



Culture Pass Grant Scheme

Official Guidelines

Call for Expression of Interest 2025

1. Introduction

Through the Culture Pass, kindergarten, primary, middle school, senior students, and post-secondary students up to MQF Level 4 will be given an opportunity of experiencing at least one artistic production during the scholastic year, which has been produced by creative professionals through a curated programme.

1.1 The Culture Pass is designed to:

- I. Provide children and students from **kindergarten to Post-Secondary schools or institutes which provide education up to MQF Level 4** with professional cultural and artistic experiences of the highest quality;
- II. Compliment the learning outcomes of the National Curriculum and add value to cultural education and curricular subjects and cross-curricular themes (literacy, digital literacy, learning to learn and cooperative learning, education for sustainable development, entrepreneurship, diversity and creativity and innovation);
- III. Encourage creative practitioners to create and develop new work for young audiences and increase the programming capacity over longer periods with the purpose of connecting artistic and non-artistic disciplines to the students' curriculum.

2. Call for Expression of Interest

The Culture Directorate within the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government and Arts Council Malta jointly announce a Call for Expression of Interest for the submission/proposal of events of a cultural and artistic nature targeting children and students from **Kindergarten, Primary** and students attending **Middle, Senior and post-secondary schools**. Activities are to be held between the date of launch and June 2026.

This Call is intended to enable creative practitioners to generate captivating, creative, innovative, original as well as already existing work, for audiences in these age categories and to provide the opportunity for children and young people to experience at least one cultural activity as an extension to the curriculum covered during the scholastic year.

2.1 Objectives

The objectives of the Culture Pass are as follows:

- Enable educational growth for children and students attending educational institutions from early education all along to institutes offering education up to MQF level 4 through cultural and artistic means, especially by creatively enhancing the curriculum and learning outcomes covered at school.
- Encourage collaboration between the educational and cultural sectors and other relevant sectors such as science and technology. Priority will be given to those who approach projects and productions through a cross-curricular approach.
- Encourage and support young people to engage in cultural and artistic activities.
- Incentivise cultural producers to produce **new** productions and artistic activities devised specifically for children and young people.
- Create new audiences across different genres and styles.
- Promote culture and the arts as an entertaining, fulfilling, challenging and exciting activity for young people.

3. Who can apply?

The Call for Expression of Interest is open to:

- Individuals who are 18 years and over,
- Groups of creatives,
- Registered non-governmental organisations whose nature of work is culturally and artistically driven.

N.B. Organisations/Activities receiving local public funds through established government line votes are not eligible to apply.

Applicants must be Maltese citizens or be in possession of a Malta residence permit / Maltese citizenship certificate / a Maltese passport.

In the case of an organisation, the applicant should be the legal representative of the organisation.

3.1 Eligible productions and activities

Applications can be submitted for cultural and artistic events produced specifically for children and young people aged 3 or older, attending government, church or independent schools and institutions offering education up to MQF Level 4. This call is also open to cultural and artistic events accessible to the general public, but which are not available free of charge. For the production team to be eligible for funding under the culture pass scheme, the audience shall be exclusively composed of participating students.

The events can be in the following art forms and they may also be multidisciplinary in nature:

Dance, Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, Literature, Film, Heritage.

Eligible productions and activities may include the following:

- *Concerts;*
- *Performances*
- *Screenings of performances (such as ballets and operas);*
- *Screenings of documentaries and films;*
- *Exhibitions;*
- *Arts festivals;*
- *Cultural heritage.*

Interactivity is compulsory; this may take the form of a pre- or post-production workshop or be embedded in the delivery of the production itself. Events cannot consist of just a workshop.

Existing activities offered to schools/students free of charge, are excluded from this initiative and therefore not considered eligible.

In the case of touring productions, producers need to identify production dates, time frames, specs required from the venue, maximum number of seats allowed, suitability for age groups, and suitability for students with learning difficulties. In the case of site-specific venues, producers need to identify production dates, time frames, maximum number of seats available, suitability for age groups, suitability for students with learning difficulties, and accessibility to and inside the venue. Any restrictions imposed by the Superintendent of Public Health are to be strictly adhered to.

Proposals would need to include a teacher's resource pack highlighting relevance to the curriculum. Failure to present the teacher's resource pack will make the application not eligible for consideration.

Applicants must submit recordings of the work proposed for this Call.

4. Educational content for the events proposed

The content of the activities proposed and listed above may be linked to topics covered by the national curriculum on www.curriculum.gov.mt and the subjects dealt with in class. Cross-curricular themes are also highly encouraged.

Suggested areas which could be addressed include, but are not limited to:

- Mass Media – the influence of mass media on students, parents and society, the values being propagated through mass media.;
- Globalisation & Multiculturalism – Gender, ethnicity, identity and social inclusion issues;
- Diversity within the society, community and family in particular;
- Politics – as envisaged here in Malta and compared to the rest of the world, the meaning of politics and ethics related to it. The past, present and future of politics;
- Domestic Violence;
- Human rights;
- Health and nutrition, including challenges of eating disorders;
- Occupational Health & Safety – workers' rights, work ethics, physical and psychological health, harassment and bullying at work;
- Bullying amongst students;
- Environmental Issues – natural resources locally and globally and their uses, renewable sources of energy;
- Ethics;
- Personal, Social and Career Development.;
- The Human System;
- The Science of Sound;
- Language Literacy;
- Film Appreciation.

5. Selection of Works

Participation in the Culture Pass grant scheme is based on a selection process and will be evaluated according to established criteria as listed below.

The selection team which will include representatives of the Culture Directorate, Arts Council Malta and the Ministry for Education, will evaluate proposals and select the works.

The Evaluation Board will base its decision upon the following criteria:

- The artistic quality and collaborations on the project (40 points);
- The relevance of the proposed event to the target audience and engagement with the audience (20 points);
- How are the curricular themes innovatively brought out through the artistic experience? (20 points);
- Collaboration with schools on pre- or post-workshops and teachers/resource pack and its reporting. (20 points).

Projects scoring 60 points or above will be eligible for the final selection. Applicants will be informed of the outcome by the established dates.

Applicants may submit multiple applications; however, a maximum of four productions per cultural entity may be chosen and be included in the programme.

6. How will it work?

Schools are encouraged to introduce a minimum of one artistic genre per year to all students in dance, theatre, music, visual art, film, literature and heritage. Our objective is to provide every child and student with diverse cultural experiences across different genres and styles. In order to support the implementation of this target, schools may use the Culture Pass to deliver this goal to their students. To maximise the engagement of participants in the artistic production, the maximum number of attendees shall not exceed 100.

Schools will be provided with a programme of selected productions and events, for the period 2025/26. Schools will be invited to choose the activities that their students will attend and will be requested to book directly with the venue/producers on a first come first served basis. In doing so, while booking, schools have to inform the box office or producer if they will be using the Culture Pass. Site-specific Events that are also open as ticketed events for non-

Culture Pass users need to ensure pre- or post-workshops with culture pass users prior to or post production.

On the day of the event, the school representative, venue manager and producers will sign a Claim Form confirming the number of seats. The Claim Form is inserted as an Appendix of the Application Form.

Inclusion in the culture pass programme does not guarantee an automatic grant, since it is at the absolute discretion of schools to select the proposed programmed event.

There is a specific budget for this scheme. The budget will be split equally amongst two periods — October to January and February to June — to ensure a fair distribution of events across the scholastic year. When all funds are used up, the scheme is stopped. All schools and producers are informed accordingly when funds are used up.

It is important that the producer/organiser ensures that schools keep a record of all students attending in case contact-tracing by the Health Authorities is requested.

7. How is the grant awarded?

A grant per student will be awarded to the producer on presentation of the claim form. Each producer is entitled to a maximum grant of EUR 15,000 over a period of a scholastic year. The grant is set at €5 per student. The grant cannot be used to subsidise part payment of a ticket. The total grant will be calculated on the total number of students present during the time of activity.

The Culture Directorate, Arts Council Malta and the producers will enter into an agreement in relation to the selected works.

9. Timeframes

Call closing date	12th August 2025
Evaluation and Selection Period	September 2025
Communication to applicants	25th September 2025
Communication to schools	October 2025
Phase one	Date of Launch to January 2026
Phase two	February 2026 to June 2026

10. How to apply?

Follow these steps to apply:

1. Read these guidelines and regulations very carefully;
2. Check whether your proposed idea can be addressed by this scheme;
3. Click on the link that will take you to the online application system;
4. Create your profile with Arts Council Malta by clicking on Register and filling in the details;
5. From the open calls section, select the online application for the scheme you intend to apply;
6. Follow the instructions step by step. Fill in all the required information from the online application including the budget and attach the supporting documentation'
7. Submit the application. You should be receiving an automatic acknowledgement by the system.

If you do not receive such a notification, contact us on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt or culture@gov.mt.

In case of difficulty, or if you would like to consult us regarding this fund, you can call us on 23347230, Monday to Friday, between 09:00 and 16:00, or email us on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt. It is your responsibility to present a complete application form as explained in these guidelines and regulations. If you do not present all the necessary information, then your application will not be processed and evaluated. The Deadline for the call is 12th August 2025.

Last updated: June 2025