

General Grants 2026/27 Funding Guidelines

About the Fund

Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports discretionary applications outwith usual funding schemes if officers are satisfied that the project will advance the priorities of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Corporate Plan and that Bòrd na Gàidhlig has budgetary scope to do so.

In 2026/27, it is estimated that there is less available budget for such opportunities than in previous years, therefore priority will be given only to those projects that can evidence a strategic impact towards [Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Corporate Plan 2023-28](#).

For all applications outwith funding schemes, applications must be discussed with Bòrd na Gàidhlig officers and permission granted to make such an application, or the application may be declined without assessment.

In your application we expect you to expand on how your project meets one or more of these aims. You should also be aware of the how your project may contribute to [Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Corporate Plan 2023-28](#) and the [National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28](#).

Projects this fund can support

General funding applications will be invited by Bòrd na Gàidhlig officers if the proposed project appears to support the aims of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, as set out in our Corporate Plan 2023-28 and the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28. Officers must also be satisfied that Bòrd na Gàidhlig has enough remaining budget to fund the project if the application is successful.

We encourage all applications to identify how their projects will succeed in delivering projects that are innovative and will seek to build partnerships with other public authorities, organisations and communities.

Applications should also consider how they can contribute to local, national and international strategies and demonstrate the significance of the project.

In assessing your application, we will be primarily looking at:

- The quality of the project and the suitability applicant
- How clearly the project demonstrates a connection with the Bòrd na Gàidhlig Corporate Plan priorities/National Gaelic Language Plan
- The ability of your organisation to deliver the project successfully
- The strength of your plans to assess the impact of your project
- The value for money demonstrated by the project
- Adherence to social responsibilities

Detailed guidance as to how applications will be assessed can be found [on Bòrd na Gàidhlig's website](#).

Project Requirements

Who can apply?

Any organisation or individual can discuss a potential project with Bòrd na Gàidhlig at any time with a view to making an application.

We encourage all potential applicants to first consider [our existing funding schemes](#) to see if the proposed project can be supported by a scheme.

As part of the due diligence of the application process, organisations typically must be constituted and have a bank account held in the name of the organisation.

It is also essential that you have an active UK bank account, in the name of the organisation/individual applying, at the time of submitting the application. If you do not have an account and are in the process of applying for the opening of a bank account, you are ineligible to apply. Please consult [our bank account guidance](#) for further information.

Project Timeframe

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is happy to discuss projects that start at different times of year. We will typically provide funding for a maximum of one year through one funding application, unless there is previous evidence of having successfully fulfilled a Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding agreement for the project in the past.

We recommend that you discuss your project with Bòrd na Gàidhlig at least two months before the intended start date to allow sufficient time for the application process.

Funding levels

Our general grants have supported projects of all sizes, and as such there is no minimum or maximum project size that can be discussed. However, we are limited by budget in what we can provide and this should be taken in to account.

Officers will request information on the total project costs and the estimate required from Bòrd na Gàidhlig as part of the initial discussions on the project, to assess whether the project can be supported.

Typically Bòrd na Gàidhlig will only support **up to 80% of total project costs**, and recommend sourcing match funding from other funders or including in-kind costs as part of the contribution to project costs.

In exceptional circumstances however the Bòrd may support a higher rate of support if the project is deemed to have a significant strategic benefit in delivering the Bòrd's Corporate Plan or the National Gaelic Language Plan and as such would provide sufficient value for money.

All projects are also funded on a break-even basis, so that any Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding that is not utilised in completion of the project is returned to us.

Applications looking to extend an existing project supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding will be expected to demonstrate improvement in value for money and normalisation of the project's work within the organisation, and should typically expect to receive funding on a sliding scale of support.

You must ensure that no income from other Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding schemes, the Gaelic Arts Fund run by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Seachdain na Gàidhlig's Small Grants Fund or [Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Delivery Partners](#) is used to pay for any expenditure for the project. We may also decline your application, reduce a grant amount awarded or decline to fund part of your project if this would involve paying an organisation for costs we already fund. Any grant awarded to organisations supported via our Gaelic Officers Scheme cannot be used towards any staff costs.

All projects that pay wages or fees to those delivering the project must pay at least the [real Living Wage \(currently £13.45 per hour\)](#) and any appropriate industry rates. If using industry rates in your budget, please include information about who set the rates and a link to verify this information.

In-kind/volunteer costs are permitted as part of a contribution towards total project costs. Any in-kind support for volunteered time can be calculated with a minimum value of the real Living Wage or an appropriate industry rate, if available, and should be budgeted as both income and expenditure.

We will not support project costs relating to:

- Costs relating to running, attending or taking part in the Royal National Mòd or local Mòds
- Fèisean activities/events funded by Fèisean nan Gàidheal grant
- Air travel (except for Colmcille-related projects)
- Equipment costs of over £500 in total
- Competition prizes
- Delivery of the school curriculum
- Ongoing regular early years sessions
- Party political activities

Project monitoring and evaluation

If your application is successful you will need to monitor and evaluate your project delivery and show the impact of the project in reports requested from you. At a minimum we will ask all projects to note how many people take part in the project and to ask participants (or a sample of participants for large events/projects) for feedback on the impact of the project on their usage, learning or opinion of Gaelic.

In the application form we'll ask you how you intend to monitor the project, what targets you will use to assess whether the project is successful, and how you will gather feedback from participants.

All funded projects will be required to submit a final report and if your project is expected to last for over 12 months, you will be required to complete a progress report approximately halfway through your project's duration. We may ask for more regular reporting if we feel this is necessary.

In your reports, you will be asked to provide a summary of activities, explain any changes to your project from what you set out in the application, provide information as to how you are achieving targets/conditions set out in your letter of offer, provide an account of project income/expenditure and related evidence and also to confirm how you are implementing Fair Work requirements.

Reports will be available to submit via the [Fluxx grants portal at https://bng.fluxx.io](https://bng.fluxx.io), and will be viewable if your application is approved.

How will we be paid?

If your application is successful, we will pay an instalment of your grant up-front after you return your signed acceptance of the grant and fulfil any other conditions we set, such as submitting end of project reports for previous grants. You will receive further instalments after you submit progress or final reports to us.

Instalment amounts will be based on your project's requirements, but typically for projects of a duration of up to 12 months you will be paid 80% of the grant at the start of your project and up to 20% after submitting your final report, and for projects of 12 months or over you will receive 40% of the grant at the start of the project, 50% of the grant after submitting the progress report due around the half-way point of your project, and up to 10% after submitting your final report.

Please note that projects are funded on a break-even basis, so that you will be required to return to us any Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding that is not utilised in completion of the project, and we may vary the payment amounts if it appears you will not require the full amount.

Acknowledgement of funding

As a public body it's important to us that the public know where our funding is spent, and that's why it's important that you acknowledge where appropriate that Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided funding for your project. If your application is successful, you will be required to acknowledge our grant in various ways throughout the project and to provide information to us in your reporting as to how you have carried this out.

For further information please read our [Acknowledgement Guidance](#) and our [Brand Guidance](#) on our website.

Social and Other Responsibilities

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has a responsibility to promote good practice in:

- Reducing impact on the environment
- Promoting equality of opportunity for those with a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act 2010
- Promoting opportunities for young people who are, or have been, in care under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

We would like the organisations and projects that we fund to also consider how their work can contribute to these aims and will ask in the application form how your proposed project will seek to do so.

For further information, please consult the links below:

- [Information on how to calculate and reduce carbon emissions via Culture for Climate Scotland](#)
- [Information about the protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010](#)
- [About Corporate Parenting and supporting care-experienced young people](#)

Fair Work

Organisations in receipt of public funding in Scotland are required to adhere to the Scottish Government's Fair Work First policy, and as such **must**:

- Pay at least the real Living Wage; and
- Provide appropriate channels for effective workers' voice, such as trade union recognition

You will be asked as part of your application and reporting to confirm that you are adhering to the policy and provide evidence of doing so.

Further [guidance as to how Bòrd na Gàidhlig is implementing the Fair Work First policy is available here](#), and [guidance from the Scottish Government on the policy is available here](#).

Protecting vulnerable groups

If your project will involve working with children, protected adults or both, you must ensure that anyone operating in a “[regulated role](#)” is a member of [the Protecting Vulnerable Groups \(PVG\) scheme](#), as this is a legal requirement.

Please note that for some organisations that solely work with children or vulnerable adults, committee members/trustees may be required to hold a PVG membership for the organisations.

You will be asked as part of your application if you intend to work with children or protected adults, and to confirm how you will ensure that you will comply with these requirements by providing a child protection or safeguarding policy. Your application may be declined if it is not sufficiently clear that you will comply with your legal requirements.

If you have any questions about how this will apply to you, please contact us as soon as possible at tabhartas@gaidhlig.scot.

Subsidy Control

As a public body, Bòrd na Gàidhlig must comply with the subsidy control rules as a result of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK Government and the European Union. [More information can be found on the UK Government's website](#).

As part of assessing your application, we will need to assess whether the grant would be classed as a subsidy and will ask questions in the application form to help us determine this.

If you are awarded a grant that is deemed as a subsidy, you will need to ensure that you comply with Subsidy Control rules, with further guidance available at that stage.

Submitting an application

You should get in touch with Bòrd na Gàidhlig via email at tabhartas@gaidhlig.scot as soon as possible if you have an idea for a project that you believe would be suitable for Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding.

Officers will then discuss your project idea with you and determine whether it is suitable for funding. If officers deem the project suitable, you will be invited to submit an application

Applications should be submitted via our Fluxx application portal at bng.fluxx.io. An account can be registered for free on the website and it is possible to save the progress of an application whilst working on it. All supporting documents can be submitted via the portal.

If you have any issues with the portal, wish to receive the application materials in a different format, or have any questions about the application please email us as soon as possible at tabhartas@gaidhlig.scot.

When submitting your application, unless applying on behalf of a school, you must include the required supporting documents, as follows:

Organisations

Essential

- Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Most recent annual accounts (if not a recently constituted organisation)
- A bank statement from the last three months, or if a new bank account has been opened in that period a letter to confirm this has been opened
- Child Protection or Safeguarding policy (if the project involves children or vulnerable adults)
- List of board or committee members (except for companies registered with Companies House)

Recommended (if available)

- Latest annual report
- Gaelic policy
- Equal opportunities policy or Equalities, diversity and inclusion policy
- Environmental policy or statement

Individuals

Essential

- CV
- Examples of previous work
- Child Protection or Safeguarding policy (if the project involves children or vulnerable adults)
- A bank statement from the last three months, or if a new bank account has been opened in that period a letter to confirm this has been opened
- Letter(s) of support from community organisation for the project

Applications which do not provide the required supporting documents (unless on behalf of a school) will be declared ineligible and will not be assessed.

How we will handle your application

You will receive an automatic email acknowledgment from the Fluxx portal to confirm that we have received your application. If you do not receive this, please check that you have submitted the application rather than only saving the application.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig officers will then screen applications after submission to ensure they comply with the rules of the fund and have provided required information. If your application is deemed ineligible for a technical reason, you will be asked to correct this (if this is considered possible). If you do not correct the application **within two weeks of being asked to**, your application may be declined without assessment.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig may request additional information or clarification of project details as part of the assessment process. If this additional information is not submitted within 10 working days of being requested we reserve the right to decline your application.

All eligible applications will be assessed by a panel of Bòrd na Gàidhlig officers according to [the assessment guidance](#), and they will make recommendations to the Bòrd na Gàidhlig Senior Management Team who will decide on the outcome of applications. If the SMT recommend a funding award of over £50,000 the application must be approved by the Bòrd's Policy and Resources Committee, and if the recommended award is over £100,000 it must be approved by the Board.

We expect that you will be informed of the result of your application within eight weeks of submission of the final compliant version of your application, except if approval from the Policy and Resources Committee or Board is required, in which event you will be informed of the timescale for a decision.

If you have been awarded funding, a letter of offer will be sent via DocuSign to your nominated signatory (or signatories if you are an organisation with staff and required to complete a Fair Work Declaration). You will have up to 30 days from the date of issue to accept the offer (including standard grant conditions, which are also available here) or the offer shall lapse. The letter of offer will also be accompanied by a bank details form to complete to confirm the details used to pay you.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your application, while we do not offer an appeal process you may make a complaint if you believe your application has not been dealt with in accordance with this guidance and the assessment guidance. For more information, [our complaints handling procedure is detailed online here](#).

More information

For more information about this fund, please visit the [Bòrd na Gàidhlig website](#) or contact Bòrd na Gàidhlig at tabhartas@gaidhlig.scot.

You can also find [answers to frequently asked questions](#) about our funding on our website.

Privacy information [relating to our funding schemes can be found on our website](#), and you will be required to confirm at the point of applying that you have read and accepted the terms included – particularly relating to publication of information about your grant if you are successful, and the requirements upon us under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Alternative forms of this guidance and application forms can be made available on request and may be published at: <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/funding/funding-schemes/general-grants/>

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