

Arts, British Council

Application Guideline

Open Call: Equal Together 2025

23 July 2025

About this document

This document contains information that will help you better understand our programme and the application process. Please read the document carefully before putting in your application.

If you have any questions not addressed by this document, please email us at arts@britishcouncil.org.np

The British Council's invites individuals, collectives and organisations who are interested in advancing gender equality and inclusion through arts and culture to join our Equal Together 2025 programme.

Apply to Equal Together and,

- 1. Participate in a gender-arts seminar and interact with facilitators, presenters and peers to refine knowledge and skills in gender, arts and cultural programming.**
 - 50 successful applicants will be invited to take part in a two-day seminar in Kathmandu where they will engage in conversations around gender equality and refine their skills in developing impactful arts-culture projects
- 2. Receive funding and mentorship to develop and implement innovative and creative gender-focused projects.**
 - Up to 10 grants will be awarded to support creative projects that respond to gender inequality
- 3. Present and showcase work in public events in 2025 and beyond.**
 - Project grantees gain opportunities to show their work in upcoming British Council programmes including a gender-arts event in December 2025 and the Women of the World Nepal Festival in 2026.

[Learn more about Equal Together here](#)

Apply by Saturday, 10 August, 2025, 11:59 PM NPT

Online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/UKsmj6Wruz>

What is the offer?

The programme offers participants access to a gender-arts seminar, grant funding, mentorship and work showcasing opportunities.

1. Gender-arts seminar

A two-day, in-person seminar in Kathmandu designed to strengthen participants' understanding and skills to engage with gender through arts and culture. Up to 50 participants will be selected.

The seminar offers:

- A dive into intersectional gender issues in the context of Nepal
- Insights on how arts and culture can drive social change and advance inclusion
- Sessions on gender-responsive art project design, implementation and effective storytelling
- Peer learning and critical reflection
- In-person networking with other professionals and community leaders, facilitators, and programme designer and curator

Note:

- *For selected participants based outside the Kathmandu Valley, travel, lodging, and meals will be covered by the British Council.*
- *Selection for the seminar does not guarantee a grant award. However, seminar participants will gain valuable skills, knowledge, and a chance to submit a full proposal for funding.*

2. Gender grants, mentorship and work showcase opportunity

After attending the seminar, participants will be invited to submit a full proposal for their project ideas. Up to 10 projects will be awarded grants.

Grant recipients will receive:

- Financial support - of NPR 150,000 up to NPR 1,000,000 - to implement their gender-focused arts and culture project between October 2025 – March 2026. All grantees are expected to complete their projects and submit a final report by mid-March 2026
- Up to two tailored mentorship sessions with an expert, curated based on project needs and focus areas

- Visibility and networking opportunities, including a chance to showcase work at a public event (e.g., WOW Festival Nepal)
- Ongoing support and engagement through the Equal Together Programme Designer and Curator
- Marketing and communication support for the grant project
- A platform to connect with wider gender and creative sector networks locally.

Grant application range

Grant amount limit	Details
NPR 150,000 One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Nepali Rupees.	Minimum grant application amount.
NPR 700,000 Seven Hundred Thousand Nepali Rupees.	Maximum grant application amount.
NPR 1,000,000 Nepali Rupees One Million.	Maximum grant application amount for projects that have a UK component. This could be in the form of an in-person/virtual collaboration with a UK collaborator or some activities happening in the UK. This could include UK-Nepal travel costs, UK collaborator fees and other costs.

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from:

- Individuals- artists (visual, performance, digital, literary, etc.), creative practitioners, activists, gender-professionals and community leaders
- Collectives or informal groups
- Representatives of registered organisations (non-profits, creative enterprises, etc.)

Applicants must:

- Be residing in Nepal
- Implement the proposed grant project within Nepal
- Have experience in the arts-culture and/or the gender/social action sector(s)
- Be over 18 years of age as of September 2025 if they are applying as an individual. Representatives of applying organisations/collective must be over 18 years of age
- Be available to attend the seminar in-person in September 2025
- Be available – if selected – to implement the grant project from October 2025 to March 2026

What kinds of project ideas are eligible?

Please refer to the table below to understand the scope and eligibility of the requested project ideas:

Criteria	Details
Gender focus	Includes projects working with women, girls, LGBTQIA+ individuals, as well as those that engage men and boys as allies.
Arts and culture at the centre	Ideas should creatively use art forms to spark dialogue, raise awareness, or drive social change. Activities may include creative interventions, storytelling, performances, exhibitions, awareness campaigns, participatory events, workshops, or platform-building initiatives. Cross disciplinary projects (e.g., art + science, art + technology) are also eligible.

	<p>Projects could also include activities that strengthen the capacity of women and LGBTIQ+ creative professionals.</p> <p>We welcome bold, thoughtful, and innovative ideas—especially those that push boundaries, challenge norms, and offer new possibilities for gender justice through the arts.</p>
Artforms and artistic disciplines	<p>Your project could include - but not be limited to - visual arts, craft, design, creative technology (including games, extended reality, immersive, mixed, augmented and virtual reality), fashion, literature, music, film, dance, theatre, and digital/media arts. A project idea could incorporate more than one art form.</p>
Contextual basis	<p>Your project should respond to specific challenges or needs within your community, network or the context of the targeted audience.</p>
Outcome areas	<p>Project ideas should aim to deliver meaningful outcomes in at least one of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building Allies: Fostering collaboration between women, girls, men, boys, and gender minorities to strengthen collective efforts in advancing gender equality. ○ Raising Awareness: Shining a light on intersectional gender issues—especially those that are underrepresented or marginalised—within communities or in front of decision-makers who can influence change. ○ Voice and Platform: Creating opportunities for women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ people to express their identities, share lived experiences and showcase their creative talents and leadership. ○ Building capacity: Support the development of skill and knowledge to respond to gender issues and challenges. Activities could also focus on capacity building of women in the arts-culture sector.
Project Duration and feasibility	<p>Projects should be carried out within a maximum of five months with projects starting after 15 October 2025 and ending by 15 March 2026.</p>

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How to Apply?

You may apply in three ways:

- Online form – Fill and submit via this [link](#)
- Offline (email/print) – Download and email the completed form to: arts@britishcouncil.org.np OR submit it at British Council, Lainchaur
- Video application – Record yourself answering the questions from the form in a maximum 25-minute video and email the link to arts@britishcouncil.org.np with the subject: 'Video Application Equal Together 2025'. Please ensure that viewing access is granted.

You can apply in Nepali, English, or National Sign Language.

Please get in touch with us if you would like to use another language in Nepal to apply; we will assess if there is a possibility of it getting translated to a language that the selection panel are able to understand.

Programme Timeline and Phases

The Equal Together 2025 programme runs for a total of six months, from 4 September 2025 to 15 March 2026.

Phase	Details	Timeline
Phase 1	Open call for participation Submit your application with an initial project idea.	23 July – 10 August 2025
	Participants selection Based on the ideas submitted, up to 50 participants will be selected for a gender-arts seminar	14 August 2025

Phase 2	Gender-arts seminar in Kathmandu (in-person).	4–5 September 2025
		<i>Note: For participants traveling from outside Kathmandu Valley:</i> Arrival - 3 Sept 2025 Departure - 6 Sept 2025
Phase 3	Proposal submission Seminar participants will be invited to submit a full project proposal for funding.	6-26 September 2025
	Grant awards announced	10 October 2025
Phase 4	Mentorship + Project implementation – Up to 10 selected projects will receive financial support and mentorship from field experts. Project activities should be implemented over 4.5 months time period.	15 October 2025 – 1 March 2026
	Showcase event Selected grant recipients will be invited to present their ongoing and/or completed work at a public event in Kathmandu.	December 2025 (date to be confirmed)
Phase 5	Closure and Reporting – Final reports are due mid-March.	15 March 2026
Phase 6	Grant recipients will receive opportunities to showcase their work at the Women of the World Nepal 2026 Festival and other platforms.	2026

Background: British Council and Our Work in Gender and Inclusion

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding, and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts, education, and English. Operating in Nepal since 1959, we deliver programmes that promote inclusive, sustainable development.

British Council's **Culture Responds to Global Challenges** champions culture's contribution to sustainable development by supporting artists, cultural practitioners and creative organisations to respond to major social and environmental issues. This work also supports artists' development of their creative practice and networks. In Nepal, we work to ensure under-represented groups can participate in cultural life, and we support the arts and culture sector in adopting inclusive, sustainable, climate-conscious practices.

As a longstanding advocate for gender equality, the British Council has designed and supported multiple initiatives that contribute to a more gender equal world and promote arts and culture:

- Since 2017, in partnership with the WOW Foundation UK, we've hosted [WOW – Women of the World Festival](#) in Nepal, reaching over 37,000 people across provinces and platforms.
- [Creating Heroines](#) (2018–2023) supported 59 women artists from South Asia and the UK through workshops, showcases, and grants.
- [In Our Own Words](#) (2020) brought together 20 young people and illustrators to co-create picture books on gender and mental health.
- [In Our Own Words: Queer](#) (2021) supported 10 queer youth to tell their stories through diverse media including writing, illustration and film.
- Our [Gender Film Grants](#) enabled three women filmmakers to create original films and gain international exposure. We have also supported women filmmakers to build capacity in making their film pitches and have provided opportunities to seven filmmakers to attend the Sheffield Documentary Film Festival.

Through such initiatives, we continue to invest in inclusive platforms that amplify diverse voices, support creative professionals, and strengthen the role of arts and culture in advancing gender justice.

About Equal Together 2025

Equal Together is a British Council initiative that supports creative practitioners working at the intersection of arts, culture, and gender in Nepal. The programme focuses on capacity-building, mentorship, and public engagement, culminating in opportunities to showcase work at platforms like the WOW Nepal Festival.

Equal Together builds on the success and learnings of the Gender Grants programme, which was launched in 2023 to support artists and creatives addressing the challenges faced by women, gender minorities, and other marginalised communities. Through these grants, we have enabled impactful projects that raise awareness, amplify underrepresented voices, and strengthen the agency of those at the margins of the gender movement.

In 2023–24, we awarded 14 Gender Grants to individuals and organisations working across 29 locations in Nepal, exploring diverse art forms such as visual arts, music, film, theatre, dance-drama, and creative approaches like media-based storytelling, participatory workshops, and arts-based research. Learn more about these projects [here](#).

This year we are continuing Equal Together to support artists, creatives, collectives and organisations from across Nepal who are working to address gender issues through arts and culture to build capacity, provide grant funding and offer work showcase opportunities.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1.	<p>Do I need to be an artist or an arts/culture professional to be eligible for this programme?</p> <p>No, you do not need to be an artist or arts/culture professional to apply. Applicants can include individuals such as creative practitioners, activists, gender professionals, and community leaders, as well as collectives or representatives of registered organisations (like non-profits or creative enterprises). However, all applicants must have experience in the arts and culture and/or gender or social action sectors.</p>
2.	<p>Do I need to have a project proposal to be a part of the seminar?</p> <p>No. At this stage, we are only asking for project ideas. If selected for the seminar, you will be invited to develop and submit a full proposal with which you can apply for a Gender Grant.</p> <p>During the seminar, there might be opportunities to collaborate with fellow participants which could evolve and strengthen your project ideas.</p>
3.	<p>How will seminar participants be selected?</p> <p>A panel consisting of British Council programme staff and external assessors will be reviewing the applications for selection.</p> <p>Selection will be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior work in arts and culture • Prior work in gender/social inclusion • Innovation, creativity, relevance and impact potential of project idea <p><i>Note:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Diversity in terms of ethnicity, background, location, and gender will be prioritised in the participants pool, although it is not a criterion for selection.</i> <i>Due Diligence checks will be made to ensure compliance with all UK and Nepal legislations including but not limited to sanctions, counter-terrorism and money laundering legislation. Our resources must not be used in any way that breaches applicable sanctions or to support criminal or terrorist activities.</i>
4.	<p>What happens if my project idea is selected for the seminar?</p> <p>Upon being selected, you will be invited to attend a two-day in-person seminar in Kathmandu on 4–5 September 2025. The seminar will include workshops, talks, peer-to-peer dialogues, and networking.</p>
5.	<p>Will my travel to the seminar venue be paid for?</p> <p>If you are based outside the Kathmandu Valley, we will cover your travel, lodging, and meals for the duration of the seminar.</p> <p>You can also request for a travel stipend if your commute to the seminar venue is more than 25 kms one-way.</p> <p>Participants residing in Kathmandu Valley must make their own travel arrangements to and from the seminar venue. Please let us know if you have concerns regarding this or if there are any barriers in travelling that will hinder your participation.</p>
6.	<p>Does selection for the seminar guarantee grant funding?</p> <p>No. Attending the seminar is part of the process. Only up to 10 projects will receive Gender Grants following the full proposal submission and evaluation phase.</p>
7.	<p>Is the programme accessible to people with disabilities or specific access needs?</p>

	<p>Yes. We are committed to making the programme as accessible and inclusive as possible. If you have any specific access requirements, please let us know in your application or reach out to us directly. We will do our best to provide appropriate support — whether during the seminar, mentorship, or application process (including video submissions, language preferences, or physical accessibility support).</p>
8.	<p>When will I hear if my application has been successful?</p> <p>Successful applicants will be contacted via email or the provided contact number by 14 August 2025. In case of pending decisions, we might reach out for further information via email or through a phone call.</p>
9.	<p>I have received a British Council Arts grant in the past. Will I still be eligible to apply to be a part of the seminar and the grant opportunity?</p> <p>Yes, you are eligible to be a part of the programme. That said, an application with a project idea that has been supported by a British Council grant in the past will not be considered for selection. You could apply with a new idea that builds on or compliments work that you have done with us in the past.</p>
10.	<p>When is the deadline for seminar participation?</p> <p>The deadline to submit your application is 10 August 2025, 11:59 PM NPT.</p>
11.	<p>How can I contact the British Council for further information/assistance?</p> <p>You can send us your queries at arts@britishcouncil.org.np</p>
12.	<p>Gender Grants Project Ideas – Specific questions:</p> <p>What kinds of art forms are eligible for the grant offer?</p> <p>We welcome a wide range of art forms including visual arts, performance, music, literature, digital/media arts, craft, design, fashion, creative technology,</p>

film, theatre, dance and interdisciplinary practices. Your project can also include more than one art form.

Are digital or virtual projects eligible?

We welcome both physical and digital project ideas. Projects can also follow a semi-virtual delivery model.

Can I propose projects that will require additional funding than the amount advertised?

Yes, you can pitch a project with larger project budget. However, you will be required to ensure that other sources of funding are available to meet your needs. There are no restrictions on how many partners can support the proposed activity/output as long as it is ensured that the project timeline is not affected by the pursuit of other funding.

Having matched contributions from the applicant or another funding source is not an assessment criterion. However, such commitments can create scale and wider reach which may be considered in the panel's final judgement. If you have guaranteed funding from other sources or are approaching other potential partners for funding, please mention them in your proposal.

If selected for the seminar, how much funding can I apply for through the Gender Grants?

As an eligible participant, you can apply for grants award ranging from NPR 150,000 to NPR 1,000,000.

A maximum of NPR 700,000 is available as grants, but participants who are applying for collaborative projects with a UK component can apply for up till NPR 1,000,000. The increased limit accounts for differences in living and working expenses in the two countries and for travel requirements.

How will the grant applications be assessed?

A panel consisting of British Council programme staff and external assessors will be reviewing the proposals.

Selection will be based on:

- Quality and artistic/creative merit
- Audience/participant engagement and impact
- Feasibility

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality, Diversity, Inclusion • Environmental sustainability <p>Can I apply for the Gender Grant without attending the seminar?</p> <p>No. To be eligible for the Gender Grant, you must first submit a project idea and be selected for the seminar. Only those who participate in the seminar will be invited to submit a full proposal for the grant.</p> <p>What does grant mentorship entail?</p> <p>We will assign each grant recipient with a sector expert who will be available for two mentorship sessions. These sessions will be provided during the grant implementation phase. Mentors are able to support by providing good-practice advice and guidance, and in some cases can also provide access to their personal networks.</p> <p>Can I apply for productions grants – to make a film, a piece of music or an artwork, for example?</p> <p>Yes, you could apply for a production grant, but we encourage such applications to have additional components that supports community engagement and/or a capacity building element that strengthens the proposal.</p> <p>What is the grant implementation timeline?</p> <p>Grant projects need to start in October 2025 and end by mid-March 2026. Project activities should wrap up by 1 March 2026 and the rest of the days should be allocated for closure and reporting.</p>
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