

Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards 2024

Easy Read Guidance



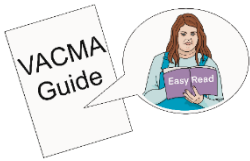
Part C – Common Questions about VACMA



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



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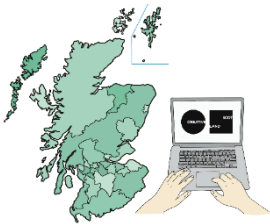
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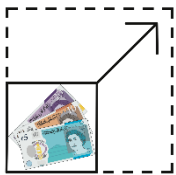
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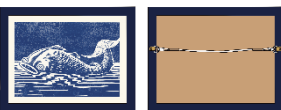
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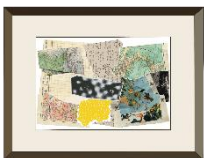
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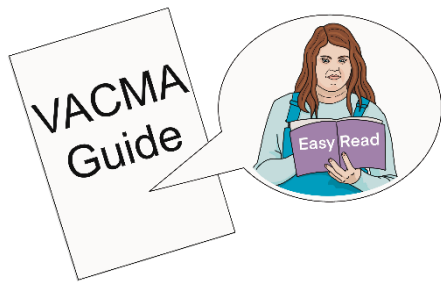


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About this document



This is an Easy Read guide to the questions people have about applying to VACMA.



If you have a question, you might find the answer here.

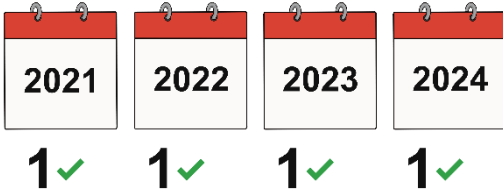


Remember you can ask for help. **Part A** tells you how to get access help from Creative Scotland.



This guide is long for an Easy Read. You do not have to read it all. You can also ask someone to help you read it.

1. How many times can I apply for a VACMA grant?



You can apply once a year, for as many years as you want.

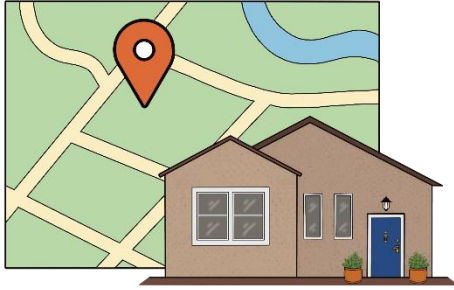


But if you have already got money from VACMA, we might choose to give it to someone who has not had this money before.



If you got a VACMA grant before, you must submit a report about your last project before you apply again.

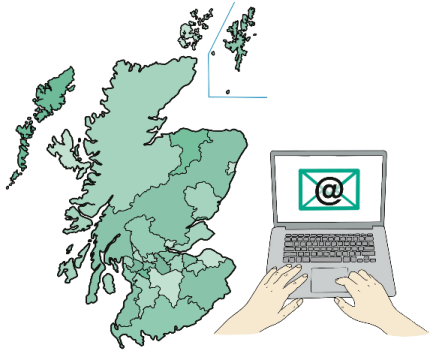
2. Which VACMA scheme should I apply to?



Apply to the scheme in the area where you live.



If your area doesn't have a VACMA scheme, you can apply to a scheme where you have a studio space.

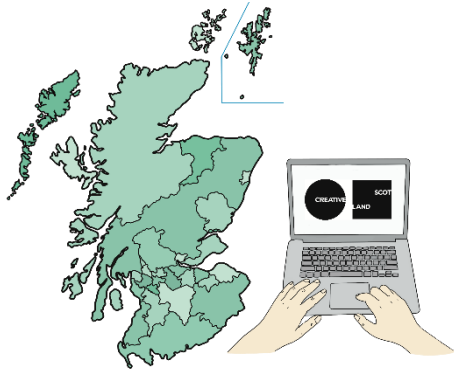


If you are not sure, check with your local scheme before applying.

3. There is no local VACMA scheme in my area. Can I apply to another area?



Some VACMA schemes cover more than one area.

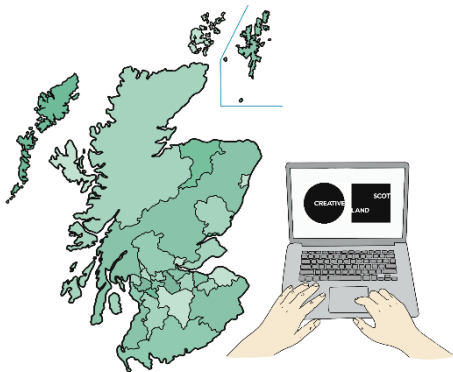


Check the full list of schemes to see if there is one in your area.

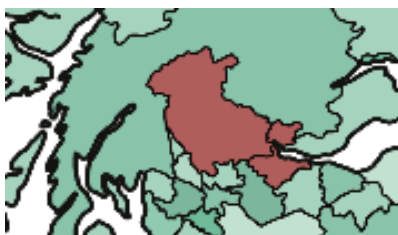


If you do not have a VACMA scheme in your area, you might be able to apply if you have a studio in an area with a VACMA scheme.

4. How do I know if there is a VACMA scheme in my area?



You can find a full list of VACMA schemes on the Creative Scotland website.



Some schemes cover more than one area. The name of the scheme will tell you.



If you are not sure, email the Enquiries team at enquiries@creativescotland.com

5. What are Personal Access Costs?



Personal Access Costs are costs related to your access needs or the needs of key people in your project (like a mentor).



For example, if you are Deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, or you look after someone who is, you might have extra costs.



Personal Access Costs are separate from the grant.

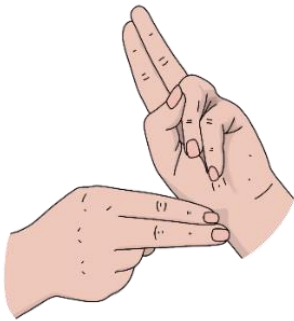
6. Who can ask for Personal Access Costs?

You can ask for these costs if you or a key person in your project are:



- d/Deaf
- Disabled
- Neurodivergent
- Living with a chronic illness
- Caring for someone

Some examples of personal access costs are:



- A BSL interpreter



- Special equipment or software



- A Personal Assistant for a disabled person



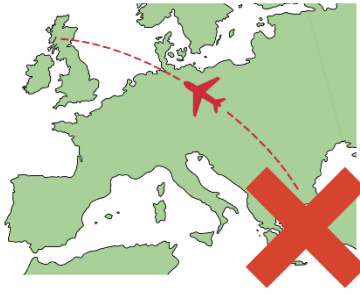
- Some child-care costs

7. Can I ask for extra money to make my project accessible for people who come to see it?



No. We only give you extra money for your access needs. Or for someone who is key to your project.

8. Do Personal Access Costs pay for travel and accommodation?



Usually, **travel and accommodation** are not Personal Access Costs.



Travel means the cost of going somewhere. For example the cost of train tickets or a taxi fare.



Accommodation means staying somewhere overnight. Like a hotel or a flat.

VACMA



Mostly, these should come out of your VACMA grant.



But, if you are d/Deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, or have a long-term illness, it might cost you more to travel or stay overnight.



For example, if you need taxis or a place for a helper to stay.



You can ask for these extra costs as Personal Access Costs.

9. How do I ask for Personal Access Costs?



When you fill out the application form, choose 'yes' for support with Personal Access Costs.



Tell us the amount of money you need.

I need...

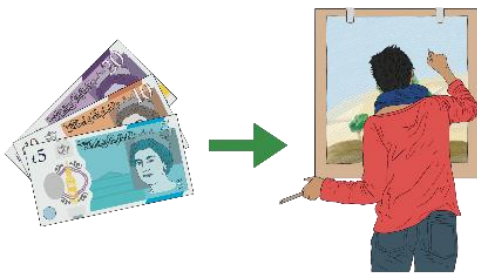
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

And write a list the things you need it for.

10. Is there anywhere else I can get help for Personal Access Costs?



You might be able to get money for personal access costs from the UK Government's Access to Work fund.



Access to Work can help cover extra costs if you are disabled and working.



You can find out more on the [UK Government website](https://www.gov.uk).



Disability Arts Online have an [Easy Read guide to Access to Work](#).

11. Do I need to have gone to art school to apply for VACMA?



No, you do not need to have a degree or have gone to art school.



But you need to show you are a **practising artist or maker**.



This means you should have made work before, and shown it to the public.

For example you might have shown your work at exhibitions, craft fairs, talks or other events.

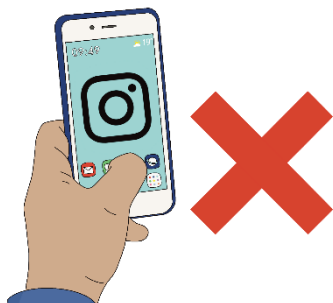
12. What does 'practising artist or maker' mean?



This means you are actively making work.



And that you have shared it with the public through exhibitions, craft fairs, talks or other events.



We cannot give you money if you have only shared your work on social media.

13. Can I use my degree show to prove I am an artist?



Yes, you can use your degree show as evidence if you are applying for an early-career grant.

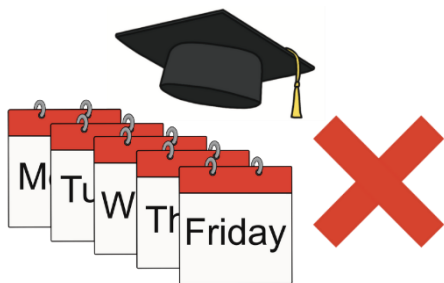


You should also send us examples of work you have done since graduating.

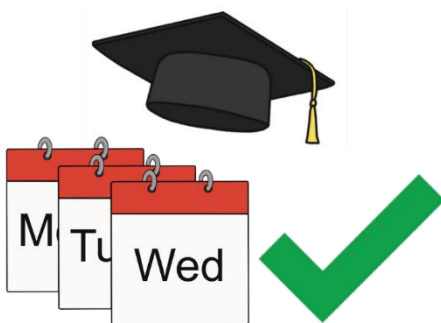


For the £1000 bursary, you must show us work you have done outwith school or college.

14. Can students apply to VACMA?



You cannot apply if you are a full-time student.



You can apply if you are a part-time student. But you must prove you are only part-time.



You can show us a letter from your tutor or university showing you are a part-time student.

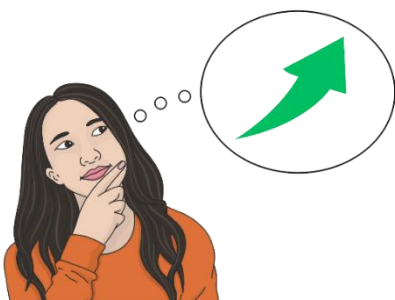


You must also show that the project is not part of your studies. You can ask your tutor to write a letter to tell us the project is not part of your studies.

15. Can I apply to VACMA to try new kinds of work?



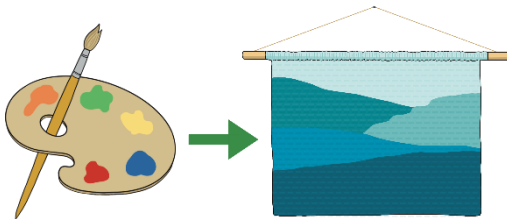
Yes, you can apply for VACMA to try out new ideas.



Tell us how the new project connects to the work you have done before.



Tell us why you want to try out this new area.



If you want to change what you do completely (like if you are a painter trying to start a new craft), show us some early work or ideas. This helps us see that your new plan will work.

16. Can I apply to VACMA for a joint project with another artist?



Yes, you can work with another artist.

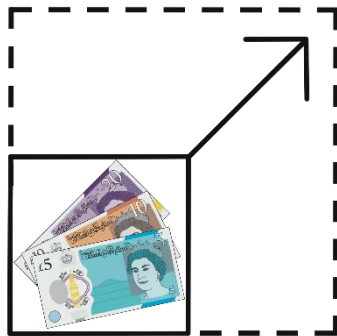


1 person will need to take the lead and look after the money.



If you and another person are each applying for your own costs, you should think about what might happen if 1 of you does not get the funding. Explain what this would mean for your project.

17. Can I apply to VACMA for something that is part of a larger project?

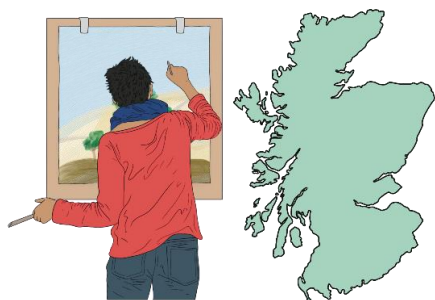


Yes, you can apply to VACMA for an activity that is part of a larger project.



But tell us clearly what VACMA will support and how it will help you grow as an artist.

18. Does my project have to take place in Scotland?

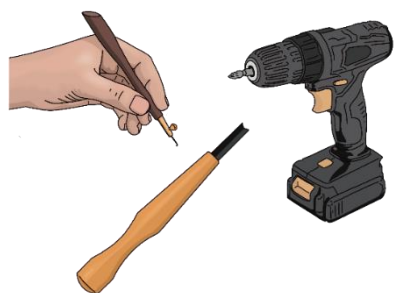


No, but you must be based in Scotland.

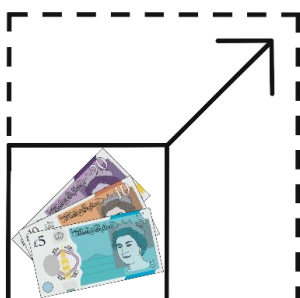


If you will need to travel for your project, tell us how you will make your travel more eco-friendly.

19. Can I apply to VACMA for money to buy equipment and materials?

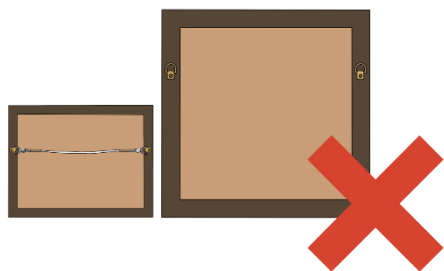


Yes, you can buy equipment if it helps you to grow as an artist. Or it lets you try new things.



If the cost is more than the VACMA grant, tell us where the rest of the money will come from.

20. Can I apply to VACMA for money to frame my work?



No, VACMA is for growing as an artist and trying new things, not for framing or presenting work.

21. Can I apply to VACMA to make a website or market my work?

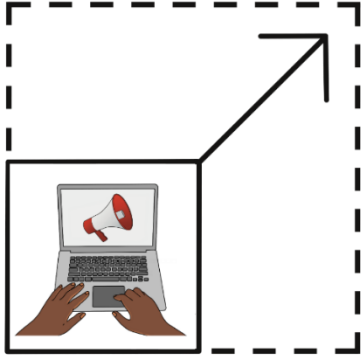


No, you cannot apply just for **marketing** or websites.



Marketing means telling people about your work to get them interested.

This can be to get people to buy your work or to come to your exhibitions.



You can ask for money for marketing or a website if it is a small part of a bigger project.



The main point of a VACMA grant is to help you grow as an artist.

22. Can I apply to VACMA to start or grow my business?



No. You cannot apply to VACMA to start or grow your business.



You can get help with starting a business from [Business Gateway](#).

23. Can I apply for VACMA to help me write a funding application?



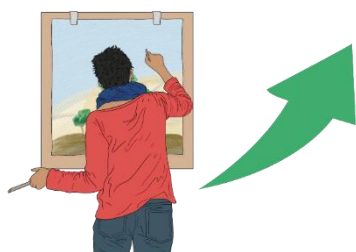
No, VACMA is for growing as an artist and trying new things.

It is not for writing other funding applications.

24. Can I apply to VACMA to put on a community project?



Only if it is part of a **socially engaged or participatory arts practice**. This means you make art that involves people from the community in making it.

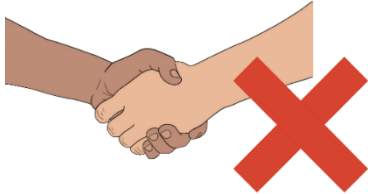


You must tell us how the project would help you grow as an artist.



You cannot apply for a project run by an organisation.

25. Are the mentoring schemes running this year?

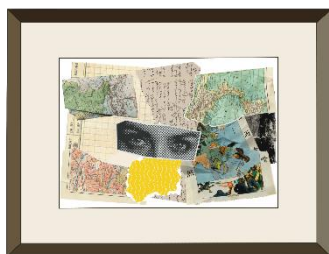


No, the mentoring schemes were stopped due to COVID-19 but may return.



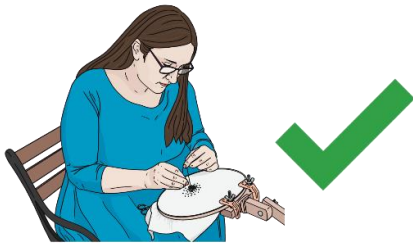
You can use the VACMA grant to pay for mentoring.

26. I am an illustrator or graphic designer. Can I apply to VACMA?

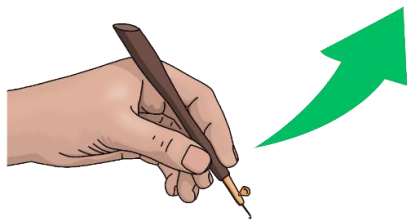


Yes, if your project will be to make art or craft. But we might be less likely to fund illustrators and graphic designers.

27. I do a heritage craft. Can I apply to VACMA?



Yes, you can apply for VACMA if you do a heritage craft.



But you must show your project is improving your skills, or making work in new ways.



You cannot apply for VACMA to make copies of objects or designs.