



ARTS
COUNCIL
MALTA

OPEN CALL for **Illustrators** and **Graphic
Designers** to attend the London Book Fair

ISSUED: JANUARY 2026

1 | Introduction

Arts Council Malta (ACM) is issuing a call for illustrators and graphic designers to attend the London Book Fair. The Fair will be taking place between 10–12 March at Olympia London, UK.

Through this initiative, up to four selected participants will receive a travel and accommodation subsidy and an exhibitor pass to attend the London Book Fair. This initiative seeks to provide a platform for artists active in the publishing sector to network and participate in the global book market.

Arts Council Malta will provide a subsidy for travel and accommodation expenses for up to four participants from Malta up to a maximum of one thousand two hundred (1,200) euros. Participants will also enjoy the use of the National Book Council exhibition stand at no cost and receive exhibitor or guest passes for the London Book Fair, the cost of which will be covered by the National Book Council. No other expenses can be funded or refunded.

The selected participants will meet with representatives of the National Book Council and Arts Council Malta in preparation for the fair.

As badge-holders, selected applicants will be able to attend any seminar, talk, book launch, discussion, author events taking place over the three days of the London Book Fair. Find more information here: <https://www.londonbookfair.co.uk/#/>

This initiative forms part of the ongoing strategic collaboration between ACM and the National Book Council (NBC), which seeks to create more opportunities for illustrators, and graphic designers to pursue their interests in publishing-related artistic work, both locally and abroad.

1.1 PROJECT DETAILS

ACM would like to invite:

Illustrators and graphic designers to apply to participate at the London Book Fair on the following dates:

specifically Tuesday 10th March
Wednesday 11th March
Friday 12th March

A total of four slots have been allocated for this call.

TIMEFRAMES

DEADLINE	RESULTS	TIMEFRAME
5 th February 2026	12 th February 2026	10 th -12 th March 2026

1.2 ARTS COUNCIL MALTA STRATEGY

Arts Council Malta (ACM) promotes innovation within the Maltese cultural and creative sectors while also safeguarding the dynamic development of the cultural characteristics of the country. We have built a sustainable creative economy for artists and practitioners, facilitating participation and continuing to serve as a strategic leader and catalyst within the sectors. Furthermore, ACM also works to increase the accessibility of cultural and creative activities within Malta’s cultural ecosystem.

ACM has designed Strategy 2025 together with the people it will impact the most. Our participatory approach to the creation of the Strategy is already being practised with immediacy. Culture is where new narratives and mindsets develop and new societal shifts occur. Importantly, it is an enabler of long-term sustainability. Our mantra is *Care, Create, Flourish*, best capturing how ACM will enable and position the sustainable and inclusive growth of Malta’s cultural and creative sectors as being integral to the well-being of all. Sustainability and inclusivity are being endorsed holistically and comprehensively in policy directions, funding and investment. [Check out the Strategy 2025 here.](#)

Applicants are required to consider the [Right to Culture – Resource Pack](#) when developing their proposal, particularly in relation to how they aim to engage with communities and how their work may address the considerations of everyone’s cultural rights. The resource pack is aimed at increasing awareness regarding inclusivity and supporting the implementation of cultural rights in our day-to-day practice.

Applicants are also required to consider the [Charter for the Status of the Artist](#) which may position their proposal more appropriately, as well as engender better and stronger methods of operation and programming as they create. This is particularly pertinent in the larger context of ensuring acceptable and decent working conditions for artists and creative practitioners which embraces artistic freedom, accessibility, formal/informal/non-formal skill recognition, decent socio-economic conditions, non-discrimination and equity, ethical considerations and adherence to intellectual property rights and international labour law. The Charter for the Status of the Artist is meant to provide a dynamic frame of reference for any legislation, policy, or initiative which directly or indirectly impacts artists and cultural and creative sectors, ensuring

Call for Artists: Participation at the London Book Fair
that any action is aligned with the ultimate long-term vision of elevating the status of artists in Malta in parallel with their tangible value to society.

2 | Eligibility

- Open to illustrators and graphic designers based in Malta.
- Applicants must be active in the field of publishing.
- Chosen participants would need to be present at the London Book Fair daily between the 10th and 12th of March 2026, both dates included.
- Illustrators and graphic designers seeking professional development opportunities are encouraged to apply.

a. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- CV: Detailing relevant experience and qualifications.
- Portfolio: A selection of previous work demonstrating your illustration and graphic design skills.
- Participation plan outlining how you intend to use this experience.
- Motivational statement showing your interest in the opportunity.

b. SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be evaluated based on artistic quality and the applicant's motivation. Selected artists will be notified by the 12th February 2026.

c. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Strategy of the applicant for their participation in the London Book Fair** (40 points)
This criterion evaluates how effectively the opportunity is planned to be used by the applicant.
2. **Training and professional needs of the applicant** (30 points)
This criterion assesses how this experience will benefit the training and professional needs of the applicant.
3. **Artistic Quality and Professional Experience** (30 points)
This criterion reviews the portfolio, CV, focusing on relevant experience, education, and past projects.

Call for Artists: Participation at the London Book Fair

3 | Submitting the application

Follow these steps to apply:

1. Read these guidelines and regulations of this Call very carefully.
2. Check whether you are eligible to apply.
3. Follow this [link](#) to access the online application system.
4. If you do not have a profile, create your profile with Arts Council Malta by clicking on 'Register' and filling in the requested details. Applicants are required to register a profile on the ACM's CRM at least two weeks prior to the deadline of the call.
5. From the Open Calls section, select the application for the Call for Artists.
6. Fill in all the required information from the online application and attach the supporting documentation.
7. Submit the application. You will be receiving an automated acknowledgement following the submission. If you do not receive such a notification, contact us on applyforfunds@artscouncil.mt.

In case of difficulty, or if you would like to consult us regarding this fund, you can call us on 2334 7230 Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 16:00 or email us on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt.

Applications handed in after 12.00 (noon) of the respective date of the deadline cannot be accepted.

4 | Implementation of Project

Following the selection of the artists, ACM will enter into an agreement indicating the conditions for participation and the amount to be disbursed.

A report outlining the experience of the opportunity and any suggestions will need to be shared with Arts Council Malta by 30th April 2026. The total amount due to the artists will be disbursed following the approval of the final report.

Call for Artists: Participation at the London Book Fair

Need advice?

Arts Council Malta offers pre-submission consultation services to help secure support for your project. We are there every step of the way. We can help you determine whether the core concept and profile of your project are in line with the targeted support mechanism, and provide feedback on the way you plan to present your project. Plan ahead and get in touch with us at least four weeks before the submission deadline, to make the best of our services.

You are welcome to call us on 2334 7230 on weekdays between 09:00 and 16:00 or to send us an email on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt.

Guidelines updated on **20th January 2026**.