

Grant Applications Writing Tips & Resources

Grant Application Writing

1. Find Region-Specific Grants

- Look for grants tailored specifically to Scandinavian or Nordic artists. Many countries within Scandinavia, like Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, offer government-sponsored grants to foster the local art scene.
- Check with national arts councils, such as the Danish Arts Foundation, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee, or the Norwegian Cultural Fund. Many of these organizations provide specific funding opportunities for emerging artists and students.
- Local foundations or regional grants, especially in larger cities or art-oriented regions, can offer support for artists focused on community projects or collaborative work with local art initiatives.

2. Focus on the Project's Social Impact

- Scandinavian grant organizations often emphasize social impact, inclusivity, and community engagement. If your project aligns with social themes—such as sustainability, social justice, or cultural identity—highlight this aspect.
- Consider how your art addresses or reflects Nordic values, such as environmental awareness, equality, or public accessibility, which can make your application resonate more deeply with Scandinavian granting bodies.

3. Build a Strong Portfolio with a Nordic Identity

- Ensure your portfolio showcases a cohesive artistic style or theme, reflecting your perspective and cultural background. Incorporate Nordic aesthetics, themes of natural landscapes, or folklore if they are part of your inspiration.
- Include high-quality documentation of your work, emphasizing not only the final product but also the creative process, as Scandinavian arts organizations often value the journey of creation.

4. Show Commitment to Professional Development

- Many grants for emerging artists are designed to encourage professional growth. Outline how the grant will help you gain skills, broaden your exposure, or achieve specific artistic goals.
- If you're planning to use the funds for workshops, courses, or collaborations, mention this in your application. Scandinavian arts councils are interested in funding projects that contribute to your career path and the broader arts community.

5. Write Clearly and Concisely (Even in English)

- If applying to Scandinavian organizations that allow submissions in English, ensure your application is straightforward and well-organized. Include clear goals, budget details, and an achievable timeline.
- Scandinavian funding bodies appreciate clarity, so avoid overly complex or abstract language. Focus on articulating the specific impact your project will have and how it aligns with the grant's criteria.

6. Seek Feedback from Local Artists and Mentors

- Connect with professors, mentors, or local artists to review your application. They might provide insights specific to Scandinavian granting processes or suggest adjustments to make your application more competitive.
- Some organizations, like local arts councils or university programs, might offer workshops or resources to help students navigate the application process.

7. Highlight Any International Collaboration

- If your work includes collaboration or exchange with artists from other countries, this can be a plus. Many Scandinavian grant organizations encourage international artistic dialogue and cross-border projects.
- Mention how collaborating with international artists might benefit your community or contribute to Scandinavia's art scene in unique ways.

Creating a Budget

1. Understand Grant Requirements and Restrictions

- Carefully read the grant guidelines to understand any limitations on how funds can be allocated. Some grants may specify eligible expenses (e.g., materials, equipment, travel) and non-eligible costs (e.g., ongoing living expenses, personal projects).
- Check if there's a maximum or minimum funding amount you should adhere to and whether specific expenses, such as international travel or large equipment, need detailed justifications.

2. List Key Budget Categories

Common budget categories for an artistic project might include:

- **Materials and Supplies:** Include costs for any art supplies (paint, canvas, clay, digital software, etc.) required to complete the project.
- **Equipment Rental or Purchase:** Detail any specialized equipment necessary for the project, specifying whether you'll buy or rent (if equipment will be used long-term, consider purchasing).
- **Studio or Workspace Costs:** If you need to rent a studio or a dedicated space, include the cost. Some Scandinavian grants cover space rental if it's essential to project completion.
- **Transportation and Travel:** Include any travel required to complete the project, such as visits to research sites, meetings with collaborators, or transporting materials. Mention specific local or international destinations if relevant.
- **Professional Fees and Collaboration Costs:** If you're working with collaborators or consultants, include fees for their services. This can cover other artists, mentors, or technical assistants whose work is necessary for the project.
- **Documentation and Promotion:** Include costs for photography, video recording, editing, and promoting your work. Scandinavian arts grants often value high-quality documentation and promotion, especially if your project will be shared with the public.
- **Other Operational Expenses:** Include any miscellaneous expenses necessary to complete the project, such as shipping, website hosting, or fees for exhibition entries.

3. Estimate Costs Carefully

- **Research Standard Costs:** Look up the standard rates for materials and services in your region. For instance, you might use Scandinavian art supply stores or rental companies for accurate quotes.
- **Use Detailed Pricing:** For each item or service, include a line item description with a specific price, e.g., "Canvas boards (5 pieces) at 200 SEK each."
- **Break Down Each Item:** Instead of listing "art materials," itemize each expense, such as paints, brushes, and canvases. This shows that you've thoughtfully planned and justified each component.

4. Include a Contingency Line (if allowed)

- It's often recommended to add a contingency line (typically around 5–10% of the total budget) to cover unforeseen costs, but make sure this is permitted in the grant guidelines. This small buffer can be crucial for addressing unexpected expenses without overspending.

5. Create a Budget Justification

- For each item, include a brief justification explaining why it's necessary. For example:
 - "Travel to Copenhagen for research on Nordic art history – essential for context and cultural background for the project."
- Justifications help reviewers understand how each expense contributes to your project's goals, which is often valued by Scandinavian funding bodies that appreciate transparency.

6. Format Your Budget Clearly

- Use a simple table format, either in a spreadsheet or word processor, that includes columns for “Item,” “Description,” “Quantity,” “Unit Cost,” and “Total Cost.”
- Calculate totals at the bottom, and ensure the math is clear and accurate. Many Scandinavian funding bodies appreciate simplicity and clarity, so avoid complex budget formats.

7. Calculate Total Budget and Requested Amount

- The total budget is the full cost required to complete your project, while the requested amount is what you’re asking for from the grant provider.
- If your total project budget exceeds the grant’s funding limit, mention other funding sources (such as self-funding or other grants) to cover the difference, as Scandinavian funders often expect transparency about project finances.

Sample Budget Table Outline:

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Canvas Boards	Canvas boards (40x50 cm) for painting	5	200 SEK	1,000 SEK
Acrylic Paint Set	Set of 12 primary colors	1	400 SEK	400 SEK
Studio Rental	Rental for one month	1 month	2,500 SEK	2,500 SEK
Travel to Copenhagen	Round trip train for research	1 trip	800 SEK	800 SEK
Documentation	Professional photographer for exhibition	3 hours	500 SEK	1,500 SEK
Total				6,200 SEK

This clear and concise budget table, paired with justifications, can make your budget transparent and aligned with the expectations of Scandinavian grant funders.

Local Grant Resources

Arts Council Norway (Kulturdirektoratet)

- **Description:** The main governmental body for implementing Norwegian cultural policy, offering various grants and funding schemes across multiple art forms.
- **Link:** [Arts Council Norway](#)

Norwegian Cultural Fund (Norsk Kulturfond)

- **Description:** Administered by Arts Council Norway, this fund supports a wide range of artistic and cultural projects, including those initiated by emerging artists.
- **Link:** Norwegian Cultural Fund

Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA)

- **Description:** Provides grants and residencies to support Norwegian contemporary artists in international contexts, fostering global artistic exchanges.
- **Link:** [OCA Grants & Residencies](#)

Norwegian Crafts

- **Description:** Offers support schemes for international craft projects, aiming to promote Norwegian craft artists abroad.
- **Link:** [Support Scheme for International Craft Projects](#)

Fritt Ord Foundation

- **Description:** Announces grants earmarked for young artists, including working grants for those under the age of 35 who wish to develop their artistic projects.
- **Link:** [Grants to Young Artists](#)

The Relief Fund for Visual Artists (BKH)

- **Description:** Established by the Norwegian Parliament, BKH provides project support, individual grants, and scholarships to artists working in Norway.
- **Link:** [About BKH](#)

Norwegian Arts Abroad (NAA)

- **Description:** A network facilitating the promotion of Norwegian art internationally, managing grant programs of artistic and export-oriented nature.
- **Link:** [Norwegian Arts Abroad](#)

Additional Courses & Exchange Programmes

1. Exchange Programs through NTNU

- **Description:** NTNU participates in several exchange programs, including Erasmus+ and Nordplus, allowing students to study at partner institutions across Europe and the Nordic countries. These programs provide exposure to different artistic environments and practices.
- **Link:** [Exchange Studies – NTNU](#)

2. KUNO Network

- **Description:** KUNO is a Nordic–Baltic network of fine art academies offering exchange opportunities for students. As a member, NTNU students can apply for short-term and long-term exchanges within the network, facilitating collaboration and cultural exchange.
- **Link:** [KUNO Network](#)

3. Summer Courses and Workshops

- **Description:** Various institutions and art centers in Norway and Europe offer summer courses and workshops in different art disciplines. These short-term programs can provide specialized skills and new perspectives.
- **Link:** Oslo National Academy of the Arts – Summer Courses

Residencies for Undergraduates

As an undergraduate student seeking artistic residency opportunities in Scandinavia and Europe, it's important to note that many residencies are tailored for emerging or established artists, and may not specifically target undergraduate students. However, several programs are open to artists at various stages of their careers, including those pursuing undergraduate studies. Here are some residency opportunities you might consider:

1. **Nordingrå Konstby Artist Residency (Sweden)**

- **Description:** Offers self-funded, self-directed residencies open to artists of any discipline. The program provides accommodation and studio space in the scenic High Coast of Sweden.
- **Eligibility:** Open to artists at all career stages, including undergraduates.
- **Link:** [Nordingrå Konstby Artist Residency](#)

2. **AIR on the Edge (Denmark, Finland, Ireland, The Netherlands, Serbia)**

- **Description:** A one-month international artist residency exchange program between five countries, aiming to foster cross-cultural collaboration.
- **Eligibility:** Open to artists from participating countries; undergraduates may apply.
- **Link:** [AIR on the Edge](#)

3. **The Nordic Alliance of Artists' Residencies on Climate Action (NAARCA)**

- **Description:** A collaboration among residencies in seven countries focusing on climate action through art.
- **Eligibility:** Open to artists interested in climate-related projects; undergraduates may be considered.
- **Link:** [NAARCA](#)

Res Artis – Worldwide Network of Arts Residencies

- **Description:** A global network providing a comprehensive database of artist residencies worldwide, including many in Europe.
- **Eligibility:** Varies by residency; some are open to undergraduate students.
- **Link:** [Res Artis](#)

DutchCulture | TransArtists Residency Database

- **Description:** Offers a vast database of artist-in-residence programs globally, with detailed information on each.
- **Eligibility:** Varies by program; some accept undergraduate applicants.
- **Link:** [TransArtists Residency Database](#)

Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) International Residencies

- **Description:** Provides international residency opportunities for artists and curators based in Norway.
- **Eligibility:** Open to Norway-based artists; undergraduates may apply.
- **Link:** [OCA International Residencies](#)

Artica Svalbard Funded Residencies (Norway)

- **Description:** Offers funded residencies in Longyearbyen, focusing on time, space, and financial support for artists.
- **Eligibility:** Open to artists at various career stages; undergraduates may be eligible.
- **Link:** [Artica Svalbard Funded Residencies](#)

NKF Artist Residency Programme (Sweden)

- **Description:** Provides a guest studio in Stockholm for artists, curators, and art institutions to host guests for one-month residencies.
- **Eligibility:** Open to artists and curators; undergraduates may apply.
- **Link:** [NKF Artist Residency Programme](#)