

MusicFutures Music Entrepreneur Funding Call - FAQ

If we apply for this fund and are successful, does this preclude us from applying for future grant opportunities?

You'll see we're rolling out quite a few funding programmes over the next few years and we are anticipating that some people who apply for our early-stage funds will go on to apply at a later stage for other funding. So no, it doesn't preclude you. You're allowed to submit to all of our funding programmes.

Can costs include staff costs during the R&D phase?

Absolutely.

I need IP support to protect my idea. Is this available or can I use some of the funds to secure the status of my brand?

Yes, we really encourage you to sign up to our IP Clinic & Lab. It offers free legal advice for how you need to protect your ideas for artists and entrepreneurs. So there's a link on our website for the IP Clinic. Get yourself signed up for that, and we can give you free legal advice there.

<https://musicfutures.co.uk/ip-clinic/>

Can the payment go direct to subcontractors to avoid losing 20% VAT? Also rules on VAT for something that isn't providing a product?

So our contractual relationship will be with a single entity or single person. We'd expect that any subcontracting rolling down that money would be your responsibility to redistribute.

Access to specialists in the app development and computer department in university to assist fine-tune? But perhaps supercomputer access?

There are obviously people within our team and our university who will be supporting you along the way. If you want to drop that question specifically to musicfutures@liverpool.co.uk we can come back to you with some pointers for who you will need to speak to.

So how many successful applications are you looking to support?

We're looking at 10 awards for this year's round.

Please can you clarify the eligibility on capital expenditure towards, for example, premises modification to allow future opportunities?

That would be 20% of the max capital allocation. Ideally, we just want to be funding capital for the time that it's used on the R&D. So, yes, 20%, or £1000 can be used for that, but just make sure it's for the innovation activity directly.

Can the fund be used to develop services that aren't going to be directly available to the public?

Absolutely. B2B is fine. You might be developing something for labels or for artists. You might be looking to produce something and get it out there into the world. You might want to develop the service to keep it for yourselves so you can generate business that way. That's also fine.

I believe applicants can only have one project funded. Do you encourage applying for more than one project?

So we will only fund you as the lead on one project. However, it may be that you're a partner on another project. Can you put in more than one project? Yes. That's fine, but we wouldn't fund the same company on two projects in the same round.

Do you need to be registered as self-employed on the HMRC?

Yes. We will need your UTR (Unique Taxpayer Reference), so you'll need to be registered as a sole trader for this. If you are not registered please visit this site for more information <https://www.gov.uk/register-for-self-assessment>

You mentioned the possibility of submitting more than one project. Should we submit two different applications in case we do this?

Yes, if you want to submit two different applications, that's fine. But we wouldn't be funding both projects in the same funding round.