

Open Call

Emerging Artists Fund

Cycles 1 and 2

Legacy UK/Brazil Season

Application Deadline

Cycle1

25 October 2026

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About the Legacy of the UK/Brazil Season of Culture 2025-26

The Brazil–UK Season of Culture 2025–26 was a bilateral programme led in Brazil by the British Council, with the aim of deepening cultural relations between Brazil and the UK through artistic collaboration, knowledge exchange and institutional strengthening.

Throughout the Season, more than 50 partnerships were established between cultural organisations in the two countries, resulting in more than 100 activities delivered across all regions of Brazil and the UK and reaching an audience of more than 20 million people.

The Emerging Artists Fund is one of the key legacy initiatives of the Season. It aims to ensure that the connections created through the Season continue to generate opportunities for artistic development and international collaboration, while strengthening artists and cultural organisations in the years ahead. The Fund will provide an ongoing platform for cooperation between Brazilian and UK artists through artistic residencies, professional development and opportunities for public presentation in both countries.

The initial projects and activities supported by the Emerging Artists Fund will be selected through this Open Call.

For the purposes of this Open Call, “Fundo Jovens Artistas Brasil–Reino Unido” is the programme name of a cultural funding initiative operated by Associação Conselho Britânico (British Council in Brazil). The Fund has no separate legal personality or independent assets and does not constitute an investment fund regulated by the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM), an endowment fund governed by Brazilian Law No. 13,800 of 4 January 2019, or a public-sector special fund. It does not involve the issue of investment units, the solicitation of investment from the public, or any offer or expectation of financial return.

Objectives

- **Expand professional development opportunities for young Brazilian and British artists aged 18 to 35** through artistic residency projects, professional development, knowledge exchange and training, and opportunities for public presentations in Brazil and the UK.
- **Promote international mobility and artistic collaboration**, encouraging processes of co-creation, experimentation and cultural exchange between Brazil and the UK.
- **Expand emerging artists’ access to international networks, markets and platforms**, strengthening their professional integration and creating opportunities for touring, performances and public presentations in both countries.

Structure

The Emerging Artists Fund will be implemented through an Open Call comprising two distinct, sequential selection cycles. Each cycle will have its own application, assessment, selection and contracting timetable.

- **Cycle 1** – Open exclusively to applicant organisations that took part in the official programme of the UK/Brazil Season of Culture 2025–26 and received financial support from the British Council as part of the Season.
- **Cycle 2** – Subject to the availability of additional funding, open to new applicant organisations that did not participate in the Brazil–UK Season of Culture 2025–26.

Cycle 1 - Organisations Participating in the UK/Brazil Season of Culture

- The first cycle of project selection and funding will be open only to applicant organisations that were part of the official programme of the Brazil–UK Season of Culture 2025–26.
- Eligible applications must be submitted by the same Brazilian organisation and the same UK organisation that participated jointly in the same collaboration as part of the official Season programme.
- The aim of this cycle is to build on the institutional relationships established through the Season, enabling existing partnerships to create new opportunities for artists, strengthen longer-term collaboration and exchange between Brazil and the UK.

Cycle 2 - Open to New Organisations

Subject to the availability of additional funding, Cycle 2 is intended to open participation to organisations that did not take part in the UK/Brazil Season of Culture 2025–26. It will have a separate application and selection period, with further details to be announced in due course.

The launch of Cycle 2 will depend on additional funding being secured for the programme from public or private sources, including donations, sponsorship, institutional partnerships or other sources that may be secured through partnerships developed by the British Council.

All proposals must involve a Brazilian applicant organisation and a UK partner organisation, working collaboratively on the design, delivery and monitoring of the project.

Cycle 2 will seek to support a diverse range of organisations and artists, broaden geographical participation, strengthen networks and create new opportunities for artists in both countries.

Further information is available in the Contracts and Compliance section.

Eligibility

Cycle 1 is open only to Brazilian **non-profit cultural organisations that participated in the official programme of the UK/Brazil Season of Culture 2025–26 and received financial support from the British Council as part of the Season**. Applications must be submitted in partnership with a UK organisation, with both organisations working together on the development and delivery of the proposed project.

Due to the British Council's legal and operational structure in Brazil, the grant agreement and payment of funds will be made exclusively to the **Brazilian applicant, which must be a non-profit legal entity operating in the cultural sector**.

For further information, please refer to the Contracts and Compliance section of this document.

Format

The proposals submitted should ideally include three main structural components:

Artistic Residency [Mandatory] – An in-person period of creative immersion designed to foster cultural exchange, engagement with the local context, artistic research, co-creation, experimentation and the development of new practices. The Artistic Residency is a **core and mandatory component** of the proposal and must involve artists from both Brazil and the UK. It may take place in Brazil, the UK, or both.

Professional Development – A programme of mentoring, workshops, masterclasses, networking and engagement with sector professionals, designed to strengthen artists' practice, professional skills, entrepreneurial capacity and international outlook. Proposals may also involve universities, research and training institutions, as well as other cultural and professional organisations, helping to build networks, create new opportunities and strengthen the wider cultural sector. Activities may take place in Brazil, the UK, or both.

Showcase – Public showcase of the residency outcomes either in Brazil and/or the UK, which may take different formats, such as exhibitions, concerts, performances, presentations, readings, festivals, or digital platforms, increasing artists' visibility and strengthening their connection into national and international networks.

- Showcases organised or co-organised by the applicant organisation as part of the funded project must be free of charge. Ticketed events organised or co-organised by the applicant will not be eligible, regardless of how any income is used.
- The Work developed through the project may, however, be presented as part of a ticketed festival, exhibition or other event organised by a third party. In these cases, the applicant organisation must participate only as part of the programme and must not be responsible for organising or co-organising the wider event. Ticketing and any associated income must remain entirely the responsibility of the third-party organiser, with no involvement from the British Council
- Any participation in a third-party ticketed event must be declared in the application or, if confirmed later, notified to the British Council in advance. Fund resources may not be used to cover the costs of organising or delivering the wider event.

The Artistic Residency is a mandatory component of every proposal. Applications must also include at least one additional component: Professional Development and/or Showcase.

Proposals must clearly set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the Brazilian and UK partner organisations, the activities to be delivered, the resources required and any significant risks to delivery. They should also explain how these risks will be managed and how the project will remain viable, including arrangements for artist selection, international mobility where relevant, and sufficient financial capacity to operate within the agreed payment schedule.

Applicants must submit a detailed budget covering all costs required to deliver the project, from planning and implementation through to closure and financial reporting. Each budget line must include a description, quantity, unit cost, total cost and funding source, clearly distinguishing the amount requested from the Fund from costs covered through the applicant's own resources or other sources. Inclusion of a cost in the budget does not constitute approval for funding; only items and amounts expressly approved will be eligible.

The Fund will not cover expenditure that falls outside the scope or conditions of this Open Call. This includes, but is not limited to: (i) costs unrelated to the approved project; (ii) costs associated with organising or delivering events; (iii) fines, late-payment interest or penalties arising from delays or non-compliance; (iv) costs already covered by another funding source; (v) expenditure incurred outside the eligible project period, unless approved in advance in writing by the British Council; and (vi) costs that cannot be supported by appropriate documentation. Any other proposed expenditure will be assessed by the British Council on the basis of its necessity, relevance and proportionality to the project as part of the application assessment and approval process.

Delivery Format

The Artistic Residency must include in-person activity. Where a Showcase is included, it must also include an in-person element. This is intended to support meaningful artistic and cultural exchange, engagement with local contexts, and direct interaction between participating artists and audiences.

Professional Development activities, including mentoring, workshops and sessions with sector professionals, may be delivered in person, online or in a hybrid format, depending on the nature and objectives of each activity.

Applicants must clearly set out in their proposal how each component will be delivered.

Project Delivery

This Open Call aims to strengthen collaboration between cultural organisations in Brazil and the UK, creating exchange and professional development opportunities for emerging artists in both countries.

Each selected project must run an open call for artists to take part in the funded activities. Artists must be aged between **18 and 35 on the date the call opens**.

The selection process must be transparent, inclusive and widely promoted, with clear and objective criteria that support fair access, diversity and representation.

Selected organisations will be responsible for:

- developing and promoting the open call for artists;
- establishing and applying clear, objective and transparent selection criteria;
- delivering the agreed project activities;
- supporting participating artists throughout the project;
- managing and overseeing project delivery; and
- submitting project reports to the British Council as required.

Organisations are also expected to draw on their networks and partnerships to extend the reach of the project, increase artists' visibility and create further opportunities for professional development and international connection.

Due to the British Council's legal and operational structure in Brazil, the Grant Agreement and payment of funds will be made exclusively to the Brazilian applicant organisation, as set out in the Contracts and Compliance section.

Funding

For **Cycle 1**, each selected project may receive financial support of up to **BRL 210,000** (two hundred and ten thousand Brazilian reais). The final amount awarded and the disbursement terms will be set out in the Grant Agreement between Associação Conselho Britânico (British Council in Brazil) and the selected Brazilian applicant organisation, subject to this funding cap.

Any funding available for **Cycle 2** will be subject to the availability of additional resources and will be confirmed if and when Cycle 2 is launched.

Timeline

Projects selected under **Cycle 1** must be delivered between **January and November 2027**. This period should cover the full project lifecycle, including planning, delivery, closure and evaluation.

Throughout the project, the delivery timetable will be agreed and managed in close coordination with the British Council team.

Representation

Proposals are encouraged to promote the meaningful participation of historically under-represented groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, Black people, LGBTQIAPN+ people and disabled people, across different stages of the project, from artist selection and development through to project delivery.

Projects should create inclusive environments in which different perspectives, experiences and artistic practices are recognised and valued.

Proposals should demonstrate cultural sensitivity and awareness of the social and cultural contexts of the communities involved, with approaches based on respect, openness, dialogue and participation.

Projects are not required to include all of the groups listed above, but proposals should clearly demonstrate how representation and inclusion have been considered throughout the project.

Art Forms

Proposals across a range of artistic disciplines and practices will be considered, supporting diverse forms of artistic expression and cultural exchange between Brazil and the UK.

Geographical Reach

This Open Call aims to broaden the geographical reach and diversity of participating organisations and artists, strengthening cultural connections across Brazil and the UK.

Cycle 1: Proposals are expected to widen access for artists from different parts of Brazil and the UK, helping to ensure that opportunities are not concentrated in a limited number of locations.

Cycle 2: Participation from organisations across different regions of Brazil and the UK will be encouraged. Each proposal must involve at least one of the UK's four nations — England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Across both cycles, proposals should consider geographical diversity in the selection of artists and the delivery of activities.

Comms

All selected projects will be presented as part of the Brazil/UK Season Legacy and must follow the brand guidelines provided by the British Council. All outputs, activities and communication materials must comply with these guidelines, as well as, in Cycle 2, any communication and acknowledgement requirements of funding partners.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The British Council is committed to integrating EDI principles and practices across all aspects of our work. Please refer to this [link](#) to our EDI policies to support you in developing your proposal.

Projects that promote accessibility are strongly encouraged, ensuring the full and meaningful participation of diverse audiences. Proposals should consider physical, communication, and digital accessibility measures, where applicable, including resources such as accessible venues, Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) interpreters, audio description, accessible formats for materials, and inclusive communication and audience engagement strategies.

Safeguarding Policy

The British Council's Safeguarding Policy is an important aspect of the project, particularly when working with vulnerable groups or in sensitive sociopolitical and environmental contexts. All projects must prioritise the safety and well-being of participants and audiences involved in the project, especially those from vulnerable communities.

The British Council has a clear mechanism for reporting safeguarding concerns, ensuring compliance with safeguarding policies in the UK and Brazil. Our primary objective is to establish a safe environment where both children and adults involved in our initiatives can be confident that their physical and emotional well-being will be protected from harm, exploitation, or any other negative influence.

There will be a workshop with successful applicants prior to project implementation to provide guidance on this policy. More information [here](#).

Monitoring and Evaluation

Selected projects will participate in monitoring and evaluation activities conducted by the British Council, including regular reporting, data collection and project impact assessments. Selected applicants are required to participate in and contribute to the Monitoring and Evaluation process for their projects by providing, within the stipulated deadlines, the information and documentation requested by the team.

Selection Criteria

Criterion 1 – [30%] Institutional Partnership and Delivery Capacity

Criterion	Weight	Description
Quality and consistency of the Brazil–UK partnership	10%	Evidence of a collaborative and balanced partnership between the Brazilian and UK organisations in the design, delivery and monitoring of the project, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
Technical and institutional capacity	10%	The organisations' relevant experience and capacity to develop and manage cultural projects, artistic residencies, artist development programmes, exchange and international collaboration.
Delivery	10%	Clarity and feasibility of the workplan, timetable, budget, management arrangements, logistics and resources required to deliver the project successfully.

Criterion 2 – [40%] Quality of the Proposals

Criterion	Weight	Description
Artistic Residency – mandatory component	20%	Quality and consistency of the proposed artistic residency, considering its objectives, artistic approach and opportunities for immersion, research, experimentation, collaboration, co-creation and cultural exchange.
Professional Development	10%	Quality and relevance of the proposed professional development activities, including mentoring, workshops, masterclasses, professional meetings, networking and other training opportunities, and their contribution to the development of participating artists.
Showcase	10%	Quality and relevance of the strategy for publicly presenting the residency outcomes and its contribution to increasing the

		visibility and reach of artists and their connections with audiences, networks and professional opportunities.
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Criterion 3 – [30%] Artists Selection Process

Criterion	Weight	Description
Quality of the open call for the selection of participating artists	10%	Clarity of the selection criteria and process, dissemination strategy, transparency and ability to reach a diverse range of candidates.
Representation, diversity and accessibility	5%	Strategies to promote meaningful participation, diversity, equity and accessibility, considering historically underrepresented groups.
Geographical Diversity	5%	Expanding access for artists from different regions of Brazil and the UK to the opportunities offered.
Artist development and opportunities	10%	Potential of the project to contribute to participants' artistic and professional development, expand networks and international connections, and generate new opportunities.

Notes:

- All projects must include photographic and video coverage to document events and activities. The costs of this coverage must be included in the project budget to ensure adequate allocation of resources to capture and share its impact.
- All projects must include translation services between **English** and **Portuguese** to ensure clear communication and understanding between artists and audiences.

Selection Process

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel comprising British Council representatives and invited external specialists. The panel will assess each application against the criteria set out above, including the quality of the proposal, its potential to support artists' development and visibility, and its contribution to cultural relations between Brazil and the UK.

Applications will be scored in accordance with the system set out in the Selection Criteria section and ranked by their overall score.

Funding will be awarded to the highest-scoring applications, subject to the available budget. Other well-scoring applications may be placed on a reserve list and considered for funding if additional resources become available.

Scoring

Pontuação	Descrição
1	No evidence provided
2	Limited evidence: Very little relevant information is provided. Key details are unclear, incomplete or missing.
3	Adequate evidence: Relevant information is provided, but some areas lack sufficient detail or development. The proposal meets the basic expectations of the criterion.
4	Strong evidence: The proposal addresses the criterion clearly and convincingly, with relevant detail and good alignment with the expectations of the Fund.
5	Excellent evidence: The proposal provides comprehensive, high-quality evidence and demonstrates a strong and well-substantiated response to the criterion, with clear alignment to the objectives of the Fund.

Contracts e Compliance

For both cycles, financial support for selected projects will be provided under a **Grant Agreement** between Associação Conselho Britânico (British Council in Brazil) and the Brazilian non-profit applicant organisation. **Brazilian for-profit organisations are not eligible.**

Grant recipients will be required to issue a receipt for the funds received, use the grant solely for the approved purposes, and comply with the technical and financial reporting requirements set out in the Grant Agreement and relevant British Council guidance. The grant receipt does not replace any tax documents or other supporting evidence required for project expenditure.

Due to the British Council's legal and operational structure in Brazil, the Grant Agreement and payment of funds will be made exclusively to the Brazilian applicant organisation. The applicant must be a non-profit legal entity with an active and regular CNPJ and a CNAE classification appropriate to the proposed activities. The Brazilian organisation will be responsible for the financial, administrative and contractual management of the grant, while the project will be delivered in close collaboration with the UK partner organisation.

The tax treatment of the grant will be determined in accordance with applicable legislation, taking into account any relevant tax immunity or exemption available to the recipient organisation. During the contracting process, applicants will be required to provide the documentation necessary to confirm their tax status. Where ITCMD applies, the applicable tax base, rate, responsibility for payment and impact on the funds available for the project will be established before the Grant Agreement is signed and reflected in the project budget, taking into account the net amount required to deliver the project.

The Grant Agreement will also set out the payment arrangements, procedures for changes to the project or budget, the treatment of any unspent funds, and the circumstances in which payments may be suspended, the agreement terminated or funds required to be returned.

The Grant Agreement will be subject to the submission and verification of the legal, registration and representation documents required by the British Council, as well as approval of the workplan and budget. It will also be subject to the selected applicant accepting the terms of the Grant Agreement and the agreement being signed by duly authorised representatives of both parties.

Depending on the nature of the activities and the risks identified, the British Council may require the selected organisation to obtain **appropriate liability insurance with cover proportionate to the project**. Any insurance requirement will be in addition to, and will not replace, the necessary risk prevention and safety measures.

Payment

Funding for selected projects will be disbursed in **three instalments**, as set out in the Grant Agreement:

- **First instalment – 80%** of the total amount: will be released following the signing of the Grant Agreement and fulfilment of the conditions precedent, to enable the start of the approved activities.
- **Second instalment – 10%** of the total grant amount, payable by March 2027.
- **Third instalment – 10%** of the total amount: will be released upon completion of the project, subject to the submission and approval by the British Council of all documentation required under the agreement, including the final technical report, financial report, and other supporting documentation required.

Payment of the second instalment will be conditional upon satisfactory fulfilment of the contractual obligations and approval by the British Council of the project deliverables.

Data Protection

Personal data processed in connection with this Open Call must be handled in accordance with the data protection legislation applicable to each party and activity, including Brazil's General Data Protection Law (Law No. 13,709/2018 – LGPD) and, where applicable, the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. These requirements apply to the British Council, applicant and selected organisations, and UK partner organisations, in accordance with their respective responsibilities.

Applicants must limit the personal data included in their applications to what is necessary for assessment purposes and must ensure that individuals whose personal data is provided are appropriately informed about its use.

During the application and selection process, personal data will be processed only where necessary to receive and assess applications, verify the authority of individuals representing applicant organisations, and manage communications relating to the application. The purposes and legal bases for processing, the applicable data protection arrangements and information on

how individuals may exercise their rights will be set out in the **Privacy Notice** provided with the application form.

During project delivery, selected organisations and their partners must comply with applicable data protection legislation when documenting activities, producing and using photographs and video, and undertaking other project-related activities. They must also put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect personal data.

Any international transfer of personal data, including transfers between Brazil and the UK, must comply with the requirements and legally permitted mechanisms applicable to that transfer. The parties must implement any necessary safeguards and define their respective responsibilities in the relevant agreements or documentation, in accordance with the LGPD and applicable ANPD regulations and, where applicable, the UK GDPR and UK data protection legislation.

Application Process

All applications must be submitted exclusively through the online application form available at [Fundo Jovens Artistas Brasil/Reino Unido](#)

All proposals must be completed in **Portuguese**.

All applications must include a signed letter of consent from the UK partner organisation, or an email clearly confirming its agreement to participate in the project. This must be submitted through a link provided in the application form. The link must be active and publicly accessible; applications containing inaccessible or non-functioning links may be deemed ineligible

For any questions, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and/or contact **UKBRAseason@britishcouncil.org** by **21 October 2026**.

Timeline Cycle 1

Period	Activity
17 September – 25 October 2026, until 23:59 Brasília time	Application period
17 September – 21 October 2026	Enquiries may be submitted by email to UKBRAseason@britishcouncil.org
25 October 2026, at 23:59 Brasília time	Application deadline
20 November 2026	Shortlisted applicants contacted.
20 December 2026	Final Selection announcement