MAKING IT FUND

About the Making It Fund

The **Making It Fund** is an exciting new initiative designed to support current students and recent graduates of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama to expand and elevate their creative practice. Offered from the first day at Guildhall, until five years post-graduation, this fund is dedicated to helping artists build resilience and sustain their careers in an ever-changing artistic landscape.

Purpose of the Making It Fund:

- **Expand Creative Practice:** The Making It Fund provides financial support for current students and alumni to explore new artistic ideas, develop innovative projects, and refine their craft. Whether you're working on a new performance piece, developing a creative business, or engaging in cross-disciplinary collaboration, this fund is here to help you take your practice to the next level.

- **Build Resilience:** In today's challenging environment, building resilience is crucial for artists. The Making It Fund aims to support you in developing the skills, networks, and resources needed to adapt and thrive. This might include professional development opportunities, mentorship or coaching.

Key Areas of Focus:

1. **Collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships across different disciplines and art forms to foster innovative and interdisciplinary projects.

2. **Creation:** Supporting the development of new artistic work and the exploration of fresh ideas.

3. **Innovation:** Promoting the experimentation of new forms, processes, and solutions, pushing beyond traditional boundaries.

4. **Enterprise:** Helping artists build sustainable and ethical creative businesses.

Who Can Apply:

Current Students: Students enrolled in a full-time or part-time higher education programme at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Recent Alumni: Alumni who have completed a higher education programme at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama within the past five academic years (2019-2024 inclusive).

Eligibility: Current students and Guildhall School alumni who are enrolled on or have completed a higher education programme of at least one year's full-time duration (or part-time equivalent) within the past 5 academic years (2019-2024 inclusive). You must also be eligible to live and work in the UK to apply.

Funding Opportunities:

- **Grant Range:**

- Student applicants can apply for funding between **£500** and **£1,000**, depending on the scope and scale of their project. **<u>Student applications should demonstrate a higher degree of creation and collaboration.</u>**
- Alumni applicants can apply for funding between **£500** and **£3,000**, depending on the scope and scale of their project. **<u>Alumni applications should demonstrate higher levels of innovation and enterprise</u>**

Space:

Important: If you are a current student applying for a project that requires space within Guildhall School, you must clearly outline the size and scope of your project in your application. Applications involving on-site space will be reviewed for feasibility and resource availability, so the more detailed your proposal, the better we can assess the space, resources, and logistical support required to support your project effectively.

For alumni projects: Unfortunately, we cannot offer in-kind space within Guildhall School. This is reflected in the higher funding threshold available to alumni applicants.

Planning Timeline:
To ensure your project runs smoothly, you must allow at least 8 weeks between securing funding and the start of your project.

Criteria:

Please consider our criteria when writing your application, which can be seen below in Appendix 1 (students) and Appendix 2 (alumni). Your proposal must demonstrate a clear plan and schedule for all activity and planned outcomes (i.e. how will this grant allow you to unlock or advance the next stage of your artistic practice or career? What exactly are you planning to do? What is the timeline and budget for activity? How can you ensure you can finish the project within the timeframe?)

Types of Projects:

Funding can be used for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to:

- Research and development (R&D) of ideas and products

- Professional development and training

- Building sustainable creative practices

- Establishing start-up businesses, collectives or companies

- Creating new partnerships and networks

Evaluation and Follow-Up:

Successful applicants will be required to take part in an evaluation process following the completion of their funded project. Additionally, a follow-up interview or survey will be conducted 12 months later to assess the long-term impact of the fund on their artistic practice.

Intellectual Property:

Recipients will retain full ownership of any intellectual property created during the funded period. However, we may request permission to use testimonials or project outcomes in our marketing materials and reports to funders.

How to Apply: Please send an email to Iona McTaggart at iona.mctaggart@gsmd.ac.uk by 11:59pm, 9 June 2025 with the following:

- A completed application form
- A completed budget
- A completed Equalities Monitoring form
- Your CV

Support: If you have any questions about the fund or your application, email Iona McTaggart at iona.mctaggart@gsmd.ac.uk.

Selection: Applications will be reviewed by a representative and interdisciplinary panel of industry experts and Guildhall staff.

Appendix 1: Criteria for students

Aims	Does the proposal clearly define the applicant's stated ambitions and demonstrate clearly how this fund will support them to achieve these ambitions? Please consider: • Applicant's ambitions and aims clearly outlined • Applicant understands how the funding will contribute to project success and has clearly communicated this • Applicant has understood the purpose of the funding and has linked their proposal to the fund's criteria
	Is the activity proposed in the application the best way of achieving the stated goal? • The proposals structure, timeline and outcomes relate clearly to the applicant's aims and ambitions. • The applicant's approach is appropriate and clear in relation to their goals.
Career development	Does the proposal clearly demonstrate how it will advance the applicant's creative practice and/or career? • The applicant has explained how and in what ways the project will advance their practice or development • The applicant has considered and communicated their career or creative ambitions and explained how the funding will allow them to achieve this
	Will the proposed activity help to build resilience?

	• The proposal explains how the project will contribute to their development in the longer-term • The proposal explains how the project will contribute to longer term career resilience
	Does the proposed activity make sense in terms of the applicant's future career goals? • The applicant's approach and project proposal are linked to both their artistic training and their goals • The ambitions of the proposal seem feasible given the applicant's experience
The activity	
	Does the proposed activity support the applicant to expand and elevate their creative practice?
	Does the proposed activity demonstrate a clear intention to collaborate with peers and work in new ways?
Budget	Does the proposal demonstrate good value for money? • The proposal is well costed • The proposal includes union rates and quantities where relevant • The proposal only contains eligible costs
Space	If the project requires space within Guildhall School, has the applicant clearly detailed the size and scope of the project? Is the project feasible, taking into account resource availability within the school, and logistical requirements?

Appendix 2: Criteria for alumni

Aims	Does the proposal clearly define the applicant's stated ambitions and demonstrate clearly how this fund will support them to achieve these ambitions? Please consider: • Applicant's ambitions and aims clearly outlined • Applicant understands how the funding will contribute to project success and has clearly communicated this • Applicant has understood the purpose of the funding and has linked their proposal to the fund's criteria

	Is the activity proposed in the application the best way of achieving the stated goal? • The proposals structure, timeline and outcomes relate clearly to the applicant's aims and ambitions. • The applicant's approach is appropriate and clear in relation to their goals.
Career development	Does the proposal clearly demonstrate how it will advance the applicant's creative practice and/or career? • The applicant has explained how and in what ways the project will advance their practice or development • The applicant has considered and communicated their career or creative ambitions and explained how the funding will allow them to achieve this
	Will the proposed activity help to build resilience? • The proposal explains how the project will contribute to their development in the longer-term • The proposal explains how the project will contribute to longer term career resilience
	Does the proposed activity make sense in terms of the applicant's practice and career goals? • The applicant's approach and project proposal are linked to both their artistic training and their goals • The ambitions of the proposal seem feasible given the applicant's experience
The activity	
	Does the proposed activity support the applicant to expand and elevate their entrepreneurial skills?
	Does the proposed activity demonstrate a clear intention to innovate and work in new ways?
Budget	Does the proposal demonstrate good value for money? • The proposal is well costed • The proposal includes union rates and quantities where relevant • The proposal only contains eligible costs