APPLICATION. SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **MAY 27, 2024 (11.00 AM CET)**

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## About the 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 in need of financial support. 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 building solidarity networks for others.

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.

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## About The Supporting Act Foundation

The Supporting Act Foundation is an independent non-profit organization, founded and funded by WeTransfer. Our mission is to enable inspiring artist-led initiatives and emerging artists to fulfill their creative potential. We aim to create opportunities for underrepresented people in the arts, and support communities and organizations in seeking intersectional justice for people and the planet.

For more information visit our website [www.thesupportingact.org](http://www.thesupportingact.org)

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## What are we offering?

We are offering 20 unrestricted bursaries of €10,000-. These will be transferred in monthly installments of €1,000- over a period of 10 months (September 2024–June 2025). There is no restriction on how you choose to spend your bursary—it is intended to help cover your tuition fees, living costs, and materials, but also any other costs you may incur.

We will also be providing non-financial support in the form of virtual meetings with 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.

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## 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:

1. Entering the final year of your studies in 2024 and looking to develop your practice towards arts for social change
2. Able to provide an active bank account number under your name in the Netherlands, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Spain, or Italy
3. At least 18 years old
4. Experiencing any form of financial hardship
5. Self-identifying as an artist from an underrepresented or marginalized group

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 Master's/PhD students, organizations, art projects, or collectives.

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## 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](mailto: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 your application has been submitted, you won't be able to make any further changes.

### **Deadline**

The deadline to submit applications is **May 27, 2024** (11.00 AM CET).

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## **Selection process**

The selection process for the Creative Bursary 2024 has three rounds:

### **Round 1: Filtering applications**

While we will accept as many applications as possible during the open-call period, the Creative Bursary Jury will only have capacity to review and score up to 100 applications. If we receive over 100 eligible applications, we will make a ranking based on the information provided in the form about the financial situation of the applicant.

### **Round 2: Scoring by Creative Bursary Jury**

An independent jury consisting of 5 educators and artists, including 1 grantee from the 2023 program, will review up to 100 applications. Each one will be scored by two jury members to create a shortlist of 40 applications.

### **Round 3: Recommendations by Creative Bursary Jury**

The top 40 applications will be evaluated by all 5 members of the jury, who will then meet to reach a consensus on the 20 bursary recipients.

The selected applicants will be notified and requested to submit their proofs of identity and 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**

- ❖ Anaïs Esmerado
- ❖ Chrisoula Lionis
- ❖ Halar Soomro
- ❖ Kubra Khademi
- ❖ Marika Seo

### **Timeline of selection process**

1. Call for submissions opens: April 30, 2024
2. Submission deadline: May 27, 2024 (11.00 AM CET)
3. Applications review: May 28—July 26, 2024

4. Notifications to applicants: August 2024
5. Transfer of first monthly installment: September 2024

### 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

Applications that pass the first filter will be reviewed and scored by at least two jurors using the following criteria:

- ❖ The level of **alignment of your artistic practice** with the purpose of the Creative Bursary program
- ❖ The level of **community engagement** in your artistic practice
- ❖ The level of **clarity on the potential impact** that the bursary can have on your artistic practice
- ❖ The level of **commitment to social change** in your artistic practice
- ❖ The level of your **financial hardship**, according to the information provided in the application form

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## 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](mailto:hello@thesupportingact.org)

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## Eligibility questionnaire and application form

All the questions you will encounter in the eligibility questionnaire and the application form on Submittable are provided below. We can only accept applications in English and all applications will be read with a default understanding that English might not be the first language of the applicant.

### Eligibility questionnaire

Before submitting your application, please use 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.

1. Are you at least 18 years old?
2. Are you entering the final year of your studies of an undergraduate degree (not a Master) in 2024?
3. 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?
4. Do you self-identify as an artist developing your practice towards arts for social change?
5. Do you self-identify as being part of one or more underrecognized<sup>1</sup> and/or marginalized groups<sup>2</sup>, and have lived experience of specific issues affecting these groups?
6. Are you currently experiencing financial hardship, and struggling to cover your basic living expenses?

### Application form

Here you can find the fields and questions that you will need to fill in the application hub of the Supporting Act Foundation powered by Submittable.

### **Instructions**

Please provide the information requested in all sections below. There are four in total, the first two covering your personal information and artistic practice. The third section is a financial hardship survey, and the final section is a survey to gather feedback on your experience of the application process.

All the information you provide will only be used for the purposes of the application process. It will be shared with our independent jury, but will not be made public.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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](#)).

You can save your application form at any time by clicking 'Save Draft'. You can always return to a saved draft, read more [here](#) on how to do that. 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.  
Important: Please make sure to add this email address to your contact list to avoid these emails going to your spam folder.

Once your application has been submitted, you won't be able to make any further changes. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application process in August 2024.

Please note that all questions are mandatory to answer unless they are marked as [Optional].

1. SECTION 1: BASIC INFORMATION
  - 1.1. Full name  
As it appears on your national ID or passport
  - 1.2. Contact email  
Please insert the same email address you used to register in Submittable
  - 1.3. Preferred pronouns
  - 1.4. Date of birth
  - 1.5. In which country are you currently based?
    - 1.5.1. In which city/town do you live?
  - 1.6. In which university or school are you enrolled?  
Please include both the name and location (max 50 words)
  - 1.7. What is the full title of the undergraduate course in which you are currently enrolled? (max 50 words)
  
2. SECTION 2: ABOUT YOUR ARTISTIC PRACTICE
  - 2.1. How do you define your artistic practice?  
Please mention the social issues that you aim to address through your work (max. 200 words)
  - 2.2. Main artistic field or discipline  
Select the artistic field or discipline that best matches your practice:  
Architecture, Dance, Design, Digital Arts, Film and video, Literature, Music, Multidisciplinary, Painting, Performing, Sculpture, Other
  - 2.3. Which underrecognized and/or marginalized group(s) do you self-identify as being part of? (max. 200 words)
  - 2.4. How do you engage with the group(s) or community mentioned above in your artistic practice? (max. 200 words)
  - 2.5. Describe a recent project you are proud of that stands for your artistic practice (max. 200 words)
  - 2.6. What would be your dream project after graduating? (max. 200 words)
  - 2.7. What are the main changes that getting this bursary would have on your living conditions and artistic practice?(max. 200 words)

### 3. SECTION 3: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SURVEY

- 3.1. Are you financially responsible for other people?
- Yes, for one other person
  - Yes, for more than one other person
  - No
- 3.2. Did one or more of your parents or caretakers attend university?
- Yes
  - No
  - Not sure
- 3.3. Do you currently receive any kind of stable financial support from the government, another organization, or an individual?
- Yes
  - No
- 3.4. If you are currently working or looking for work, what is the main reason for this?
- To pay for tuition fees and/or course materials
  - To pay for essentials (food, medicine, household bills)
  - To pay rent
  - To cover living expenses as a primary caregiver or single-parent household
  - To pay for leisure activities
  - To get work experience
  - Prefer not to say
  - I am not currently working or looking for work
- 3.5. How frequently are you worried about running out of food or medicine because of lack of income?
- On a daily basis
  - On a weekly basis
  - On a monthly basis
  - Only occasionally
  - Never
- 3.6. How often do you run out of money to cover your monthly expenses?
- Always
  - More than once every 3 months
  - More than once a year
  - Rarely or never
- 3.7. Due to financial instability, have you carried out any kind of precarious work?
- Yes
  - No, but I have considered it
  - No, never
- 3.8. How much is your financial situation affecting your mental health and well-being?
- Significantly
  - Sometimes
  - Not at all
- 3.9. How much do you need to spend per month to cover your living costs?
- €500/£430 or less
  - €501/£431 to €1,000/£850
  - €1,001/£851 to €1,500/£1,300
  - €1,500/£1,300 to €2,000/£1,700
  - €2,000/£1,700 to €2,500/£2,130
  - €2,500/£2,130 to €3,000/£2,500
  - €3,001/£2,501 or more



- 3.10. Do you have a regular source of income, and if so how much do you earn net a month?
- €500/£430 or less
  - €501/£431 to €1,000/£850
  - €1,001/£851 to €1,500/£1,300
  - €1,500/£1,300 to €2,000/£1,700
  - €2,000/£1,700 to €2,500/£2,130
  - €2,500/£2,130 to €3,000/£2,500
  - €3,001/£2,501 or more
  - I do not have a regular income
- 3.11. Will you have a regular source of income during the next 12 months?
- Yes
  - No
  - Not sure
- 3.12. If there is anything else you would like to add about your current situation, please describe it briefly below (max. 200 words)

#### 4. SECTION 4: SURVEY

The Supporting Act Foundation is committed to supporting 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.

- 4.1. How old are you?
- Under 18
  - 18–24
  - 25–34
  - 35–44
  - 45–54
  - 55–64
  - 65 and over
  - Prefer not to say
- 4.2. Please describe your gender identity (i.e., your innate sense of gender)
- Female
  - Male
  - Non-binary (or genderqueer—those identities that do not fall under the male/female binary)
  - Gender fluid (no fixed gender)
  - Prefer to self-define
  - Prefer not to say
- 4.3. Do you consider yourself transgender or as having trans experience?
- Yes
  - No
  - Prefer not to say
- 4.4. Do you consider yourself to be neurodiverse?
- Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
  - Prefer not to say

- 4.5. Have you experienced any form of discrimination based on your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion?
- Yes
  - No
  - Prefer not to say
- 4.6. Do you self-identify as having a disability?
- Yes
  - No
  - Prefer not to say
- 4.7. How did you find out about this open call?  
Supporting Act's mailing list, Supporting Act's Instagram, Supporting Act's LinkedIn, WeTransfer's Instagram, [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com), Through TikTok, Search engine, Through a friend, Other (Please specify)
- 4.8. How much time did you spend working on this application?  
Less than 10 hours, 11 to 15 hours, 16 to 20 hours, 21 to 25 hours, more than 25 hours
- 4.9. If you receive this bursary, what would be the main categories of expenditure that you would prioritize?  
Tuition fees, Groceries, Healthcare or insurance costs, Childcare or caregiving costs, Rent, Household bills, Transport, Course materials or related equipment, Clothing, Recreational purposes, Other

Please give your responses to the following questions and statements using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is the lowest score and 5 the highest.

- 4.10. When deciding whether to apply for a bursary, did you find the information available on the website clear, and sufficient to help you make your decision?
- 4.11. Did the application process strengthen your understanding of the purpose of the Creative Bursary program?
- 4.12. Do you feel that the time and effort that you are spending on this application process are appropriate to the amount of funding on offer?
- 4.13. Do you feel that the Foundation is clear and transparent about the selection process and its timelines?
- 4.14. Do you feel that the Foundation is clear and transparent about the criteria used to select grantees?
- 4.15. Does the composition of the jury and its independence from the Foundation give you confidence in the results of the selection process?
- 4.16. [Optional] Additional feedback on the application form and process (max. 200 words)
5. TERMS
- 5.1. I agree with the Terms of Service  
Please read our [Terms of Service](#) before checking the above box
- 5.2. I understand and agree that the Supporting Act Foundation will not be able to provide individual feedback on my application  
Unfortunately, due to limited capacity, we will not be able to provide individual feedback to applicants who are not selected for a grant.