



Youth Music NextGen Fund Application Form

This is a sample NextGen Fund Application Form. You can use this document to draft your answers offline, but your application must be submitted using the online form.

If you identify as d/Deaf, Disabled, Neurodivergent, and need any support with applying, please read the information about Access Support below.

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Youth Music NextGen Application Form

Deadline

Upcoming application deadlines for NextGen Fund can be found on our [website](#).

All application deadlines are 5pm.

Application Guidance

- It is essential that you read the [application guidance](#) from our website before applying to the fund.
- Please note that the combined maximum size of **ALL** uploaded files to your application must be under 20MB. If the files you upload exceed this size you will receive an error message and you won't be able to submit your application until they do.

About the Youth Music NextGen Fund

The Youth Music NextGen Fund offers young creatives grants of up to £3,000 to make their ideas happen.

The Youth Music NextGen Fund is for early-stage musicians and wider music adjacent creatives, whose lack of finance holds them back from pursuing their goals.

The fund is open to 18–25-year-olds (and up to 30 if you identify as d/Deaf, Disabled or Neurodivergent). Successful applicants will use the money to launch a creative project, idea or business.

We want to support the future of the music industries. Singers, Rappers, Songwriters, Producers, DJs, A&Rs, Managers and Agents, right through to roles that have yet to be defined.

We run **two rounds** of funding each year.

Access support

Youth Music is committed to offering a clear and accessible grant making process that is open to everyone.

If you identify as Disabled, we can provide extra funding to help you make your application and to run your project.

1. Support to make an application to NextGen Fund

This is funding to help you with putting your application together. We offer up to £350 towards this cost. Please apply to the [Application Access Fund](#) before you start making your NextGen Fund application.

You can apply for the Application Access Fund up to 6 weeks before a funding round opens. For example, if you want to apply to a NextGen Fund round that opens on 1 April, the earliest you could apply to the Application Access Fund for application support would be 11 February.

2. Support to deliver your NextGen Fund project

You can include your own access costs on top of the **£3,000** maximum grant. We call these your **personal access costs**. We don't currently cap personal access costs and we don't require any proof or paperwork.

What is an access cost?

If you identify as d/Deaf, Disabled, neurodivergent or have a long-term health condition, access costs help remove barriers to being able to apply for your grant or deliver your project.

Examples of access costs include:

- Transport support – taxi fares or someone to help you travel safely to your place of work.
- Specialist software or equipment – screen reader, magnifying glass, or adapted instruments.
- A support worker – to help with things like writing grant applications, reports or running workshops.
- British Sign Language interpreters or other communication support.
- Personal assistants or other one-to-one help - to help with project management and admin.
- Any other costs that remove barriers and enable you to work on your project.

Points to note

- Youth Music is a [real Living Wage Funder](#) – this means everyone employed on Youth Music-funded projects must be paid at least the real Living Wage (including anyone helping you with your access needs).
- Personal access costs are reviewed separately to your project, once we have made the decision to award you a grant.

Resources

You can also find additional resources on our website:

- [Tips for applying to NextGen Fund](#)
- [NextGen Fund frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs)

Contact

If you have any questions, please get in touch: creatives@youthmusic.org.uk or phone us on 020 7902 1060.

Eligibility Criteria

In this section, we are checking to see if you're eligible to apply for the grant. You will only be able to move forward with the application once you have met the criteria. **You must be able to answer yes to all the statements in this section before you make an application.**

- You're aged 18 to 25 at the point of the application deadline. If you identify as d/Deaf, Disabled or Neurodivergent, you can be aged 18 to 30.
- You're an emerging creative, and this fund will support you to take your first steps into the music industries.
- You've faced barriers to progress your career within the music industries.
- You don't have the financial means to invest in this project yourself.
- You aren't or haven't received significant financial backing. Youth Music would usually consider significant financial backing to be around £10k or above. Please note this is just a guide, not a strict rule, but we'd be unlikely to prioritise anyone who has already received significant financial backing previously.
- You aren't signed to a record label, publisher or management company.
- You aren't already employed full time in the music industries.
- You're based in, and your project will take place in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- You're committed to completing your project in 12 months.
- You have a UK bank account in the exact name you are applying under.
- You're able to start your project within 3 months of hearing your project has been funded.
- You've not previously had a NextGen Fund grant
- You're applying to the NextGen Fund as an individual, and not on behalf of a group or collective or a band.

About You

First name:

Last name:

Preferred pronouns:

- He/him
- She/her
- They/them
- Other

Other pronouns:

Email address:

Confirm Email Address:

Telephone number:

Age Confirmation:

- I am aged 18 to 25
- I am aged 18 to 30 and I identify as d/Deaf or Disabled or Neurodivergent
- If you would like to apply for a personal access budget, please ensure you select the "I am aged 18-30 and I identify as d/Deaf or Disabled or Neurodivergent" option above.

Date of birth:

- To be eligible you must be aged 18 to 25 at the point of the application deadline. If you identify as d/Deaf, Disabled or Neurodivergent you can be aged 18 to 30

Are you currently a student with different addresses during term time and vacation?

- No, I only have one address to enter
- Yes, I would like to enter more than one address

Address line 1:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

Region:

Access Needs

Youth Music is committed to offering a clear and accessible grant making process that is open to everyone.

If you identify as Disabled, we can provide extra funding to help you make your application and to run your project.

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2. Support to deliver your NextGen Fund project

You can include your own access costs on top of the **£3,000** maximum grant. We call these your **personal access costs**. We don't currently cap personal access costs and we don't require any proof or paperwork.

Do you have any access or support needs that you would like us to be aware of? (Max. 200 words)

- Yes
- No

Please provide details below:

Your creative profile

If you have an artist name, please share it here:

Please provide a link to your strongest recent example of your music or work (full URL) :

Social Media Platform (full URL):

You can also upload any document that showcases your strongest work (e.g. A PDF document or EPK).

You can upload *.doc, *.docx, *.xls, *.xlsx, *.ppt, *.pptx, *.jpg, *.jpeg, *.png, *.bmp, *.tif, *.gif, and *.pdf

Please attach a photo of you that you are happy for us to use:

If you are successful, we will use this photo for our marketing (e.g., social media announcements and on our website). Only upload an image you are happy to share publicly.

You can upload *.jpg, *.jpeg, *.png, *.bmp, *.tif, and *.gif

This information will be stored in line with Youth Music's [privacy policy](#). You can see your privacy rights in Section 14.

Please provide a short biography about yourself (Max. 50 words):

If you are successful, we will use the information from this bio for our marketing (e.g., social media announcements and on our website). Please only include information in this section you are happy to share publicly.

This information will be stored in line with Youth Music's [privacy policy](#). You can see your privacy rights in Section 14.

Is this the first time you have applied for any funding?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, what other funding have you previously applied for?

- Youth Music
- Arts Council
- Help Musicians
- Princes Trust
- PRS Foundation
- Other (Please Specify)

Are you currently in receipt, or have you previously received any funding above £1000 to support you as a creative or with a creative project?

- Yes
- If Yes, please provide details of previous or current funding.
- No

Please select which best represents your current status from below:

- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Internship
- Freelance
- Unemployed
- Studying at college
- Studying at school
- Studying at University
- Recent graduate

Other (please specify):

About You and Your Project

Name of Project:

Please provide a short description of your project (Max. 50 words):

Project Start Date:

Please provide a rough estimate of when you plan to start your project. You must start within three months of being notified of our decision.

Project End Date:

This should be no longer than 12 months after the project start date.

Please select up to five genres that apply to your work:

- Pop
- R&B
- Indie
- Hip-Hop
- Folk
- Rock
- Soul
- Electronic
- Alternative
- Jazz
- Singer-songwriter

If you choose to describe, please list these genres separated with a comma, e.g. reggaeton, trance, rumba.

In this section, we want to learn more about you, your journey in music so far, and how you hope this funding will benefit you in your career goals. We recognise that people might want to communicate their ideas in different ways, so you can submit your answers using your preferred method out of the options below

Please choose how you want to respond to the following 3 questions:

- Respond in text - max 1,000 words
- Upload documents to support answers - presentation and/or visual documents must not exceed 8 slides or 2 A4 pages
- Add weblink to audio/videos to support answers – maximum six minutes long.

Please use 'unlisted' rather than private YouTube links, and do not use sites where download links will expire such as WeTransfer.

1. Tell us about the last year or two of your progression as an artist/professional (Max. 250 words)

Please include:

- What you do and where you are in your career now.
- Why is now the right time for you to receive funding.
- What you've already been doing to work towards your goal(s). We're most interested in what you've already made happen on your own.
- Any challenges you're facing in your journey in music.

2. What you're going to do, and how you're going to do it. (Max. 500 words)

Please include:

- A detailed plan of your project including timescales.
- Be specific and break it down - we want to know how you are going to deliver your project.

3. Tell us what you'd like to achieve over the next year through your project, and how the funding will make a difference (Max. 250 words)

- Please include a list of up to 4 main goals you would like to achieve with this project.

4. Document Upload

If you would like to upload a visual timeline or project plan (e.g. a spreadsheet or a slide) to support your answer you can attach it here. We will not look at files longer than one page.

You can upload *.doc, *.docx, *.xls, *.xlsx, *.ppt, *.pptx, *.jpg, *.jpeg, *.png, *.bmp, *.tif, *.gif, and *.pdf

Budget

Your total budget must be between £1,000 - £3,000.

We've organised the budget into seven categories to make applications easier. You don't need to use every category, and if something doesn't fit, use the "Other" section.

There are spending limits on certain items because we want most of your grant to go toward creating and delivering your project, not just buying equipment.

Budget Categories

1. Time to Create (£500 minimum) - This is your wage that you pay yourself for working on the project. You don't need to itemise your time to create in your application.

2. Project Expenses (no limit) - Direct costs for making your work:

- Studio time, recording, production
- Mixing and mastering (research affordable options)
- Session musicians
- Manufacturing

3. Equipment (£700 maximum) - Hardware and software essential for your project that you'll use for future work too, for example a microphone.

4. Training (£200 maximum) - Skills development like courses, conferences, or workshops that help with this project and/or your career.

5. Marketing (£500 maximum) - We encourage people to avoid spending a lot of money on marketing or advertising through major agencies or social media companies. We have funded many successful projects that have used resourceful, creative marketing efforts. The more of the project you can deliver yourself, even if it's something you are doing for the first time, the stronger your application will be.

6. Travel (£200 maximum) – travel within the UK only. We don't fund international travel.

7. Other - Anything else related to your project, including contingency for unexpected costs.

Budget tips

- Try to think of the details of the budget, as this will also help with the overall planning of the project.
- Research your costs. [The Musicians' Union](#) helps set appropriate rates of pay across

all areas of musicians' work. Get multiple quotes for services to seek best value.

- Consider your network and reaching out to individuals that could support you in sourcing these costs.
- Be creative and resourceful! We would rather spend the money on you instead of on PR agencies or advertising. The more of the project you can deliver yourself, even if it's something you are doing for the first time, the stronger your application will be and the more you will learn.

Budget Requirements

- You can list a maximum of 10 budget items
- Categorise your costs to break your budget down in an understandable way.

Enter your budget

Personal Access Costs for d/Deaf, Disabled or Neurodivergent Applicants

If you identify as d/deaf, Disabled or Neurodivergent and need additional personal access costs to run your project these can be included on top of the £3,000 maximum project budget. This might include costs for British Sign Language interpreters, personal assistants, support workers or other access costs.

Youth Music is a [Living Wage Funder](#), which means that we expect all people employed on Youth Music-funded programmes to be paid the real living wage.

If you are including personal access costs in your budget, please feel free to get in touch in advance of submitting your application to discuss your requirements with us. This will not have any effect on your application decision.

Email us at creatives@youthmusic.org.uk or phone on 020 7902 1060.

Please confirm below whether you are applying for a personal access budget?

- Yes, I am applying for a personal access budget
- No, I am not applying for a personal access budget

Access budget - Item & Description:

Total Access budget costs:

If you are applying for personal access budget to work with a support worker or

personal assistant, please provide their details below

- Full Name
- Link to their website (if applicable)Referee details

Referee

Please provide contact details for your referee. **This should be a separate professional connection who knows you and your work** as a creative. For example, someone you've worked with on a previous project or a Music Leader from a course or programme you've participated in.

Please make sure that this is someone who does not stand to benefit financially from this project. For example, please don't choose a producer who you plan to hire to produce your EP.

We will only contact them if your application is successful, but make sure to choose someone reliable who will be available to provide a reference on your behalf. This usually happens around 12 weeks after the application deadline.

- **First Name:**
- **Last Name:**
- **Referee relationship to you (e.g. how you know this person, and why you have chosen them as your Referee).**
- **Referee Telephone Number:**
- **Referee Email Address:**

Declaration

You confirm that:

1. You (the main contact named in this application form) have read the eligibility criteria and can confirm that you are eligible to apply to this Youth Music fund.
2. You understand that if you make any seriously misleading statements (whether deliberate or accidental) at any stage during the application process, or knowingly withhold any information, this could make your application invalid and you could be liable to repay any funds to Youth Music.
3. You commit to delivering the project described in the application form.
4. You understand and accept Youth Music's obligations under the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts as set out in [our policy and procedures](#).
5. You will take all necessary and reasonable steps to provide a safe and secure place for anyone who takes part in your project.
6. You confirm that the activities detailed in your budget are not already paid for by another funder.
7. You are aware that Youth Music will use your personal information provided in this application to consider the application and, if successful, administer and monitor the grant, and in accordance with its '[Grantholder and Applicant Privacy Notice](#)' .

Please write 'Yes' to confirm

Monitoring

We're interested in finding out if you have been involved in any of our work before applying to this fund. Your answers will not affect the outcome of your application.

Youth Music is the UK's largest young people's music charity. Since 1999 we have funded around 350 music projects each year, reaching over three million children and young people.

We'd like to know if you have ever taken part in a music project that's been funded by Youth Music?

- Yes, I have in the past
- Yes, I am currently taking part in one
- No
- I don't know

Which organisation(s) delivered the project(s) you were involved in?

How did you find out about Youth Music?

Did you access any support from Youth Music when applying for this fund?

I would like to be added to Youth Music's NextGen mailing list to hear about music-related opportunities and events.

- Yes
- No
- I am already subscribed to the newsletter

Equal Opportunities

The following equal opportunities monitoring questions are voluntary. We ask them across our application processes as a charity, including for jobs in our team, for NextGen opportunities and for trustee recruitment. We do so because it's important that we understand who we're reaching, who is within the group that applies for funding and who is eventually funded. This helps us to make sure we consciously work to be equitable and representative in our approach and our funding decisions.

Gender

Which of the following best describes you?

- Male
- Female
- Non-Binary
- Gender fluid
- Prefer not to say

Prefer to Self-Describe Gender

Do you consider yourself Trans?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Sexual Orientation

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- Pansexual
- Queer
- Prefer not to say

Prefer to Self-Describe sexual orientation

Age

Which age-bracket do you fit in?

- 18-22
- 23-25
- 26-30
- Prefer not to say

Background

As part of our monitoring we ask about people's social class background. We have based this question on some existing research about social class in the creative industries.

What type of job did the main income earner in your household work when you were 14 years old?

- Unemployed / Never worked
- Routine manual and service occupation (e.g. van driver, cleaner, porter, waiter/waitress, bar staff)
- Semi-routine manual and service occupation (e.g. postal worker, security guard, machine worker, receptionist, sales assistant)
- Technical and craft occupation (e.g. fitter, plumber, printer, electrician)
- Clerical and intermediate occupation (e.g. secretary, nursery nurse, office clerk, call centre agent)
- Middle or junior manager (e.g. office manager, warehouse manager, restaurant manager)
- Modern professional (e.g. teacher, nurse, social worker, artist, musician, software designer)
- Traditional professional occupation (e.g. accountant, solicitor, scientist, medical practitioner)
- Senior managers and administrators (e.g. finance manager, chief executive)
- Prefer not to say

Ethnicity

As you make your decision, please think about what ethnic group means to you: that is, how you see yourself. Your ethnicity is a mixture of culture, religion, skin colour, language and the origins of yourself and your family. It is not necessarily the same as nationality.

Please select the ethnicity that best represents you.

- White:
 - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
 - Irish

- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Other White Background
- Mixed/multiple ethnic groups:
 - White and Black Caribbean
 - White and Black African
 - White and Asian
 - Other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background
- Asian/Asian British:
 - Indian
 - Pakistani
 - Bangladeshi
 - Chinese
 - Other Asian background
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
- Black African
- Black British
- Black Caribbean
- Other Black / African / Caribbean / Black British
- Other ethnic group
- Arab
- Other ethnic group

Prefer to Self-describe

Religion and Beliefs

What is your religion/faith, if any?

- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Non-religious (Atheist, Humanist, etc.)

Prefer not to say

Other religion/faith (please specify)

Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has substantial and long term (i.e. has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months) negative effect on their ability to carry out normal daily activities.

Do you consider yourself to have a disability according to this definition?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself to be neurodivergent? (e.g ADHD, Dyslexic)?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Caring Responsibilities

Do you have caring responsibilities? (E.g Children living at home, providing care of a relative, partner or friend)?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say