

Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards 2026-27

Easy Read Guidance



Part A - How to apply for money from VACMA (Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards)

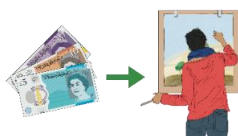
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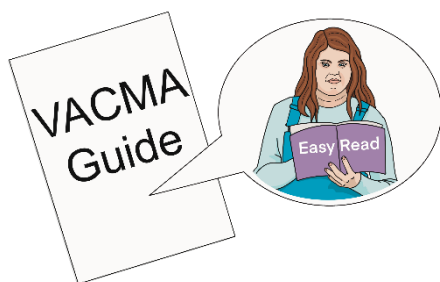


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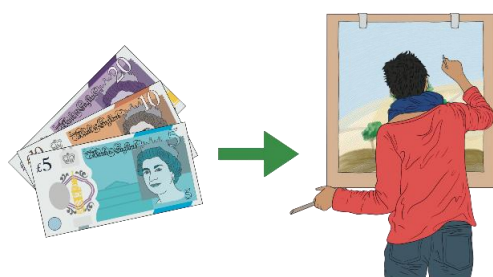
About this guide



This is an Easy Read guide to VACMA **bursaries**.



A **bursary** is money given to you that you do not have to pay back. It is to help you do a project, learn something new, or to create art.



VACMA bursaries give money to artists and craft makers to help them learn and make work.



This guide is long for an Easy Read. You do not have to read this guide all at once. You can also ask someone to help you read it.

Help to apply



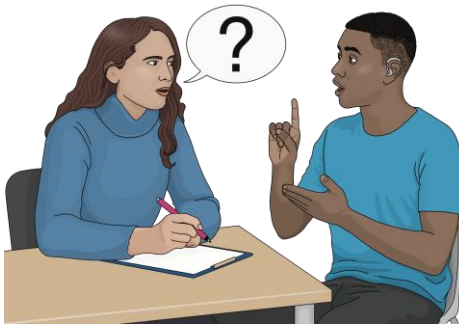
If you are disabled, Creative Scotland can pay for someone to help you fill out your application. This is called **Access Support**.

You can ask for Access Support if you are:

- D/deaf or hard of hearing.
- Disabled.
- Living with a long-term illness or mental health condition.
- Neurodivergent (for example: dyslexia, autism, ADHD).



Access Support can pay for someone to help you with your application.



For example, they can:

- Help you understand the questions.
- Write things down for you.
- Help you check your budget.
- Collect the things you need to apply.



How to ask for help:

You should ask for access support at least 4 weeks before the deadline.



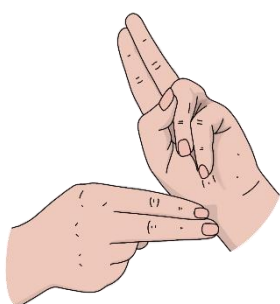
Send an email to:

enquiries@creativescotland.com

English
Gàidhlig
Scots

If you need information in
different formats or languages,
email us at

enquiries@creativescotland.com



If you are D/deaf or use BSL,
Contact Scotland-BSL can help
you to speak to us.

 **Contact Scotland-BSL**



Go to

www.contactscotland-bsl.org

for more information.

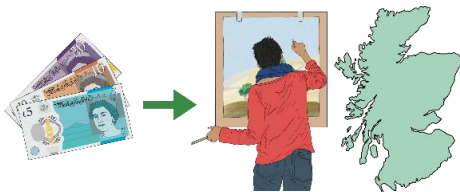
What is VACMA?



VACMA stands for Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards.



Creative Scotland runs **VACMA** with local partners across Scotland.



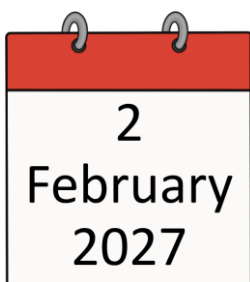
VACMA gives small bursaries to artists and craft makers in Scotland.



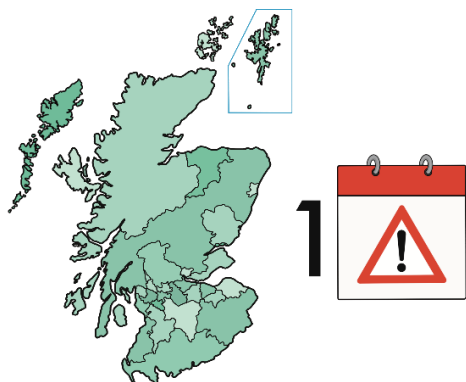
VACMA has 2 **deadlines**. A **deadline** is the last day you can apply to something.



- Autumn deadline: 5pm on **Tuesday 20 October 2026.**



- Winter deadline: 5pm on **Tuesday 2 February 2027.**



Some VACMA schemes only have 1 deadline. Check with your local scheme before you apply.



To find your local VACMA partner, visit the Creative Scotland website:

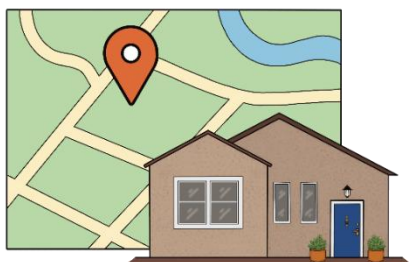
[Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards.](#)

Check you can apply

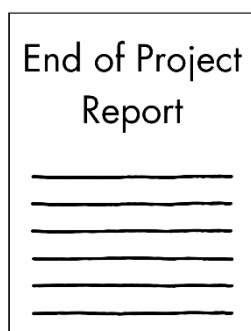
Who can apply?



Visual artists and craft makers in Scotland can apply.



You must live or have a studio in the local area you are applying to.



If you have had money from VACMA before, you must finish that project before you apply again. You will also need to send us an End of Project Report for that project.



You must have shared your work with the public through exhibitions, craft fairs, talks or other events.



You cannot apply for VACMA if you have only shared your work on social media.

Who cannot apply?

These people cannot apply:



- Full-time students.



- Artists who do not live or have a studio in the local area.



- Artists who do not make visual art or craft. For example, musicians, dancers or actors.



- **Graphic designers.** This means people who design logos, posters, websites, or adverts.



- People who already got VACMA funding before, but who have not sent us their End of Project Report.

How much money could I get from VACMA?



£500



£1000

There are 2 kinds of VACMA bursaries:

- **5 hundred pounds**
- **1 thousand pounds**



You should apply for the amount that best suits the activity you want to do.

What can I use VACMA for?



The bursaries are to help you get better at your art or craft.

You can use a VACMA bursary for:



- Training and learning.



- **Mentoring.** **Mentoring** is when someone with more experience helps you learn new skills.



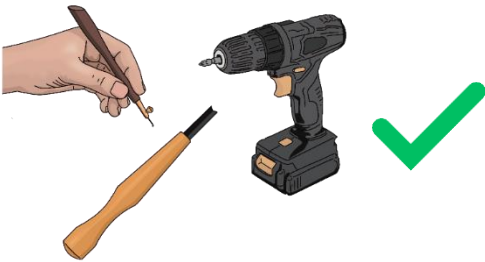
- Testing new ideas and ways of working. This is called **research and development**.



- Trying out eco-friendly materials and designs that are better for the planet.



- **Residencies.** A **residency** means staying somewhere special to help you grow as an artist.



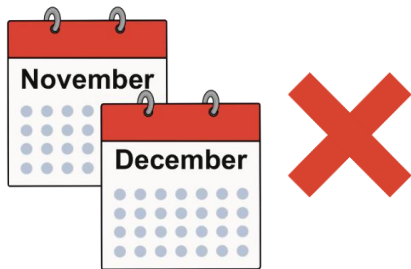
- Buying the tools you need to try new things and improve your art.



- Helping you to make new art for a show.

What can I not use VACMA for?

You **cannot** use a VACMA bursary for:



- Things that start before you get the bursary. Your project should start at least 2 months after the deadline to apply for VACMA.



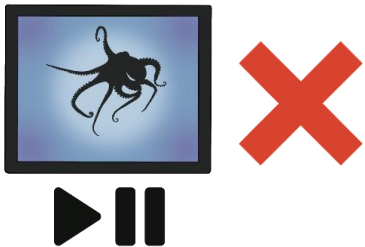
- School or college, or places where you get a degree or certificate.



- Starting or growing a business



- Projects that are only about advertising your work, or making a new website



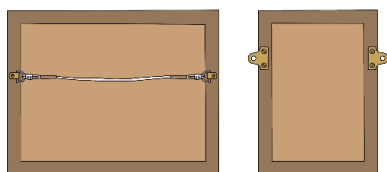
- Films. Unless you are a visual artist who makes films.



- School projects or community projects for an organisation.



- Building projects.



- Just framing work that you have already made. But if you ask for money to make new work, you can also ask for the cost of framing it.



If you are an illustrator, you can apply if you make your own creative work.



LOTTERY FUNDED

VACMA gets support from Creative Scotland with money from the National Lottery.



This means you cannot use a VACMA bursary with other Creative Scotland funding.

What we are looking for



We are looking for these things:

- **Commitment to practice**
- **Creative development**
- **A clear plan**

We explain what these words mean below.

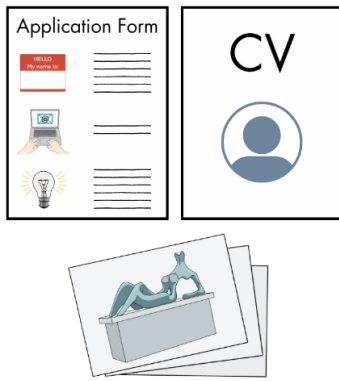
Commitment to Practice



We want to see that you make art or craft regularly.

You should show that you:

- make art or craft regularly
- learn new skills
- try new ideas
- keep making new work



We will look at:

- your CV
- your application form
- pictures of your work



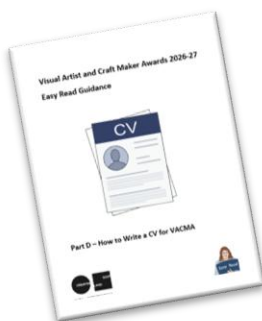
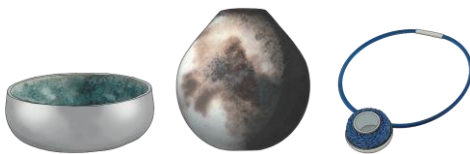
Your CV

Your CV tells us about your art or craft work.



Make sure your CV:

- is up to date
- focuses on your art or craft



For help writing your CV, read **Part D: Writing a CV.**



Application Form

HELLO
My name is _____

 _____

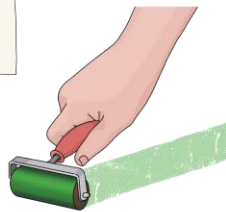
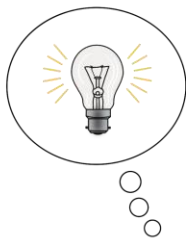
 _____

Your answers in the application form

Use your answers to tell us more about your art or craft.

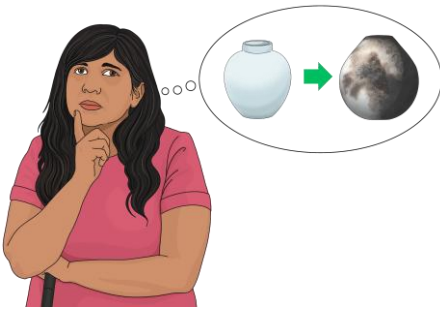
You should tell us:

- what kind of work you make
- how you make your work
- what ideas are important in your work
- anything that is not already in your CV



Pictures of your work

Send clear pictures of your art or craft.



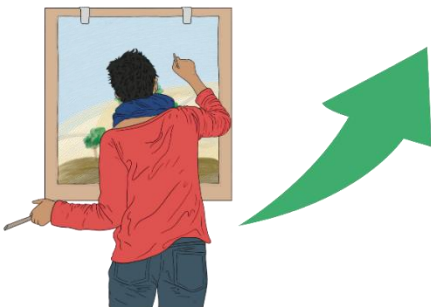
If you are trying a new way of working, include pictures that show this.



You can get tips from this video:

[CABN | How to photograph your artwork](#)

Creative Development

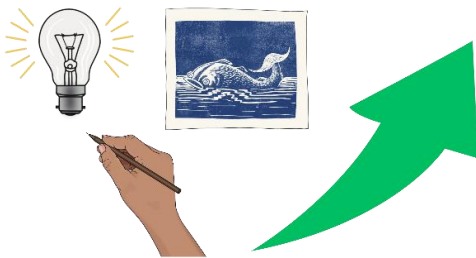


Creative development means learning, improving your skills, or trying new ideas



Tell us:

- what you want to do
- why you want to do it
- how it will help you develop as an artist or craft maker



Tell us how this activity connects to the work you already make.



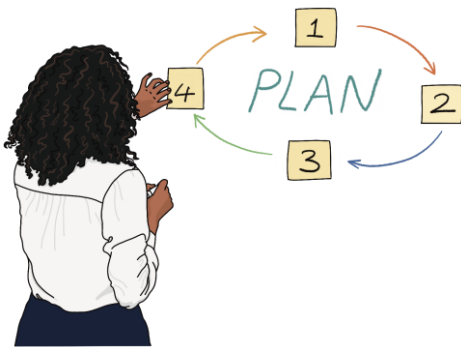
Be as clear and specific as you can.

For example, if you want to work with a mentor or take a course, tell us who they are and why you chose them.

A clear plan

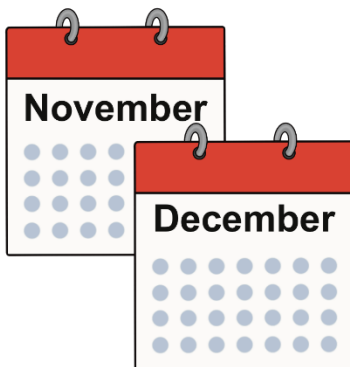


Tell us clearly what you want to do. We want to know that your plan can happen.



Tell us:

- what you will do
- when you will do it
- how long it will take



Start your project at least 8 weeks after the deadline.

We cannot give money for things that start before we decide.

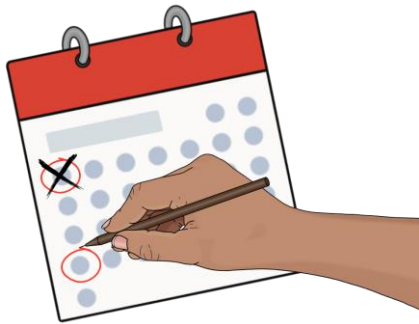


Think about possible problems

Tell us about any problems that might affect your project.

Tell us what you will do if something changes. For example:

- check that courses are running
- check dates
- have another plan if something cannot go ahead



If you are applying for money for an exhibition or residency, include a letter from the organisation.

The letter should explain their role in the project and how they will support you





If you are planning your own exhibition

Tell us:

- how you will get people to come
- how you will make sure it is accessible for everyone.



Project costs

You do not need to tell us all the costs for your project.

But make sure you can do your project with the bursary money you are asking for.





If you are working with other people you must pay them fairly. You can find more information on how much to pay people on the Creative Scotland website.

[Rates of Pay Guidance](#)

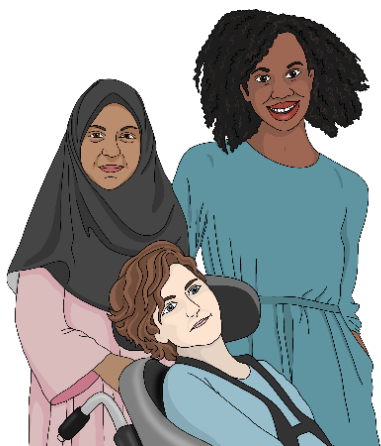


If the VACMA bursary is not enough to pay for your whole project, tell us how you will get the rest of the money.

An illustration of an application form titled "Application Form". The form has several sections with icons: a red box with "WELLB" and "My name is", a lightbulb icon, and a stack of banknotes icon. There are lines for writing in each section. A large green arrow points to the form from the right.

You can write down any other money or help you are getting in the budget section of the application form.

Fairness, Inclusion and Personal Access Costs



We want to support fairness and inclusion.

This means we are more likely to give the money to people who have not had a bursary before. Or who have not had as many chances to work on their art.

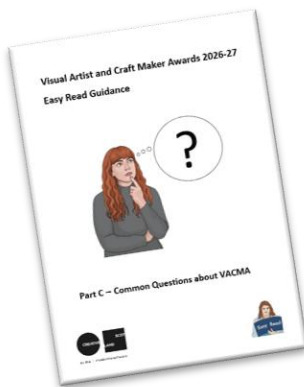
Personal Access Costs



If you are disabled, you can ask for extra money to help with your access needs. This extra money is called **Personal Access Costs**.



- These costs are added on top of your bursary.
- They do not count towards your funding limit
- They will not affect your chances of getting the bursary.



You can find more information in **Part C: Common Questions.**

The environment

You should also think about how your project affects the environment.

Tell us about anything you will do to cause less harm to the environment.



Helpful information

You can find information on these websites:



[Shape Arts](#)

[Artists' Environmental Resource](#)

[| Fife Contemporary](#)

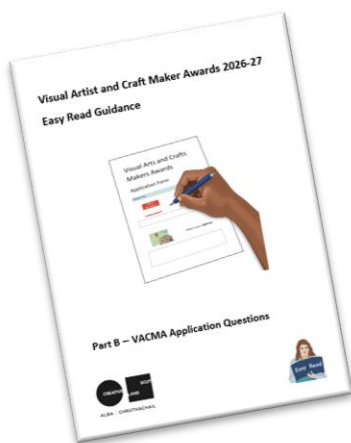
[Resources for Artists | Culture for Climate Scotland](#)

How do I apply?

Application Form	
	
	
	

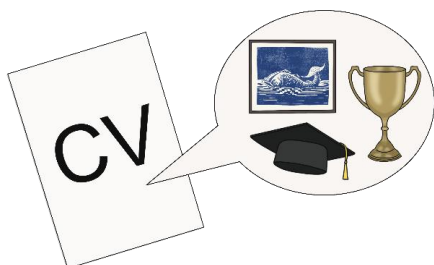
Fill in the application form for your local VACMA scheme. You can find your local scheme here:

[Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards](#)

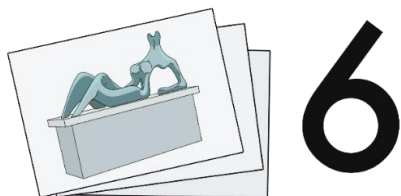


For help with the application form, read **Part B: VACMA Application Questions**.

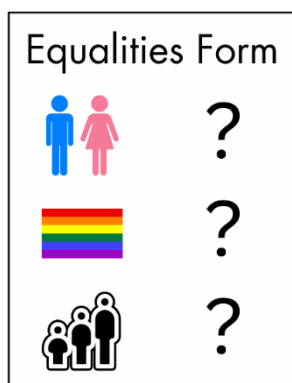
You will also need to send us:



1. Your CV.



2. 6 photos of your work.



3. An **Equalities Monitoring Form**.

This is a form that asks about you. We will keep what you tell us private.

How do we decide?



First we will check that your application meets the rules of the fund.



Then a **panel** will look at your application and how it fits the VACMA rules. The **panel** is a group of people who work in the arts.



Remember they do not know you or your work. They only know what you put on your application.

When we decide



We will tell you what we decide up to 8 weeks after the deadline.

What happens if I do not get the VACMA bursary?

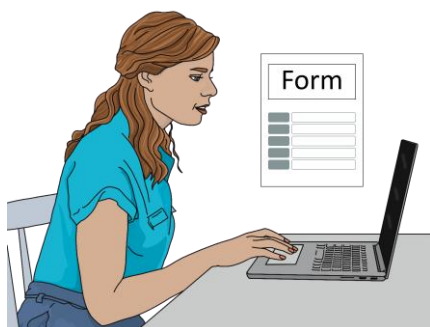


If you do not get the bursary, you can ask for feedback. Use it to try again.

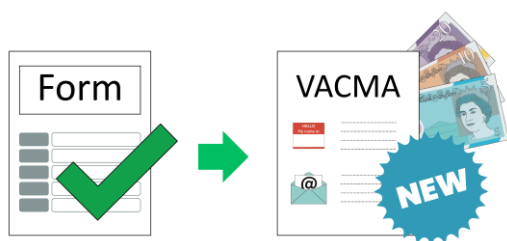
After funding



If you get a VACMA bursary, you must tell us how your project went.

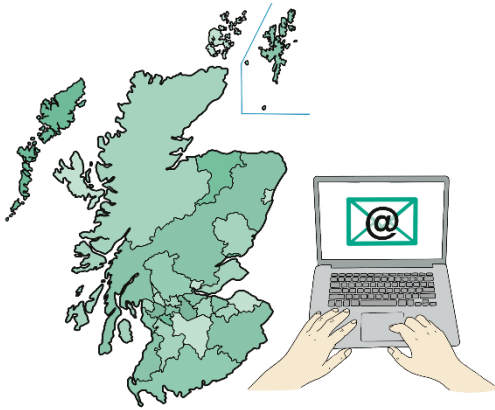


We will ask you to fill out a short form called an **End of Project Monitoring Report**.



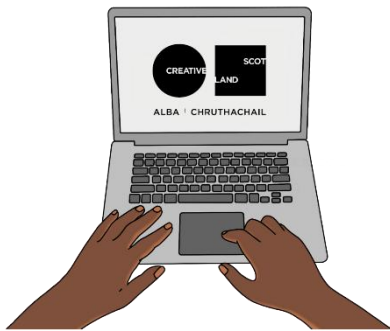
You must send us this form before you can apply for another VACMA bursary.

Where can I ask questions or get help?



If you have questions about the application form you should contact your local scheme. You can find them at

www.creativescotland.com/vacma



If you have other questions, you can contact Creative Scotland Enquiries.

Email

enquiries@creativescotland.com



If you contact Creative Scotland Enquiries you should tell us which local scheme you will be applying to.



We explain how to ask for access help on page 5 of this guide.

About this document



This information was made into Easy Read by Door in the Wall Arts Access C.I.C. in July 2026.