



Info Sheet: Grants

Grants to individual artists and groups are an important part of the Australian arts industry.

Arts grants generally fall into three categories:

- funds for the creation of an artwork (e.g. to write a manuscript)
- funds for professional development (e.g. to pay for a mentorship, attend a conference)
- or funds for a project (e.g. to host a series of readings or literary events).

Arts grants have very specific eligibility requirements and can cover a wide range of expenses, including living expenses, mentorships, travel, workshop and conference fees, residencies and study. Some expenses are specifically excluded from grant rounds, so make sure to do your research and understand the grant guidelines before you apply.

Are you ready to apply for a grant?

Most grants will look at your track record, so it is a good idea to develop your profile (website, social media) and resume (publications, competitions, awards). But the most important thing is to make sure your artistic support material is the best it can be. The people assessing the grant need to be excited by the quality of your writing or your project.

How should you get started?

Grant applications take a long time to prepare. You need to contact other people to get letters of support and other contributions. It's important that you get started early – we recommend at least three months before the deadline.

You should begin with research. Read widely about all the grants available, about the different bodies or government departments offering them, and make sure you understand the aims and mission of each of the funding bodies.

Make contact with the grants officer. They are more than happy to discuss your application with you and this can play a crucial role in helping you understand the fund and in the development of your application.



Develop a checklist of requirements. If you need help from other people, contact them early and let them know what you need. Think about the best people who can write you fabulous supporting letters.

What should your bio include?

All writers need a great bio, so spend time developing one. For grants, your bio should include awards and competitions, major publications, relevant affiliations (e.g. writing organisation memberships) and any other evidence of your skills or commitment to writing.

What should your CV include?

Not all grant applications require a CV. If it does, a CV should include all relevant creative work and accomplishments. Make sure it's clearly laid out.

How should you describe your project?

Your application should be clear and specific, professional and confident. Make it easy for the assessors to understand what you want to do, why you want to do it, and what the impact will be. Try to connect with the grant provider's aims and mission, and always address any specific criteria the fund has.

What is supporting material?

Supporting material acts as the evidence for your application. It needs to reflect and reinforce the things you've discussed in your bio and your project outline. It is crucial to the success of an application, so spend a lot of time choosing the right material to attach.

Including **everything** that is requested, and **nothing** that isn't.

The common types of supporting material are:

- artistic support (a sample of your writing)
- letters of support (letters from referees)
- artistic statement (establishing the context of your work)
- letters of confirmation (from everyone named in your application – e.g. mentors, publishers, editors)
- proof of expenses (quotes for airfares, mentor fees)



What should you do before you submit?

Before you submit, go back to your original checklist and ensure you have everything ready to go and completely polished. Edit and proofread everything.

What happens after you've submitted?

You wait! The wait can often be long. When the outcomes are announced, always request feedback on your grant application, whether or not it was successful. And if it was unsuccessful, remember that grants are extremely competitive, and very few people get a grant on their first try. So try again!

Where can writers find arts grants?

- Australia Council for the Arts
- Arts SA
- Copyright Agency Career Fund
- Local councils
- Carclew (Young people)
- Express Media (Youth)
- Asia Link (Residency)
- Varuna (Residency)
- Katherine Susannah Pritchard (Residency)
- Philanthropic Trusts – eg Ian Potter Foundation, Myer Foundation.