



Youth Music NextGen Fund Application Guidance

January 2026

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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.

Deadline

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

All application deadlines are 5pm.

Support

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 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.

Contact

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

What's new?

We made some changes to the NextGen Fund in January 2025. These are the updates:

Increasing how much you can apply for

We've increased how much you can apply for to £3,000 (instead of £2,500) in recognition of the increased cost of living. We have also increased the maximum you can spend on equipment to £700 from £500.

Re-applying if you are unsuccessful

If your NextGen Fund application is turned down by Youth Music, you can now re-apply in the following round (you no longer have to skip a round before making another application). Please note that there will now be two rounds of NextGen Fund per year.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in applications

We know that using AI can help with writing a funding application. Youth Music is not against applicants using AI to support them with this. However, if you do use AI to help you draft your application, please make sure it's an honest reflection of your work and plans.

We often find AI answers are quite generic, with multiple applicants responding the same way. This can have a negative impact on your assessment so make sure the application reflects who you are.

Section one: NextGen Fund overview

Aim

- Support early-stage musicians and music-adjacent creatives.
- Help young people invest in themselves, develop their skills, and bring their creative ideas to life.

Who is the fund for?

- 18–25-year-olds or 18–30-year-olds (if you identify as d/Deaf, Disabled, or Neurodivergent).
- Those who have never received funding before.
- Those who face significant barriers to further their careers and make their ideas happen.
- Those who are in early career stages.

Amount

- Grant sizes are up to £3,000.

Length

- Projects last up to 12 months.

Section two: Am I eligible?

Who can apply?

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 currently receiving 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.

We are also unable to fund:

- **Signed Artists.** If you're signed to a record label, publisher or management company, we won't be able to support your project. We want to keep the fund open to people who aren't at that stage yet.

- **People in full time employment in the music industries already.** This specifically means working in the area of the industry you want to progress in. For example, we won't exclude someone who works at a major music venue at the bar, but we would if you were already an A&R at a major record company.
- **Groups, bands and collectives.** This grant supports individual creatives and their career development. We do not fund bands, groups, or collectives. While you may collaborate with others as part of your project, the grant recipient must be a single person, and the primary focus must be on supporting that individual's artistic growth and ideas.

Section three: Project fit

What we want to fund

If you are eligible, the next step is to check if your idea is something that we will fund.

We are looking to support projects that are:

- Interesting, innovative, or original (for you or your audience).
- Realistic and deliverable within a year
- Well planned, time lined and clearly budgeted
- Delivered and run by mostly yourself

Here are some examples of ideas:

- **A creative music project:** this could be a single release, an EP, or a contribution towards an album campaign. Your music can already be finished or still in progress. While many applications we receive are for EPs (which is absolutely fine), we encourage you to think creatively about *how* you make, release, and promote your work. Please explain why you've chosen your format - whether it's linked to your stage in your career or a personal creative challenge. It's also helpful to share what you've released so far, so we can understand the next steps in your journey.
- **A music-based business:** this could include starting a record label or creating a music platform. Some online platform ideas we receive need significant capital and complex technical support, which can be expensive. If you're applying to create an online platform, make sure you have the skills and knowledge to deliver it, that project is realistic and will benefit the wider music community. If your idea relies heavily on complex technology, it may be better suited to funding from a dedicated tech funder.
- **A platform that supports underrepresented voices and perspectives:** supporting leaders that build communities and help facilitate others in

pursuing their creative goals. For example, a music website championing underrepresented artists and talent.

Please note that we do not fund applicants who are looking to work with children (under 18 years old) or Adults at Risk.

- **A series of events showcasing other emerging artists:** we want to support new promoters and help new artists gain experience performing on stage.

In addition to funding your main idea, we can also cover related costs, such as:

- **Career development** – training, mentoring, and networking.
- **Audience development** – marketing and promotion.
- **Equipment and software** – tools you need to create or share your work.
- **Business development** – administrative costs like insurance and fees.

Funding conditions:

Please note that if you are successful you will need to comply to these conditions:

- All funded projects must be released or shared within one year of receiving the award.
- We can only fund ideas that are accessible to the general public. For example, we cannot fund a training course that has no public outcome.
- You must adhere to our [editorial policy](#).

What we can't fund

Youth Music is not able to fund the activities or items listed below. Please read this section carefully. Your application will be declined if you include any of the following:

- Activities, goods, or services that have already been bought or taken place before your project begins.
- Activities that are not music or career development focused.
- Individuals can apply to start a new business idea, but we can't accept applications from existing organisations or businesses.
- Activities that promote a political or religious view.

- Applicants who are looking to work with children (under 18 years old) or Adults at Risk. For example, we cannot fund the delivery of music-making sessions or training with children or Adults at Risk. This is because we are unable to verify that necessary safeguarding measures will be in place to protect those involved.

Section four: Budget

Budget guidance

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.

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).
- If you identify as d/Deaf, Disabled or Neurodivergent you can apply for personal access costs in addition to your project budget. Personal access cost requests are reviewed separately to your project, once we have made the decision to award you a grant.

If you'd like to apply for an access budget and want to chat through your needs before applying, please get in touch: creatives@youthmusic.org.uk or phone us on **020 7902 1060**.

Budget Categories:

1. Time to Create (£500 minimum) - This is your wage for working on the project. Use it for living expenses, childcare, or personal needs while you create. 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 (at Musicians' Union rates)
- 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 Requirements

- You can list a maximum of 10 budget items
- Categorise your costs (like in the example) to break your budget down in an understandable way.
- **When entering your budget, please round up to the nearest pound.** For example; use £100 not £99.9.
- The budget example below is the minimum of what we want to see.

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 in order 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 Example

Category	Amount	Description
Time to create	£500	Project Wage
Project	£480	Studio time £60x8hours
Project	£450	Mixing three tracks @£150 per track
Equipment	£250	Mic Sony Model CXY23Z
Marketing	£200	Social media advertising
Marketing	£350	Artwork for album
Other	£200	Contingency for unexpected costs
Personal access costs	£750	Project support worker fee (£75 per hour x 10 hours)
TOTAL (without personal access costs)	£2430	

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.

[More information about Youth Music's access support is here.](#)

Section five: How to apply

So you're eligible and you think your project idea is a good match for NextGen Fund.

You should now:

1. Look at the application form questions (at the end of this document).
2. Plan your project and gather the information you'll need to complete your application form.
3. Write and save your responses in a word document/on your phone. You can draft your answers offline, but you need to paste your answers into the online form once they are ready.
4. Once you have written your answers, go to the NextGen Fund page and click on the 'Apply Here' button. This will take you to the portal where you complete and submit the online application form.

[Click here to read our top tips for writing a strong application.](#)

Section six: How we make decisions

We will only be able to fund a limited number of applications in each funding round. This means we will have to make some difficult decisions. The strengths of your application will be assessed alongside the other applications we receive by a group of assessors. A final shortlist will then go through to an expert judging panel.

Your application will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Eligibility check:** We will conduct an initial check to make sure your application is eligible. It will need to contain enough detail and information to make a full assessment. If you have not included supporting documents or links that you refer to, we will not be able to assess your application.
- **The strength of your project:** Strong applications will be focused on creating something new or making something happen. Projects should enable you to develop your skills and explore new ground. Strong project ideas should be interesting, exciting or innovative. But remember to make sure it is realistic and achievable too.
- **The potential benefit to you and your career:** We want you to have a clear idea about where you're going in your career and how your project will help you get there. We also want to have confidence that you'll be able to deliver the project to a high standard, and that it will enable you to take your career forwards.
- **The strength of the project plan:** Strong applications will be well planned. They'll have an accurate and reasonable budget. They will be clear about what will happen and how. We need to know when things will take place and who will be involved. Timescales will be realistic and achievable in 12 months.
- **Ensuring we fund fairly:** We will fund a diverse range of applicants. To do this we will use data to help guide our decision making. This will enable us

to invest across a variety of projects, genres, individuals and geographical areas.

In our funding decisions, we will also prioritise:

- People who do not have the financial means to invest in themselves to get their ideas started.
- People that are too early stage to be funded by larger grant programmes like [Arts Council England](#) and [PRS Foundation](#).
- Those who might be discriminated against, for reasons that could include Gender, Race, Disability, location, or other characteristics.

Appendix

1. NextGen Fund application form example

Please note this application form example is for reference only.

All NextGen Fund applications must be submitted through the online application form.

When a round is open, the online application form can be accessed by clicking on the 'Apply Here' button on [this page](#).

Section one: 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.

Section two: 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:

Section three: 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.

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:

Section four: 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):

Section five: 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

Section six: 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)

Section seven: Referee details

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:**

Section eight: 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

2. What happens next?

You'll be notified about the outcome of your application via email – notification dates are listed on our website.

Unsuccessful applicants

Demand for the NextGen Fund is very high. We will not be able to fund all the applications we receive. Each unsuccessful applicant will get some short comments on their application.

Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to apply again, as long as they still meet the Fund's eligibility criteria.

Successful applicants

You will be informed by email and sent an offer of funding. To accept the offer you will need to:

- Sign a funding agreement.
- Send us proof of your bank details and proof of your identity.

Once we have approved these documents, you will receive a payment for the project costs. This will normally arrive in around 6 weeks of signing and returning your funding agreement. This is usually 85% of your total grant.

At the end of your project, you'll need to complete a short reporting form detailing how the money was spent and how it has impacted you. Once Youth Music have approved your report you will receive your final grant payment.

We'll encourage you to share your final work with us, and to present this back in a way that best suits your work and will be most useful for you in the future. This could be a recording, video, slide deck, blog post, photos, etc.

About Youth Music

We're a national charity. We help marginalised young people to make and monetise music.

Every year, we raise £10 million to fund inspirational grassroots music projects and support aspiring young creatives up and down the UK. We're campaigning to break down barriers for young people facing inequity, exclusion and discrimination.

Together with our partners, we're helping the next generation to transform their lives through music.

Youth Music Next Gen is our community platform for 18–25-year-olds offering and circulating talent development and job opportunities through our monthly newsletter.

We believe that every young person should have the chance to change their life through music. Yet our research shows that many can't because of who they are, where they're from or what they're going through.

Our insights, influence, and investment in grassroots organisations and young people themselves means that more young people aged 0-25 can make, learn, or earn in music nationwide.

Youth Music is a national charity funded thanks to the National Lottery via Arts Council England, players of People's Postcode Lottery and support from partners, fundraisers, and donors.

Find out more about our work on the [Youth Music website](#).



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