british council

Architecture, Design & Fashion

Biennales & Festivals Grants

Guidance Notes and Application Form

2025 - 2026

# Guidance Notes

# OVERVIEW

The British Council invites biennales and festivals to apply for the 2025–26 Architecture, Design &

Fashion Biennales and Festivals Grant to showcase international and UK designers. These grants

aim to support design practitioners in participating in UK and international festivals and biennales,

fostering collaboration between the UK and global design communities.

# FUNDING DETAILS

* Grants of up to £10,000 are available.
* The grant supports showcasing, exhibition, presentation, installation, and travel of completed
* design work.
* Funds are awarded only to festival organisations, not individual designers, however, designers
* can apply.
* Eligible sectors include architecture, design, fashion, and craft or projects at the intersection of
* these fields.
* The grant is for showcasing only and does not cover research and development.

# Eligibility Criteria

* Biennales and festivals that are:
  + UK-based showcasing work by international designers.
  + International-based showcasing work by UK designers.
* Applications must be submitted by biennale or festival representatives.
* Design practitioners (fashion designers, product designers, architects, etc.) should coordinate
* with a festival representative for inclusion in an application.
* We particularly welcome projects that:
  + Take place in Official Development Assistance (ODA) recipient countries.
  + Feature emerging designers (within 10 years of practice).
  + Involve designers or festivals based in countries where the British Council operates.

# Application Process

* Complete the Microsoft Forms application. (OR this Word application form).
* Provide a link to supporting documentation, including:
  + Festival confirmation letters
  + Examples of work and activity visuals
  + Budget spreadsheet
  + Diversity Monitoring Form (for UK applicants)
* Application deadline: 23:59 BST, 1 June 2025.

For informal expressions of interest or queries, contact Az Chinaliev at az.chinaliev@britishcouncil.org

The British Council’s support must be acknowledged alongside the UK presentation and on all

promotional materials, including social media. Upon completion of the activity, applicants will be required

to supply attendance figures and a project report. A grant agreement will be issued with detailed terms

and conditions.

# Application Form

Please complete this form and return it, along with supporting documentation, to:

az.chinaliev@britishcouncil.org

Deadline for application is 1 June 2025 23:59 BST for activities taking place between mid-September 2025 and the end of August 2026.

Please confirm you are eligible for the British Council Architecture Design Fashion Biennales and Festivals Grant

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| **Please confirm you are eligible for the British Council Architecture Design Fashion Biennales and Festivals Grant:**  To apply for the Architecture Design Fashion Biennales and Festivals Showcasing Grant, you must meet the following criteria:   * I am 18 or over. * I am showcasing the work in the field of architecture, design, fashion and craft or their intersections. * I am applying as a festival representative, OR, my work has been accepted (or in the process of being accepted) into a festival. * I have evidence of my festival acceptance to upload (if applying as a designer). * I am showcasing UK designer/work at a non-UK festival, OR, * I am showcasing non-UK designer/work at UK festival. | I confirm |
| **Please confirm you have read and agree to our terms, privacy and data protection:**  The British Council will use the information that you are providing in connection with processing your application. The legal basis for processing your information is agreement with our terms and conditions of application (contract).  The British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. You have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator.  For detailed information, please refer to the privacy section of our website, [www.britishcouncil.org/privacy](http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy) or contact your local British Council office. We will keep your information for a period of 7 years from the time of collection. | I agree |

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| **Do you or any of your colleagues on the project have a potential conflict of interest with British Council staff?**  To prevent potential conflicts of interest between applicants and those assessing applications, the British Council must identify any relevant **financial or personal connections** between applicants and British Council **Trustees, advisory panels, partners, or employees**. A **conflict of interest** includes any relevant interests held by:   * The applicant themselves * Their partner, close family member, or a person with whom they have a **close personal relationship** (whether or not they live in the same household) | Yes  No |
| If you answered 'Yes' to the above, please provide details. | |
| **Do you have specific access needs?**  Please let us know if you require access support as a grant recipient, and we will discuss how we can assist. | Yes  No |
| **Are you applying as a festival representative or a designer?**  Note: The preferred method of application is through a festival representative. | Festival Representative  Designer |
| **If applying as a designer, have you already been accepted to showcase at a festival or will have your acceptance subject to funding being secured?**  If 'No' or 'Other', please provide further details below: | Yes  No  Other |
| **Please explain at what stage are you with securing a place at a festival.** |  |
| **Showcasing Details - Section 1** | |
| **Festival's Name:** |  |
| **Festival's Website:** |  |
| **Festival's Location:**  (Please include city and country) |  |
| **Festival's Start Date:**  (The start date of the entire festival) |  |
| **Festival's End Date:**  (The end date of the entire festival) |  |
| **Applicant's Name:**  (Full name of the main contact submitting this application) |  |
| **Applicant's Email:**  (Ensure this is correct and check your spam folder for notifications) |  |
| **Applicant's Role:**  (Position of the applicant in relation to the festival) |  |
| **Name of Participating Designer:**  (Full name of the designer showcasing at the festival. If the applicant is the designer, a confirmation letter from the festival is required. Designers without this letter are not eligible. Note: Funds are awarded to festival organisations, not individual designers.) |  |
| **Country where the Participating Designer is based:** |  |
| **Participating Designer's Email:** |  |
| **Participating Designer's Website:**  (To showcase examples of work. Additional submission sections are provided. Note: You will be asked to share the link containing examples of your work and proposal visuals.) |  |
| **Start Date of Designer's Participation at the Festival:**  (Note: Processing the funds may take up to three months. To ensure timely disbursement, activities should ideally start from mid-September.) |  |
| **End Date of Designer's Participation at the Festival:** |  |
| **Date of Work Completion:**  (When was the showcased work completed? Estimated dates are allowed.) |  |
| **Participating Designer's Art Form: (check all that apply):**  *For example: fashion designer - fashion, architectural designer - architecture, product designer - design, graphic designer - design, textiles designer - fashion, etc.*  *Please note - Visual Art, Film, Music, Literature, Theatre, Dance applications are not eligible for this open call unless they demonstrate strong design element. Please get in touch with the team for any questions.* | Architecture  Design  Fashion  Craft  Other |
| **Is the Participating Designer considered "emerging" (within 10 years of practice)?**  Priority is given to emerging designers. | Yes  No |
| **Have you received support from a local British Council office for this activity?**  If yes, please describe the support received: | Yes  No |
| **Have you previously received funding from the British Council?**  If yes, please provide details of past funding: | Yes  No |
| **Does the British Council operate in the country of the Participating Designer or Festival?** | Yes  No  Other |
| **Key Festival and Activity Details – Section 2**  *You may wish to include fuller descriptions for answers in Section 2 by uploading them as supporting documents. You do not have to match the maximum word count, as long as you succinctly explain your proposal.*  Responses shorter than the maximum word count are acceptable | |
| **Briefly describe your festival:**  (max 3000 characters or 500-700 words) *Include visitor profile, estimated attendance, and media reach.* |  |
| **Briefly describe the proposed showcasing activity of the Participating Designer:**  (max 3000 characters or 500-700 words) |  |
| **Describe plans for audience engagement and acknowledgment of British Council's support:**  (max 1000 characters) |  |

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| **Your Project Assets, Supporting Documentation Checklist and Declaration**  ***This section is for the upload of your project assets link containing supporting documentation.***  **Please note that you will be kindly asked to share the link containing supporting documentation for your application.**  **Please note that following documents are required to be shared in the link:**   * **For festival applicants - letter by Participating Designer in Support of Application, OR, for designer applicants - letter of confirmation issued by a festival confirming designer's participation.** * **Examples of Designer's Work.** * **Visuals for proposed festival activity.** * **Supporting Documentation on the festival, e.g. Reports or Presentations about the festival.** * **Budget Spreadsheet providing funding breakdown.** * **Completed Diversity Monitoring Form (for UK applicants only). No need for this if the applicant is non-UK based. See the link for download further here:** [**https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/0wlozs40732cg1g1i25fj/BRITISH-COUNCIL-ARCHITECTURE-DESIGN-FASHION-EDI-FORM-2025-26.docx?rlkey=uvdffrojyyva2ympeypwxtn2s&st=7158l813&dl=0**](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/0wlozs40732cg1g1i25fj/BRITISH-COUNCIL-ARCHITECTURE-DESIGN-FASHION-EDI-FORM-2025-26.docx?rlkey=uvdffrojyyva2ympeypwxtn2s&st=7158l813&dl=0)   **PLEASE NOTE THAT WITHOUT THESE YOUR APPLICATION CANNOT BE PROCESSED**  **Acceptable file types: .doc, .docx, .excel, .pdf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg.**  **Please Paste Project files URL (file transfer link) in the fext field on the right hand side.**  **Please ensure you are sharing the link with enough permissions to allow us to download your project files. Please ensure that the link does not expire for at least 30 days. Please note that following documents are required to be shared in the link:**   * **For festival applicants - letter by Participating Designer in Support of Application, OR, for designer applicants - letter of confirmation issued by a festival confirming designer's participation.** * **Examples of Designer's Work.** * **Visuals for proposed festival activity.** * **Supporting Documentation on the festival, e.g. Reports or Presentations about the festival.** * **Budget Spreadsheet providing funding breakdown.** * **Completed Diversity Monitoring Form (for UK applicants only). No need for this if the applicant is non-UK based. See the link for download further below.**   **How to provide the link with supporting documents?**   1. **Choose a preferred file sharing service (WeTransfer, Dropbox, OneDrive, Google Drive, etc).** 2. **Upload there your supporting documents from the list above.** 3. **Give permission for anyone to download files in permissions settings. Please check if we will be able to download the files.** 4. **Share the link and paste it's URL above.** | **Project files URL (file transfer link):**    **Please confirm that the files shared in the link above match criteria below:**  **Letter by Participating Designer in Support of Application (for festival applicants), OR, letter of confirmation issued by a festival confirming designer's participation (for designer applicants)**  **Examples of Designer's Work**  **Visuals for proposed festival activity**  **Supporting Documentation on the Biennale / Festival, e.g. Reports or Presentations about the Biennale / Festival**  **Budget Spreadsheet providing funding breakdown**  **Completed Diversity Monitoring Form (for UK applicants only). No need for this if the applicant is non-UK based** |

# Budget

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| **Description of intended use of the funding requested** | |
| **Expenditure** | **Amount (£)** |
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| **Total funding requested (£)** |  |

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| **Outline other sources of funding and/or in-kind contributions** | | |
| **Partner** | **Description** | **Amount (£)** |
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| **Total project budget (£)** | |  |

# Application Checklist

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| **Application form** |  | **Name** |  |
| **Supporting documentation** |  | **Date** |  |
| **Project files URL (file transfer link):**    **Please confirm that the files shared in the link above match criteria below:**  **Letter by Participating Designer in Support of Application (for festival applicants), OR, letter of confirmation issued by a festival confirming designer's participation (for designer applicants)**  **Examples of Designer's Work**  **Visuals for proposed festival activity**  **Supporting Documentation on the Biennale / Festival, e.g. Reports or Presentations about the Biennale / Festival**  **Budget Spreadsheet providing funding breakdown**  **Completed Diversity Monitoring Form (for UK applicants only). No need for this if the applicant is non-UK based** | | | |

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For any queries, please contact:

**Az Chinaliev**Relationship Manager

Architecture Design Fashion

British Council

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