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Research & Information
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Researching funding for makers and students

Funding organisations and grant-making bodies are numerous, but the grants they offer are often for specific purposes, projects, or people. This fact sheet is designed to help new, emerging, and established designer-makers identify key funding organisations and target their research into further ways of funding their practice.

The information has been divided into three areas: **Learning**, **Starting Out** and **Projects**.

Learning details funding options for undergraduate and postgraduate study and research. **Starting Out** details funding support for new graduates and new businesses. **Projects** outlines sources of funding for unique, one-off projects and established designer-makers looking to develop their practice.

Each section includes a list of **Directories** and links to relevant **Websites**. Hard-copy directories can be used in conjunction with digital databases, such as [Funder Finder](#) to identify a range of relevant contacts. Contact your local library through the online [Enquire](#) service to find out how to access these resources.

Learning

Our Top Tip: Investigate the scholarship and student award policy of your chosen institution, and check with the main organisation that represents your chosen craft for awards they may have for training. To give an example, The Textile Society offers bursaries for students of textiles – visit their website, www.textilesociety.org.uk, for more details. The Crafts Council website can help you identify similar societies and guilds for your chosen field.

Key Funding Organisations
[Arts and Humanities Research Council](#)

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The AHRC funds research and postgraduate study within the UK's higher education institutions across a broad range of humanities subjects.

Website: www.ahrc.ac.uk

Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme

Set up in 1979 to attract high-quality international students to the United Kingdom to undertake research.

www.orsas.ac.uk

Directories

Educational Grants Directory, 2006/7, Directory of Social Change

Over 1,100 sources of funding for children and students up to and including first degree level.

Grants Register, 2007, Palgrave Macmillan

A leading source for accurate and up-to-date information on the availability of, and eligibility for, postgraduate and professional awards.

Websites

www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk – Compiled by the Directory of Social Change, this website searches over 3,500 trusts.

www.scholarship-search.org.uk – Compiled by student finance experts at Hotcourses and UCAS this student money site offers a refined search facility.

Starting Out

Our Top Tip: Join a relevant craft guild or society, such as the Craft Potters Association or the Association for Contemporary Jewellery, and identify the creative agency (if we had a list of these we could link to it...) for your region. These groups facilitate invaluable networking amongst craft practitioners that provide ideas to follow up. Competitions and awards help you get your work noticed, adding weight to funding applications. Our [Opportunities](#) listings are a great starting point for finding out what openings there are for makers in your field.

Residency opportunities that include funding

Residencies offer the space, time, and equipment new makers need to transform ideas into real objects.

Artists Access to Art Colleges (AA2A)

The AA2A project offers artists and designer makers the opportunity to undertake a period of research or realise a project, using art college facilities e.g. studios, workshops, lending library and lecture programme.

www.aa2a.org

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Key Funding Organisations

Crafts Council

Crafts Council Collective is a new suite of maker development programmes for makers of all levels. For emerging makers, the Hothouse scheme will offer a programme of intensive business skills and creative development with 1:1 support.

<http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/professional-development/maker-development/schemes/hothouse/>

Scottish Arts Council

The Scottish Arts Council is the lead body for the funding, development and advocacy of the arts in Scotland. Awards for Start-Up grants are made annually to assist makers establish themselves as craft practitioners in Scotland.

www.scottisharts.org.uk

Arts Council of Wales

The Arts Council of Wales (ACW) is responsible for funding and developing the arts in Wales. Grants are offered across a range of funding levels, from purchasing training to Production grants enabling artists develop new products or partnerships.

www.artswales.org.uk

Princes Trust

Grants and loans for individuals aged 14-30 aiming to set up in business or embark on further training.

www.princes-trust.org.uk

Shell Livewire

Offer business support and the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

www.shell-livewire.org

Directories

Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need, Ryland et al., 2006/7, Directory of Social Change Provides details of a wide range of funds and other support available for the relief of hardship.

The Arts Funding Guide, Forrester and Lloyd, 2002, Directory of Social Change The only comprehensive text on funding for all arts activity and art forms.

Websites

www.j4bgrants.co.uk - Comprehensive information on government and lottery grants for both business and voluntary groups.

www.artquest.org.uk - Artquest offers advice to arts and craftspeople with good links to funding organisations through the Money area of their website.

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Projects

Our Top Tip: It can be hard to obtain funding if you are an established business. If applying to a trust or foundation, think about how the funding will benefit you, your business, and the wider community. Is the funding going to support your professional development? If so, how will it be reflected in your business practice? Will you be using the money for training or equipment to investigate a new technique? If so, how will your research help other craft makers or members of the community? Once you have a sound idea of the aims and outcomes for your project, your search can be more focussed and effective.

Travel Opportunities

Working in another country with a different culture can often inject energy into developing an established creative practice. The following organisations offer designer-makers opportunities to work and exhibit abroad.

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust offers Fellowships to British Citizens resident in the UK and from all walks of life to acquire knowledge and experience abroad. Categories for the awards change annually.

www.wcmt.org.uk

British Council

Through their Grants to Artists scheme, the Council support artists with the costs of exhibiting their work abroad.

[Grants to Artists - Art, Architecture & Design - British Council - Arts](#)

Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation

The Foundation works to support closer links between Britain and Japan through awarding grants to individuals in both countries to facilitate exchange and travel.

www.dajf.org.uk

Key Funding Organisations

Arts Council England

Arts Council England works across all regions of the UK to support creative projects in the arts. Grants are not exclusive to established makers – contact your regional office for more advice on how to apply.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

Crafts Council

Crafts Council Collective is a new suite of maker development programmes for makers of all levels. Keep up-to-date with developments of our Injection and Artistic License programmes by joining our mailing list or visiting our website.

<http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/professional-development/maker-development/future-programmes/>

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For details of more grants, go to our [Craft Directory](#) for more information on organisations such as the [Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust \(QEST\)](#), [Inches Carr Trust](#), [Wingate Scholarships](#), and [The Leverhulme Trust](#).

Directories

[Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need](#), 2007, Directory of Social Change

[The Arts Funding Guide](#), 2002, Directory of Social Change

[Directory of Grant-Making Trusts](#)

[Guide to Local Trusts](#), Directory of Social Change

Our Final Top Tip...

There are numerous regional creative industry agency websites which include a funding or opportunities area that may offer a selection of opportunities for the region where you are based. Identify your local network using the [Craft Directory](#). You may also want to access the resources available from subscription-based networks such as [a-n The Artists Information Company](#).

Many opportunities arise through networking, and by using one organisation to find another. Begin building an address book of grant-making bodies early on in your research and make every contact count.

The very best of luck!