

Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards 2026-27

Easy Read Guidance



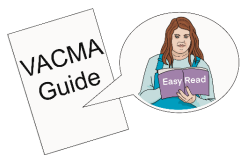
Part C – Common Questions about VACMA



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



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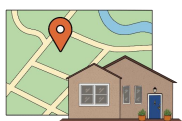
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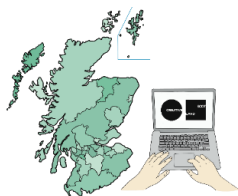
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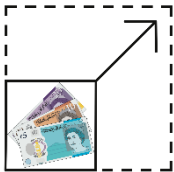
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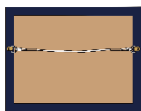
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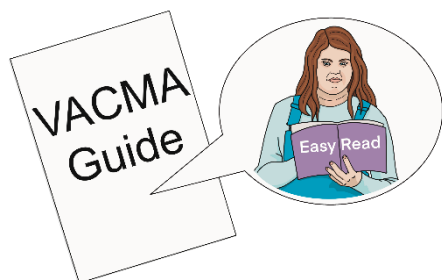


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About this document



This is an Easy Read guide to the questions people have about applying to VACMA.



If you have a question, you might find the answer here.



Remember you can ask for help.
Part A tells you how to get access help from Creative Scotland.



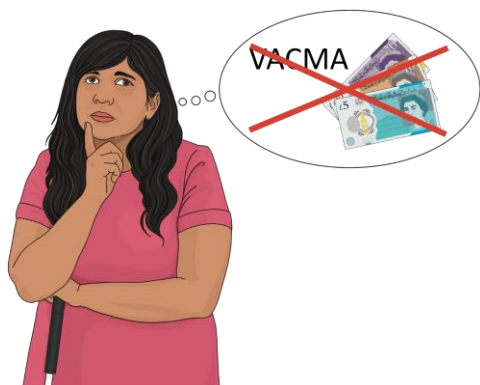
This guide is long for an Easy Read.
You do not have to read it all. You can also ask someone to help you read it.

Common questions about VACMA

1. How many times can I apply for a VACMA bursary?

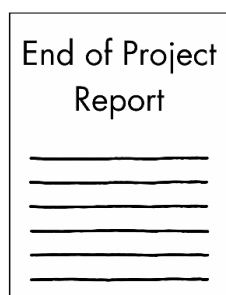


You can apply once a round, for as many rounds as you want.



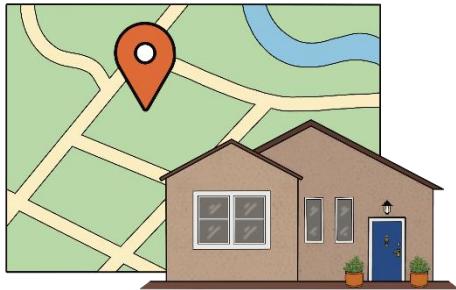
But we are more likely to give the bursary to people who:

- have not had public funding before.
- have not had many chances to grow their work before.

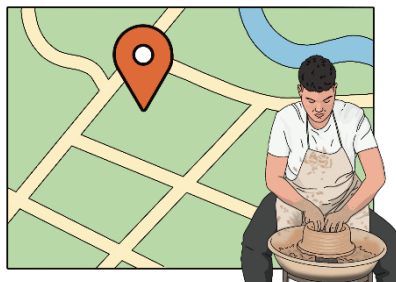


If you have had a VACMA bursary before, you must send a report about your last project before you can apply again.

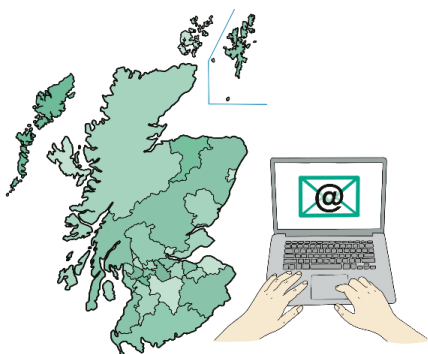
2. Which VACMA scheme should I apply to?



Apply to the scheme in the area where you live.

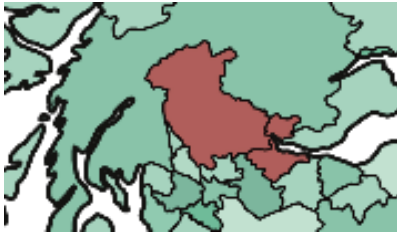


If your area doesn't have a VACMA scheme, you can apply to a scheme where you have a studio space.

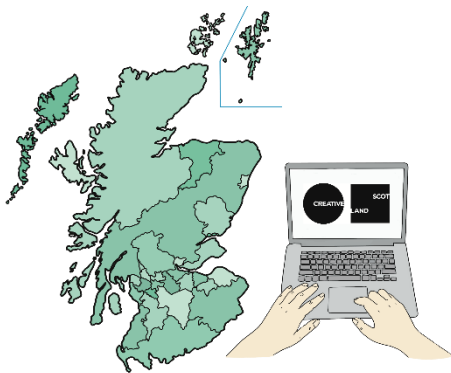


If you are not sure, check with your local scheme before applying.

3. There is no local VACMA scheme in my area. Can I apply to another area?



Some VACMA schemes cover more than one area.

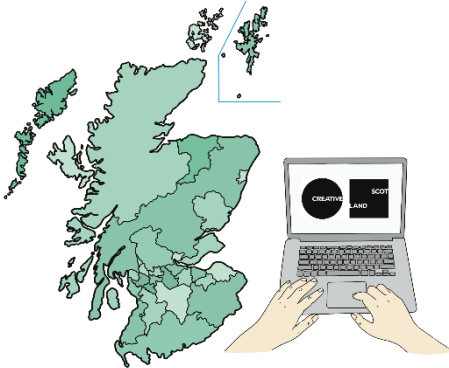


Check [the full list of schemes](#) to see if there is one in your area.



If you do not have a VACMA scheme in your area, you might be able to apply if you have a studio in an area with a VACMA scheme.

4. How do I know if there is a VACMA scheme in my area?



You can find a full list of VACMA schemes on the Creative Scotland website.



Some schemes cover more than one area. The name of the scheme will tell you.



If you are not sure, email the Enquiries team at enquiries@creativescotland.com

5. What are Personal Access Costs?



Personal Access Costs are costs related to your access needs or the needs of key people in your project.



You can only ask for these costs if they are needed to help you do the work in your project.



For example, if you are Deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, or look after someone who is, you might need extra help to take part in the project.



Personal Access Costs are on top of the bursary.

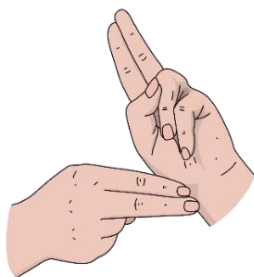
6. Who can ask for Personal Access Costs?



You can ask for personal access costs if you or a key person in your project are:

- d/Deaf.
- Disabled.
- Neurodivergent.
- Living with a chronic illness.
- Caring for someone.

Some examples of personal access costs are:



- A BSL interpreter.
- **Assistive technology.** This means special equipment or software.
- A support worker.

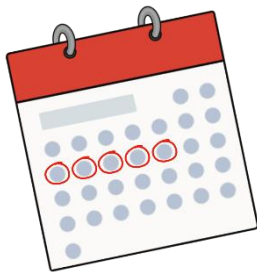
7. Can I ask for childcare costs as Personal Access Costs?



You can ask for money to help pay for childcare or caring for someone else, but only if:



- You need the care so you can do the work in your project.



- The costs are **one-off** or for a **short time**. Not your regular childcare.



- The care is **not already in place**. For example, not your usual nursery fees.



You must tell us why you need this care and how it helps with your project.



Important: If we give you money for childcare, you must tell the tax office, or **HMRC**. Because this counts as a **taxable benefit**. That means you might have to pay tax on it.

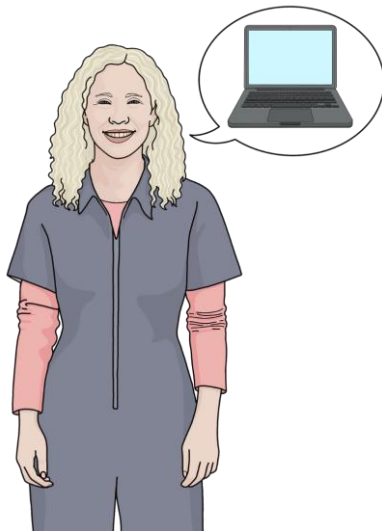
8. What is Assistive Technology?



Assistive Technology means special tools or software that help disabled people do things that might be harder for them.



For example: screen readers or speech-to-text software.



If you want to ask for a laptop or tablet, you must explain:

- Why you need it.
- Why your current device does not work.
- What model you need and why.



You can only ask for the cheapest device that does what you need.

9. How much can I ask for in Personal Access Costs?



There is no limit. You can ask for as much as you need.

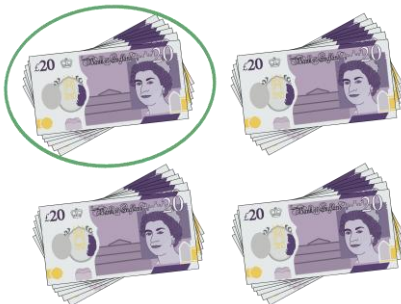
But:



- The costs must be linked to your project.



- You must explain why you need them.



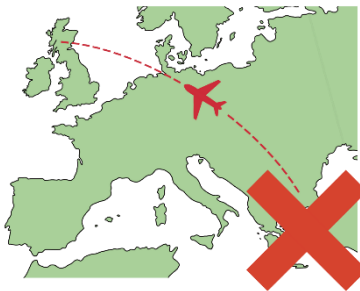
- The fund is small, so you might only get part of what you ask for.

10. Can I ask for extra money to make my project accessible for people who come to see it?



No. We only give you extra money for your access needs. Or for someone who is key to your project.

11. Do Personal Access Costs pay for travel and hotels?



Usually, **travel and accommodation** are not Personal Access Costs.



Travel means the cost of going somewhere. For example the cost of train tickets or a taxi fare.



Accommodation means staying somewhere overnight. Like a hotel or a flat.

VACMA



Mostly, these should come out of your VACMA bursary.



But, if you are d/Deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, or have a long-term illness, it might cost you more to travel or stay overnight.

For example, if you need taxis or a place for a helper to stay.



You can ask for these extra costs as Personal Access Costs.

12. How do I ask for Personal Access Costs?



When you fill out the application form, choose "Yes" if you want support with Personal Access Costs.

Tell us:

An icon for a form titled "I need...". It contains a bulleted list with four horizontal lines for text entry.

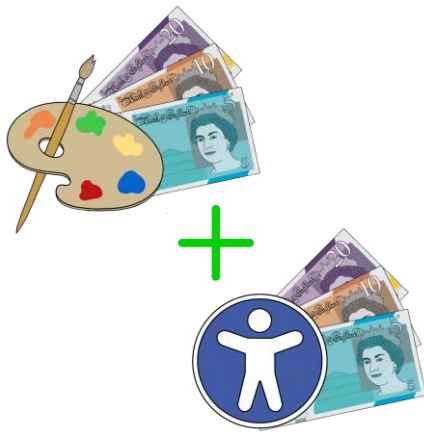
- What support you need.
- Why you need this support.
- How it will help you take part in your activity.
- How much money you are asking for.
- A simple breakdown of the costs.



	£300
	£200
	£50

For example, you might write:

- Support worker: £300
- BSL interpreter: £200
- Travel for support worker: £50

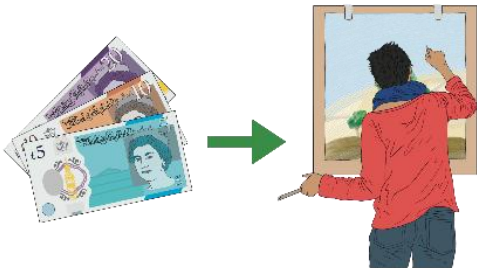


Personal Access Costs are separate from your VACMA bursary. This means you can still use the full bursary amount for your creative activity.

13. Is there anywhere else I can get help for Personal Access Costs?



You might be able to get money for personal access costs from the UK Government's Access to Work fund.



Access to Work can help cover extra costs if you are disabled and working.



You can find out more on the [UK Government website](https://www.gov.uk).



Disability Arts Online have an [Easy Read guide to Access to Work](#).

14. Do I need to have gone to art school to apply for VACMA?



No, you do not need to have a degree or have gone to art school.



But you need to show you are a **practising artist or maker.**



This means you should have made work before, and shown it to the public. For example at exhibitions.



We cannot give you money if you have only shared your work on social media.

15. What does practising artist or maker mean?



Practicing artist or maker means you are regularly making work.



And that you have shared it with the public through exhibitions, craft fairs, talks or other events.



We cannot give you money if you have only shared your work on social media.

16. Can I use my degree show to prove I am an artist?

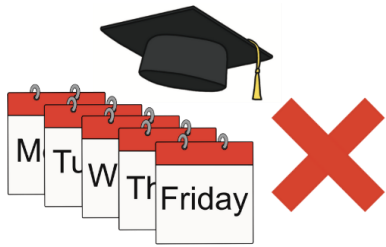


You can use your degree show as an example of work you have made and shown to the public.

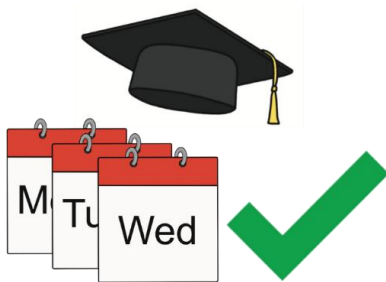


It can also help to include examples of work you have made since graduating. This helps show that you are still making work.

17. Can students apply to VACMA?



You cannot apply if you are a full-time student.



You can apply if you are a part-time student. But you must prove you are only part-time.



You can show us a letter from your tutor or university showing you are a part-time student.

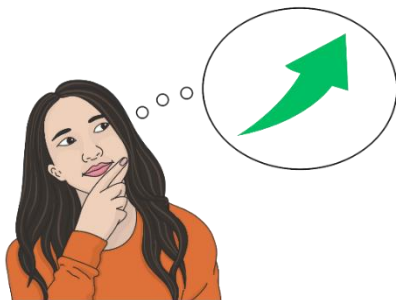


You must also show that the project is not part of your studies. You can ask your tutor to write a letter to tell us the project is not part of your studies.

18. Can I apply to VACMA to try new kinds of work?



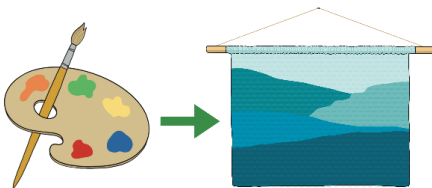
Yes, you can apply for VACMA to try out new ideas.



Tell us how the new project connects to the work you have done before.



Tell us why you want to try out this new area.



If you want to grow into a new kind of work, show us some early artwork or ideas you are trying out.

19. Can I apply to VACMA for a joint project with another artist?



Yes, you can work with another artist.

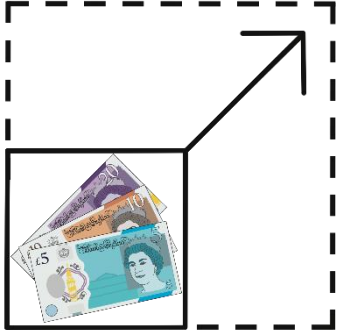


1 person will need to take the lead and look after the money.



If you and another person are each applying for your own costs, you should think about what might happen if 1 of you does not get the funding. Explain what this would mean for your project.

20. Can I apply to VACMA for something that is part of a larger project?

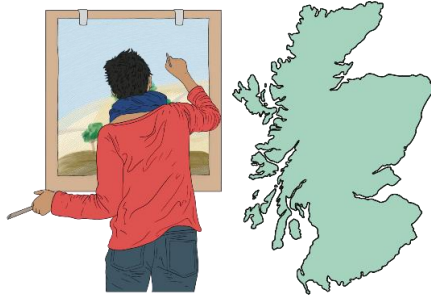


Yes, you can apply to VACMA for an activity that is part of a larger project.



But tell us clearly what VACMA will support and how it will help you grow as an artist.

21. Does my project have to take place in Scotland?

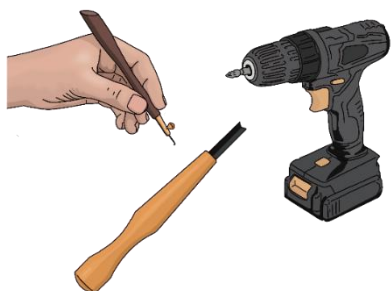


No, but you must be based in Scotland.

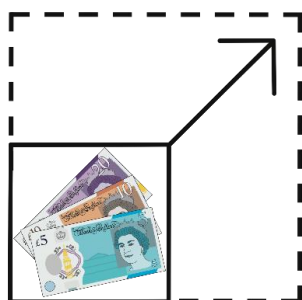


If you will need to travel for your project, tell us how you will make your travel more eco-friendly.

22. Can I apply to VACMA for money to buy equipment and materials?

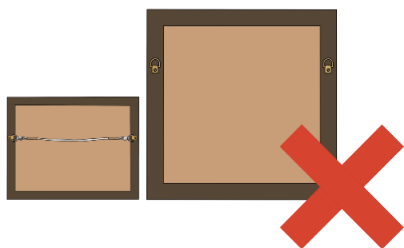


Yes, you can buy equipment if it helps you to grow as an artist. Or it lets you try new things.



If the cost is more than the VACMA bursary, tell us where the rest of the money will come from.

23. Can I apply to VACMA for money to frame my work?



No, VACMA is for growing as an artist and trying new things. Not for framing or presenting work you have already done.

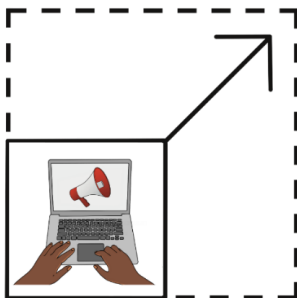
24. Can I apply to VACMA to make a website or market my work?



No, you cannot apply just for **marketing** or websites.



Marketing means telling people about your work. This can be to get people to buy your work or to come to your exhibitions.



You can ask for money for marketing or a website if it is a small part of a bigger project.



The main point of a VACMA bursary is to help you grow as an artist.

25. Can I apply to VACMA to start or grow my business?



No. You cannot apply to VACMA to start or grow your business.



You can get help with starting a business from [Business Gateway](#).

26. Can I use VACMA to help me apply for another bursary?



No, you cannot use VACMA to write an application for another Creative Scotland bursary, like the Open Fund.



But you can use VACMA to try out ideas or test new work.

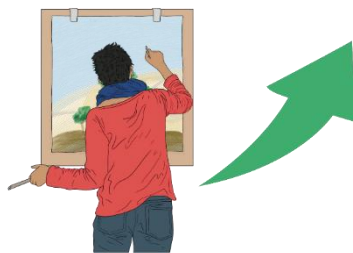


Later, you might use what you learned to apply for another bursary.

27. Can I apply to VACMA to put on a community project?



Only if it is part of a **socially engaged or participatory arts practice**. This means you make art that involves people from the community in making it.



You must tell us how the project would help you grow as an artist.



You cannot apply for a project run by an organisation.

28. Can I use VACMA to pay for mentoring?



Yes. You can use the VACMA bursary to pay for mentoring.

29. I am an illustrator or graphic designer. Can I apply to VACMA?

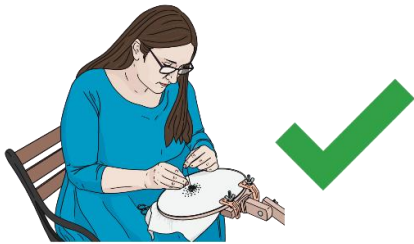


Graphic designers cannot apply to VACMA

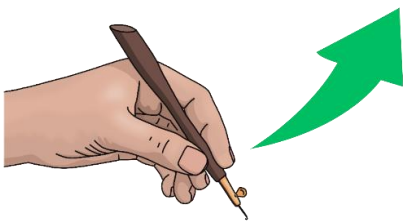


Illustrators can apply if you make your own creative work. Not just work for customers.

30. I do a heritage craft. Can I apply to VACMA?



Yes, you can apply for VACMA if you do a heritage craft.



But you must show your project is improving your skills, or making work in new ways.



You cannot apply for VACMA to make copies of objects or designs.