



Now & Next 2020 – Round 2
Frequently Asked Questions

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Can I apply if I live/study outside of Scotland?

No, the lead applicant must be living or studying in Scotland at the time of application. You can apply with a collaborator living in another country, but the application must be in your name.

Can I apply if I will be 18 soon after the application deadline?

No, you must be 18 on the date of the application submission deadline. Please see below for working with young people.

Can I amend my application once it has been submitted?

No, please read over your application carefully before you send it to us. It is a good idea to have someone else proofread it for you in advance of your submission. We also advise people write their applications in a separate programme, such as Word or Google Docs, rather than within the application form to avoid losing information.

What sort of content are we looking for?

For **audio-visual commissions**, we want to hear new voices and see visual approaches that are exciting, and memorable. We're looking for strong proposals that demonstrate the breadth of possibility offered by the medium – this might be through innovative style or structure, or fresh ways of working with storytelling, visual and audio combinations, animation, performance, or through other means. Above all it should work in short film form with durations ranging from 90 seconds to five minutes. Final delivery will be required in both 16:9 and 1:1 (square) format and approaches to production should reflect both of these.

For **audio only commissions**, we are interested in proposals for content that will push boundaries and surprise listeners with their inventiveness and ingenuity. Audio content might take the form of spoken word, poetry, experimental narrative and storytelling, or soundscapes, or combine these forms to create new approaches to sound and story. Audio content can range between 5–12 minutes.

We welcome applications from artists working in **any medium** to make audio-only and audio-visual projects.

We welcome proposals from artists of all backgrounds, including those from minority ethnic groups, those who consider themselves to be disabled and those who are currently underrepresented in media and the visual arts. We are also encouraging applications from artists living outside the Central Belt.

If I previously submitted an application for Now & Next, can I apply again with the exact same proposal?

No. If your proposal was unsuccessful in a previous round, it will only be considered again if it has been substantially reworked or further developed. Any proposals that are re-submitted without change will not be considered again.

If I previously commissioned for previous rounds of Now & Next, can I apply again?

No. Previously commissioned artists are not eligible to apply again. They can undertake a supporting role as part of a collaborative team as long as the creative control and proposed project is the vision of another artist.

Should the links I provide in the application be to previous examples of work or a pitch for the project we intend to make?

We do **not** expect you to have made a piece showing what you want to create.

We encourage you to supply additional material to support the description of your idea, such as visual or audio references, as this helps the selection panel understand your intentions and ideas better. There is opportunity to do so in the application form.

It is necessary to provide examples of your previous creative work. Please send us links to your online portfolios, website, YouTube, Vimeo, etc. Please be specific when choosing previous examples to show us. We recommend you do not send us a general link to an entire website, but rather specific example(s) that help support your proposed project. We want to understand your approach and style, so we can better understand what your proposal will look / sound like.

We welcome examples of previous work in **any medium** as long as it gives us an accurate understand of your previous work and style and helps support your proposal. If you are applying as a team or collaboration, you can supply more than one example of previous work. There is opportunity for this in the application form.

Can I submit more than one proposal or application?

No, we will only accept one proposal / application per person.

Can I apply as a team?

Yes, we accept applications from collaborative teams. Please submit one application only and explain why you want to work in a team or with another person in your application.

Please use one person's name when submitting the application. This person should be the lead contact for the project.

If the proposal is successful, the contractual agreement for the project will be made between this person and LUX Scotland.

What if I am a part of a team applying, can I also make submit my own application?

Yes, but you can only be the lead applicant on one proposal. We do not accept multiple applications from the same person.

For example, it is acceptable to undertake a supportive role as part of a team and also submit your own proposal independently. It is not acceptable to apply as a collaborative duo where you have significant creative control and also submit another application independently.

Can I apply to make a participatory or collaborative project?

Yes, we accept participatory and collaborative projects, but we need to understand how you will work with people.

It is important to consider how you will work with people with their permission, safely and appropriately, especially as the final commissions are intended to be broadcast on BBC platforms and made during COVID-19. We appreciate at that at this stage not all projects will have confirmed participants and contributors, however in your proposal we would like to see that people's participation and contribution to the project has been thoroughly thought through and considered, including how you will find these people and what their participation will look like. Please explain in your proposal about how you will work with people and why it is important to the project.

Artists wishing to work with **young people**, particularly those under the age of 16, work with **vulnerable groups** or address **sensitive topics** will need to demonstrate how this will be done ethically and safely, taking into consideration the wellbeing of both participants and you. Artists wishing to work with people in a **collaborative or participatory** way will need to gain written permission and consent from their participants during the production of the project. If your application is successful, we will work with you to support people's participation in your project and provide appropriate release forms, mentorship, guidance and training.

What topics / themes are accepted?

We welcome proposals that address any topic or theme but advise that you look [at BBC Editorial Guidelines](#) in advance in order to understand the specific context in which these commissions are being made and shown. LUX Scotland and BBC will provide editorial guidance during the commissioning process.

We encourage you to consider the potential ethical implications of addressing sensitive topics, and the impact it may have on yourself, other people and audiences. Please explore this in your proposal, if appropriate to your project.

Can I work with archive material, existing music or photographs?

Yes, but only with appropriate permission and licensing.

If you are considering using existing material, such as photographs, footage, sound or music from an archive, collection or existing source, it is important to have the appropriate permissions to do so. This must be reflected in your budget. We recommend seeking permission prior to submitting an application in order to demonstrate the likelihood of being able to successfully complete your project. This is due to the potentially difficult nature of gaining appropriate permission to use such material for broadcast purposes.

We **cannot** accept the use of commercial music or material used under 'fair use / fair dealing'.

We advise applications to consider if using archive material is necessary to the success of their proposed project and encourage you to think through alternative ways to achieve your ambitions for the commission if gaining permission for the use of the material is not successful.

Please tell us in your proposal about how and why you will work with archive material and why it is important to the project.

Do I need prior experience to apply?

While you do not need to have any previous experience of filmmaking or audio work to apply, if this is the case, you need to demonstrate that you will be able to deliver the project, such as by working with others who do have this experience.

Remember that your application will be assessed on the originality and quality of your ideas and your previous self-authored work, as well as your ability to deliver the proposed audio-visual or audio-only project.

How does the application process work?

All applications that arrive by the deadline will be assessed by a panel of representatives from the BBC, LUX Scotland and Creative Scotland. Applications that arrive after the deadline will not be accepted.

We have put together a package of support to assist artists in making applications, which can be found on the LUX Scotland website. This includes videos of how to put together an application and budget, as well as one-to-one application advice sessions with members of the LUX Scotland team.

Successful applicants will be notified in September 2020. We regret that due to the volume of applications, we are unable to offer individual feedback on proposals.

What is the budget for these films?

We will assign a budget to cover all fees and production costs up to £5,000 for audio-visual projects and £4,000 for audio-only projects (including VAT). You will be asked to submit a rough budget outlining anticipated costs for your proposed film, which should include your and your collaborator's fees, copyright fees, equipment hire, research costs and post-production costs.

We require you to include artist fees, we will not accept budgets that do not include appropriate payment for artists and contributors.

We recommend that you refer to [Creative Scotland's Guidance on Industry Standards](#), which includes recommended rates of pay for artists, musicians and those working in theatre, dance and the performing arts. If you will be working with actors, you will not be obliged to adhere to industry rates as outlined in the [BBC/Equity agreement](#), but you may like to use these as a rough guide to help ensure you are paying actors fairly.

It may be helpful for you to watch the recorded webinar [Application Support: A Guide to Budgets](#) devised to answer questions about budgets for Now & Next. These resources may be helpful as well, and are mentioned during the webinar Q&A:

- [Scottish Artists' Union rates of pay](#)
- [Film industry rates of pay](#)
- [Musicians Union rates for recording](#)
- [Creative Scotland guidance on industry standards](#)
- [ArtQuest how to guide on budgets](#)
- [ArtQuest information on self employment](#)
- [ArtQuest information on tax returns for artists](#)
- [Licensing for music use in films](#)
- [Scottish Artists' Union members insurance](#)
- [Information on fair dealing and copyright](#)

Can I seek additional funding (from other trusts, foundations, sponsors, partners, etc.) to supplement the budget from the Now & Next scheme?

No, your budget should not include income from any other sources of funding. To ensure relative parity between all of the commissioned films, Creative Scotland and the BBC will be the exclusive funders for all projects produced as part of Now & Next.

Can my budget include in-kind support?

Yes, you can accept in-kind support (up to a limit of £2,000 in value) for practical elements of project delivery, provided there is no quid pro quo credit or agreed commercial exposure.

How should I allocate fees for collaborators and contributors?

We recommend that you refer to [Creative Scotland's Guidance on Industry Standards](#), which includes recommended rates of pay for artists, musicians and those working in theatre, dance and the performing arts. If you will be working with actors, you will not be obliged to adhere to industry rates as outlined in the BBC/Equity agreement, but you may like to use these as a rough guide to help ensure you are paying actors fairly.

What can I expect if I am successful?

Once commissioned, artists will work with LUX Scotland to finalise their proposal, production schedule and project budget. LUX Scotland will manage day-to-day communication with artists to ensure projects are on track to be delivered to budget and deadline; advising as needed on research, conceptual development and production elements; providing practical and technical support and advice; and facilitating connections with appropriate industry contacts as relevant.

There will also be skills development and training opportunities through bespoke workshops, and LUX Scotland will work closely with artists to identify specific needs and requirements. This will include training on the social model of disability and approaches to captioning, audio description and other access measures.

Artists can expect a process of editorial review and feedback with the BBC prior to final submission. Final works will be made available for broadcast on BBC platforms.

The process from commissioning to delivery of the completed film is approximately 12 weeks. Successful applications will need to be available for the following dates and be able to commit to this intensive production period:

- Week commencing Monday 12 October 2020 – half day briefing with LUX Scotland and BBC (exact date to be confirmed to suit availability)
- Weeks commencing Monday 19 October and Monday 2 November 2020– one-hour progress meetings with LUX Scotland mentors (exact date to be arranged between artists and mentors)
- 8 two-hour sessions across October & November – Professional Development sessions (tailored to suit the needs and availability of successful applicants)
- October to December 2020 – production period
- 25 January 2021 – Final deadline for delivery

What kind of resources will I have to make an audio-visual / audio only project?

Each film has a moderate budget allocated, which is for production costs, including filming and/or recording equipment. Commissioned artists will have the opportunity to receive mentoring from industry professionals, as well as practical support. We will ensure that you are guided through budget management and all stages of the production.

How long should my commission be?

Completed audio-visual works will be between 90 seconds and 5 minutes and audio works will be between 5 and 12 minutes.

Who is the BBC's digital audience?

The BBC's digital audience is a broad 25-45 years audience residing in Scotland. They are inquisitive and love shareable content they can engage with and talk about. They are not a typical arts audience and so your proposal should consider how you will engage them: strong ideas, striking visuals, insights into the human condition and humour are likely to help your proposal. It's worth noting that the modern digital audience has a relatively short attention span due to the sheer volume of content they are exposed to. Some say you have two seconds to capture their attention and keep them watching. There is strong evidence to suggest that videos aimed at social media platforms perform better with on-screen subtitles since 80% or more users watch without headphones. Also, we have found that 1:1 ratio (square-shaped) shot videos perform better as the audience can watch these on their mobile devices without having to rotate the phone into landscape mode.

How will Now & Next work during COVID-19?

We are following Scottish Government guidelines closely during the COVID-19 pandemic, so proposals should include details of how you would plan to record and produce the commissions from home, if deemed necessary. Please refer to [industry guidelines](#) on production during COVID-19. Guidance specific to Now & Next will be provided to successful applications.

We anticipate that briefings and meetings will take place remotely using either telephone or platforms such as Zoom. We can provide support to access remote working.

I need support in completing my application form – can you help?

Yes, the LUX Scotland team is available to assist artists in making applications.

If you would like to apply, but have particular access needs or submitting a written application is difficult for you, please get in touch with Annie Crabtree, Project Coordinator at LUX Scotland on nowandnext@lux.org.uk or by phoning or texting 07394 042450. We can accept applications as audio or video applications, including BSL applications.

If you have questions or would like support in completing your application, you can also attend one of our Application Advices Sessions (see the LUX Scotland website for further details) or email nowandnext@lux.org.uk.

Please note that we cannot offer any feedback on proposals prior to submission.

I need support participating in the opportunity – can you help?

Yes, the LUX Scotland team will work with successful applicants to ensure the opportunity is tailored to their needs and requirements. There is an opportunity in the application form to let us know about your support requirements. The commissioning process and professional development programme will be devised to suit the needs of the selected artists, including provision for travel and childcare costs, remote access, BSL interpretation, live captioning, transcripts and audio description.