

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 through our [Online Grants Portal](#).

If you need any support with submitting an application online through our Grants Portal, please read the information about Access Support on page four.



Introduction

What you need to do

- Ensure you have read the [NextGen Fund guidance](#). You can also find additional resources on our website:
 - [Tips for applying to NextGen Fund](#)
 - [NextGen Fund frequently asked questions](#)
- Work through all the questions in the application form. You will not be able to submit the form until it is fully completed. We highly recommend you work on a draft application offline and use this online form to upload your answers.
- If you have questions or would like to discuss an application before submitting it, please contact our Grants & Learning team by email at grants@youthmusic.org.uk or phone us on 020 7902 1060.

Application deadlines

- **Deadlines are always 5.00pm.**
- If your application is submitted after the deadline, then it will be considered ineligible.

Online Grants Portal - important information

- You must click 'Save and Continue' to save your work. If you move off a page without doing this, your work will be lost.
- All questions are mandatory. Some questions have a maximum word limit (shown in the question title). You will be unable to submit the form unless you keep within the word limit.
- If you have made errors on a page or have left sections incomplete, a warning sign will appear next to the page name on the left-hand menu. At the top of each page, you will see what you need to complete or the error made.
- Once all pages are fully complete, head to the '**submit**' page where you can submit the form.

Experiencing problems?

- Unable to submit the form – click on the **'Submit'** page to find out which sections of the form are incomplete.
- Other problems – drop us a line by emailing grants@youthmusic.org.uk or phone 020 7902 1060.

Access Support

- Youth Music is committed to offering a clear and accessible grant-making process that is open to everyone. We are aware that our application system may be inaccessible to some people.
- If you have difficulty making an application, please contact us to discuss how we can help. You can call the team on 020 7902 1060 or email us on grants@youthmusic.org.uk
- If you identify as Disabled and need further support to make an application to Youth Music, you can apply to our [Application Access Fund](#). This provides funding to cover any additional access costs that might be required for you to make an application to one of Youth Music's main grant funds.
- Youth Music does not assess areas such as spelling or grammar, the layout of your answers, the production quality of any documents/videos you attach or link to, or use of standard English.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in applications

- You may use AI tools to help you draft your application, but your answers must be your own and accurately reflect your work. AI-generated text is often too general or vague, which can weaken your application. Make sure everything you submit is specific, truthful and clearly describes your project.

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.

If you cannot answer yes to all the statements in this section, then you are not eligible.

Eligibility statements

Please answer yes or no to the following:

- 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

Contact details and Age

First name:

Last name:

Preferred pronouns:

- He/him
- She/her
- They/them
- Other (please specify)

Email address:

Telephone number:

Age Confirmation:

Please confirm if you are aged 18 – 25, or if you identify as d/Deaf, Disabled or Neurodivergent and are aged 18 - 30

- 18 to 25
- 18 to 30 d/Deaf or Disabled or Neurodivergent

Date of birth:

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

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

Please tell us about your home (permanent) address below:

Address:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

Region (if based on England):

- Greater London
- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber

- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- South West
- South East
- East of England

Please tell us about your term time address (if relevant) below:

Address:

City:

Postcode:

Country:

Region (if based in England):

- Greater London
- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- South West
- South East
- East of England

Your creative profile

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

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

Please share your social media account that best showcases your work

Social Media Type:

Media Link:

Additional Document

You can also upload any document that showcases your strongest work.

You can upload *.doc, *.docx, *.xls, *.xlsx, *.ppt, *.pptx, *.jpg, *.jpeg, *.png, *.bmp, *.tif, *.gif, and *.pdf. Maximum file size is **2GB**.

Applicant Photo

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. Maximum file size is **20MB**.

This photo will be stored in line with Youth Music's [privacy policy](#).

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

If you are successful, we will use the information 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](#).

Funding

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

- Yes
- No

If Yes, what other funding have you previously applied for? Please select all that apply

- 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 (max. 100 words)
- No

What you're doing now

Please select which best represents your current status from below:

- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Internship
- Freelance
- Furloughed
- Unemployed
- Studying at college
- Studying at school
- Studying at University
- Recent graduate
- Taking part in a Youth Music funded project
- Unable to work
- Other (please specify)

About 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

Or you can choose to describe your genres below; please list these genres separated with a comma, e.g. reggaeton, trance, rumba.(Max character count 25)

Questions about your project

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 to our three questions using your preferred method.

Before you submit this section, ensure you have read the [NextGen Fund guidance](#). And check out our [tips for applying to NextGen Fund](#) on our website.

Please choose how you want to respond to the questions:

- File upload (Presentation, word document and/or visual documents that must not exceed 8 slides or 2 A4 sides)
- Text questions (max 1000 words)
- URL Link (Video or audio – max six minutes)

Please make sure any links are not private and remain online for at least four months from the date of your application. Do not use sites where download links will expire such as WeTransfer.

The questions

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

- 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.

Visual timeline or project plan

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. **Maximum file size is 20MB.**

Budget

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

We've organised the budget into seven categories to help you. 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. If you go above these limits you will not be able to submit your application.

Budget Categories

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. We think it's important to be able to pay yourself during your project. We have therefore already included £500 in this category. We encourage you to add additional budget lines in this section.

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

- Studio time, recording, production
- Mixing and mastering
- Session musicians
- Manufacturing

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

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

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.

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

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

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

If you identify as Disabled, you can include your own access costs on top of the **£3,000** maximum grant. We call these your **personal access costs**. These are for access costs that enable you to deliver your project.

There is no set cap on the amount of personal access costs you can apply for. They should be proportionate to your project activities and access requirements. If you are not sure about what access costs are proportionate to your context, please contact Youth Music's Grants and Learning Team.

Personal access costs are reviewed separately to your project.

You can find more information about [access costs on our website](#) and in the [NextGen Fund guidance document on our website](#).

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

If yes, please enter costs

Item & Description	Cost

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:

Confirm 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 have read the [NextGen Fund Guidance](#) and can confirm that you are eligible to apply to this Fund.
4. You commit to delivering the project described in the application form.
5. You understand and accept Youth Music's obligations under the [Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts](#) as set out on the Youth Music website.
6. You will take all necessary and reasonable steps to provide a safe and secure place for anyone who takes part in your project.
7. You confirm that the activities detailed in your budget are not already paid for by another funder.
8. 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](#).
9. You confirm that all responses in this application reflect your work, plans and experience. If Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools were used to help draft or edit any part of this application, you confirm that no personal or sensitive information was entered into AI systems, and that all submissions are original and accurate.

Please check this box to confirm you agree to all of the above statements.

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

Please tell us the name of the organisation

If you have worked with further organisations please list them here

Pre-application support

How did you find out about Youth Music?

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

Stay in touch with Youth Music

Youth Music would like to share with you more creative opportunities that are available for young people across the country. Opportunities can be accessed via our [Opportunities board](#) or from receiving our fortnightly NextGen newsletter.

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

You can unsubscribe at any time.

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?

- Gender fluid
- Man
- Woman
- Non-Binary
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-scribe (please describe)

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 (please describe)

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 (please describe)
- Mixed/multiple ethnic groups:

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background (please describe)
- Asian/Asian British:
 - Indian
 - Pakistani
 - Bangladeshi
 - Chinese
 - Other Asian background (please describe)
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
 - Black African
 - Black British
 - Black Caribbean
 - Other Black / African / Caribbean / Black British (please describe)
- Other ethnic group
 - Arab
 - Other ethnic group (please describe)
 - Prefer to self-describe (please describe)
 - Prefer not to say

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 (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



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