

Who is eligible to apply?

Anyone over 18 years of age, born or resident in Northern Ireland, who is passionate about dance and wants to develop their skills, knowledge and experience.

In recognition of the many roles that involve dance, applications are welcome from e.g. (but not limited to) dance students, teachers, performers, choreographers, lighting designers, videographers, community participants and administrators, all of whom contribute to the development of Northern Ireland's dance ecology.

Transitions are made throughout dance careers: networks are built, skills learned, and knowledge acquired. The Fund will be as flexible as possible, recognising that even modest funding can help with important transitions and developments.

How much can I apply for?

You can apply for up to £500.

The first edition of the Bursaries is open for applications in October and November 2025. We are hopeful that this programme will open annually. The Bursaries are made possible by donations from individuals.

What can I apply for?

You tell us what you need. There's a list below of items you may seek support for, but it's not exhaustive! It may help to ask yourself the following questions:

- How can I expand my knowledge of the dance sector in the UK and/or the island of Ireland?
- How could I meet/network with people who could help me further my career?
- Are there skills that I could develop or improve?

This might include:

- Travel to see a dance performance or meet with dance professional/s
- Ticket to see dance performance
- Mentoring/Training
- Photography/videography costs: headshots/reels
- Equipment

Who will decide if my application is successful?

A panel of experienced dance practitioners will evaluate your application. You may be contacted for more information or for a short conversation, before a final decision is reached. The decision of the panel is final.

Criteria for Assessment

The following criteria will be considered when assessing applications:

1. Your thoughts on how a bursary will enhance your career/skills/knowledge
2. Sufficient detail in the application on how the money will be spent and that the idea/plan is realistic.

How do I apply?

Please complete the [GoogleForm](#). Please note this is the only application mechanism.

When do I apply?

The Bursaries Scheme will be open during October and November 2025 (6 October - 25 November, 5pm). The panel will review applications 3 times in this period. In the 10 days following each Panel Review, a decision will be communicated to all those who applied within that period.

The Crescent will close the programme if the money available is allocated before the end of the 2-month period.

You can make one application in this first iteration of the programme.

If, as we hope, we open the scheme into 2026, you can make a second application 6 months from the date of the most recent application submitted. (This applies to both those successful, and unsuccessful, in this first edition).

This is the first iteration of the Bursary programme. We are keen to be responsive to need, so please do share any feedback on the process.

What if I am not successful?

If you are not successful in this timeframe, and we are able to continue the Bursaries, you are welcome to apply again (6 months from the date of the most recent application). It's highly unlikely that we'll be able to provide feedback on individual applications.

Who provides the funding?

The Bursaries are made possible by individuals and organisations committed to the future of dance in Northern Ireland. Those who do not wish to remain anonymous are listed on The Crescent's website. The Crescent administers the Bursaries.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to make a donation, please email HLB@CrescentArts.org or call The Crescent on 02890 242338.

When can I spend the bursary?

For this pilot period we plan to reimburse successful applicants by 31 March 2026.

Can I apply for expenditure already made?

No.

Things to Note

- An application is only successful if you have been notified in writing by The Crescent Arts Centre that you have been successful.
- The activity is be carried out before reimbursing costs (receipts are required for reimbursement). If this is a barrier, please get in touch to let us know (hlb@crescentarts.org)
- By accepting funding, you agree to participate in reasonable requests for publicity e.g. providing photographs or written information for use on social media. Acknowledgement of the Helen Lewis Bursaries will be required on any publicity or marketing material.

I have some questions, who can I contact?

Please email HLB@CrescentArts.org. This email is monitored weekly.