

MAKING IT FUND

About the Making It Fund

The **Making It Fund** is an exciting new initiative designed to support current students and recent graduates of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama to expand and elevate their creative practice. Offered from the first day at Guildhall, until five years post-graduation, this fund is dedicated to helping artists build resilience and sustain their careers in an ever-changing artistic landscape.

Purpose of the Making It Fund:

- **Expand Creative Practice:** The Making It Fund provides financial support for current students and alumni to explore new artistic ideas, develop innovative projects, and refine their craft. Whether you're working on a new performance piece, developing a creative business, or engaging in cross-disciplinary collaboration, this fund is here to help you take your practice to the next level.
- **Build Resilience:** In today's challenging environment, building resilience is crucial for artists. The Making It Fund aims to support you in developing the skills, networks, and resources needed to adapt and thrive. This might include professional development opportunities, mentorship or coaching.

Key Areas of Focus:

1. **Collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships across different disciplines and art forms to foster innovative and interdisciplinary projects.
2. **Creation:** Supporting the development of new artistic work and the exploration of fresh ideas.
3. **Innovation:** Promoting the experimentation of new forms, processes, and solutions, pushing beyond traditional boundaries.
4. **Enterprise:** Helping artists build sustainable and ethical creative businesses.

Who Can Apply:

Current Students: Students enrolled in a full-time or part-time higher education programme at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Recent Alumni: Alumni who have completed a higher education programme at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama within the past five academic years (2020 - 2025 inclusive).

Eligibility: Current students and Guildhall School alumni who are enrolled on or have completed a higher education programme of at least one year's full-time duration (or part-time equivalent) within the past 5 academic years (2020-2025 inclusive). You must also be eligible to live and work in the UK to apply.

Selection: Applications will be reviewed by a representative and interdisciplinary panel of industry experts and Guildhall staff.

Funding Opportunities:

- **Grant Range:**

- Student applicants can apply for funding between **£500** and **£1,000**, depending on the scope and scale of their project. **Student applications should demonstrate a higher degree of creation and collaboration.**
- Alumni applicants can apply for funding between **£500** and **£3,000**, depending on the scope and scale of their project. **Alumni applications should demonstrate higher levels of innovation and enterprise**

Criteria

Please consider our criteria when writing your application, which can be seen below in Appendix 1 (students) and Appendix 2 (alumni). Your proposal must demonstrate a clear plan and schedule for all activity and planned outcomes (i.e. how will this grant allow you to unlock or advance the next stage of your artistic practice or career? What exactly are you planning to do? What is the timeline and budget for activity? How can you ensure you can finish the project within the timeframe?)

Types of Projects

Funding can be used for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to:

- Research and development (R&D) of ideas and products
- Professional development and training
- Building financially and socially sustainable creative practices
- Establishing start-up businesses, collectives or companies
- Creating new partnerships and networks

Evaluation and Follow-Up:

Successful applicants will be required to take part in an evaluation process following the completion of their funded project. Additionally, a follow-up interview or survey will be conducted 12 months later to assess the long-term impact of the fund on their artistic practice.

Intellectual Property:

Recipients will retain full ownership of any intellectual property created during the funded period. However, we may request permission to use testimonials or project outcomes in our marketing materials and reports to funders.

How to Apply: Please send an email to Iona McTaggart at iona.mctaggart@gsmmd.ac.uk by Sunday 16 March 2025, 11:59pm with the following:

- A completed application form
- A completed budget
- A completed Equalities Monitoring form
- Your CV

Appendix 1: Criteria for students

Aims	<p>Does the proposal clearly define the applicant’s goals and articulate how this funding will support them in achieving these goals? Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant’s ambitions and aims are clearly outlined. • The applicant has a clear understanding of how the funding will contribute to the project’s success and has communicated this effectively. • The applicant has aligned their proposal with the fund’s purpose and criteria.
	<p>Is the activity proposed in the application the best way of achieving the stated goal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant has explained how the project will contribute to their practice or professional development. • The applicant has communicated their creative or career ambitions and demonstrated how this funding will help them achieve these.
Career development	<p>Does the proposal demonstrate how the project will enhance the applicant’s creative practice or career progression?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant has explained how and in what ways the project will advance their practice or development • The applicant has considered and communicated their career or creative ambitions and explained how the funding will allow them to achieve this
	<p>Will the proposed activity contribute to the applicant’s long-term growth and resilience?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal outlines how the project will support their development over the longer term. • The project is designed to strengthen the applicant’s ability to sustain their career.
	<p>Does the proposed activity align with the applicant’s future goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is clearly linked to the applicant’s artistic training and career aspirations. • The scale and ambitions of the proposal are feasible given the applicant’s experience.
The activity	
	<p>Does the proposed activity support the applicant to expand and elevate their creative practice?</p>
	<p>Does the proposed activity demonstrate a clear intention to collaborate with peers and work in new ways?</p>
Budget	<p>Does the proposal demonstrate good value for money?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal is clear and well-costed • Union rates and quantities are included where relevant. • Only eligible costs are included in the budget.

Appendix 2: Criteria for alumni

Aims	<p>Does the proposal clearly define the applicant’s goals and show how this funding will support them in achieving these ambitions? Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant’s ambitions and aims are clearly outlined. • The applicant understands how the funding will contribute to the success of their project and has communicated this effectively. • The applicant has demonstrated a clear connection between their proposal and the fund’s purpose and criteria.
	<p>Is the proposed activity the best approach to achieving the stated goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure, timeline, and outcomes of the proposal directly relate to the applicant’s aims and ambitions. • The applicant’s proposed approach is appropriate and well-suited to their objectives.
Career development	<p>Does the proposal clearly demonstrate how it will advance the applicant’s creative practice and/or career?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant has explained how and in what ways the project will advance their practice or development • The applicant has considered and communicated their career or creative ambitions and explained how the funding will allow them to achieve this
	<p>Will the proposed activity contribute to the applicant’s long-term growth and career sustainability?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is clearly linked to the applicant’s artistic training and professional goals. • The project is designed to strengthen the applicant’s ability to build a resilient and sustainable career.
	<p>Does the proposed activity align with the applicant’s practice and career aspirations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is clearly linked to the applicant’s artistic training and professional goals. • The proposal’s scale and ambitions are feasible given the applicant’s experience.
The activity	<p>Does the proposed activity support the applicant in expanding and enhancing their entrepreneurial skills?</p>
	<p>Does the proposal demonstrate a clear intention to innovate and explore new ways of working?</p>
Budget	<p>Does the proposal demonstrate good value for money?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget is clear and well costed. • Union rates and quantities are included where relevant. • Only eligible costs are included in the budget.