

Grant Application Guidelines - Talent Development 2022

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You want to submit an application to the Talent Development Grant Scheme. These guidelines contain tips to help you prepare your grant application to the Talent Development Grant Scheme of the Creative Industries Fund NL.

before you begin

Before you draw up and submit your grant application, it is useful to know how it will be assessed. An external advisory committee will assess your application based on the Talent Development Grant Scheme. Make sure that you read the conditions, criteria and objectives set out in the Talent Development Grant Scheme carefully. You can read more about the criteria in these guidelines. Also make sure that you read the grounds for rejection used in this grant scheme, to prevent later disappointment.

please note

- Designers and makers who completed a design course no more than four years ago submit their applications in the first selection round. For designers and makers who have, through their practice, developed professionally without having completed a relevant design course, there are Scout Nights. These nights are organized in various provinces in the Netherlands every year at the same time as the first selection round.
- Do not fill in the application form in the digital application environment until you have finished your motivation, portfolio and CV. You can upload all appendices in PDF form. Do not upload more than the maximum number of pages, if indicated.
- If you have a question, contact the Fund through talentontwikkeling@stimuleringsfonds.nl.
- Applying for a grant can be complicated, so always allow sufficient time to write your application.

motivation letter

Your motivation letter is the cornerstone of your application. The motivation letter is an accompanying document to your portfolio, CV and a copy of your design course certificate (see the list of relevant design courses). If you do not have a certificate, you can participate in the Scout Nights.

In your motivation letter you describe the form and content of your practice as clearly as possible. You also briefly describe the substantive steps you want to take in the coming year.

In this regard, you can for example elaborate the following questions:

- What is your artistic practice like? Who are you as a designer and what motivates you? Describe everything as clearly and substantively as possible and link this description to the projects in your portfolio. Also outline your intrinsic and artistic principles or questions.
- Which method do you use, or how do you normally go about your work?
- If you are entering into collaborations, what is your contribution in this respect and how do you make sure that it is evenly matched?

- How does your practice fit within the current design practice?
- What makes your practice (working methods and projects) relevant to the area of expertise and/or society?
- How do you want to develop yourself in the coming year? Why is this step important right now to further develop your practice?

Tip: Take your time in writing your motivation letter.

Tip: Be brief and to the point. Try to avoid repetition of text fragments.

Tip: Ask questions if you are not sure about something. Be honest about what you do not know yet but want to investigate. The committee is mostly curious about your approach. Do not feel the need to use big words - the committee can easily see through that.

Tip: If you use terms such as 'sustainability', 'inclusion' or 'feminism', please explain what you mean by them and in what way you relate to them. You could also write that you do not yet know where you stand and wish to investigate this further.

Tip: Ask others for feedback to hone your motivation.

Tip: Do not upload more than the maximum number of pages, if indicated.

Tip: Make sure the text is clearly legible, also when displayed on screens.

*Your motivation letter is at most 700 words on two pages (portrait layout, A4).
The file (PDF) must not exceed 4 MB in size.*

portfolio

Upload a portfolio with images of your most important work over the last four years. Add a title, year and short explanation of no more than 100 words to each of your images. If you collaborated on the project, clarify your contribution to it.

Tip: A portfolio can contain projects that have not yet been finished or presented, such as sketches, models or photographs of an experiment.

Tip: Do not exceed the maximum number of words per explanation.

Please note: It is not possible to add a link to an online portfolio.

*Your portfolio is at most ten pages long (portrait layout, A4).
The file (PDF) must not exceed 12 MB in size.*

Extra: moving image and sound

You can insert a link to a video or sound fragment on Vimeo in the application form in the digital application environment. The video must not exceed 3 minutes. Create a compilation if you want to show us other works. A video could also contain an explanation of your working methods or a recording of a performance/event.

Please note: make sure that the committee has access to your film and that it is not digitally locked. You can test this using somebody who is not logged in to the platform in question. If you use a password, then clearly state the password in the application form.

CV

Draw up a CV that shows what you have been doing since your graduation in terms of courses, activities and/or presentations.

*Your CV is at most two pages long (portrait layout, A4).
The file (PDF) must not exceed 4 MB in size.*

assessment & criteria

The advisory committee (or the jury on the Scout Nights) makes a selection in the first round on the basis of your portfolio, CV and motivation letter. The assessment is made on the basis of the Talent Development Grant Scheme's criteria which are set out below:

a. Quality of the work

When assessing the quality of the work, the coherence between the maker's motivation and the artistically relevant principles is examined. What is the maker's substantive objective or principle and how does this translate into research, a design challenge, form or another means? The advisers look at how the direction for the development year, as described, fits within the personal practice and portfolio. In doing so, the advisers take into account the design practices that are linked to the various disciplines and sub-disciplines, the circumstances in which the applicant works and the methodology applied.

b. Environmental awareness and positioning

With this criterion, the advisers assess the extent to which the makers have a good understanding of the cultural, social or other environmental factors connected to their personal practice. They look at the artistically relevant issues and/or social themes the applicant relates to and the degree to which they critically reflect their own position with respect to these issues.

c. Development capability

The advisers appraise the maker's potential for artistic and professional development. They look at which new steps the applicant intends to take during the development year and if they are in line with the maker's motivation and artistically relevant principles.

d. The degree to which the applicant's practice can potentially be considered as distinctive within the creative industry

This criterion scrutinizes how the maker's practice is positioned with respect to existing knowledge and practices within the area of expertise and the measure of added value it provides.

Please note: The selection is made in two rounds. You can only participate in the second selection round if you have been selected in the first selection round or at one of the Scout Nights. You will receive special guidelines to draw up a development plan based on which the advisory committee makes a definitive selection in the second selection round.

submitting the application

When you are ready to submit your application, you can do so through the Fund's application environment, where you can fill in the application form. You need a personal account for this. Create this account in good time, as it takes one working day to activate a new account.

Please note: New accounts can be registered no later than two days before the deadline date. Accounts that are created after this date cannot be approved anymore.

An application consists of the following documents:

first selection round

- for applicants with a relevant diploma:
- application form
- motivation letter (maximum 2 pages, portrait, A4 format in PDF)
- portfolio (maximum 10 pages and 15 MB, portrait, A4 format in PDF)
- CV (maximum 2 pages, portrait, A4 format in PDF)
- copy of diploma (in PDF)
- if available: extract from the Dutch Chamber of Commerce, no more than one year old
- picture

Application form: this form is used to collect information about you and your application for the Fund's grant administration and processing.

Bank details: we need your bank details so that we can transfer the amount to you if the grant is awarded to you. Upload a recent bank statement with your application that clearly states your name and IBAN number.

Extract from the Chamber of Commerce: when submitting your application, you do not have to be registered with the Chamber of Commerce. If you are selected, you will need to send an extract from the Chamber of Commerce (no more than 3 months old) in the second selection round.

Tip: Do not wait to submit at the last possible moment. We strongly advise you to submit your application before 17:00 hours on the closing date at the latest as we can be reached during office hours if you need help should something go wrong.

result & second selection round

You will receive the committee's advice through the digital application system no later than 10 weeks after the closing date. If you have been selected in the first round, you will receive € 1,000 to draw up a development plan based on which the advisory committee makes a definitive selection in the second selection round. Information about how to draw up a development plan will be provided along with the results of the first round.