



In Motion 2025

Application Guidance Document

Last updated: 4 November 2024

Sound and Music

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Introduction

To apply to In Motion you will need to complete our [application form](#) on Airtable by 4 December 2024, 23:59 GMT. Please read this Application Guidance Document before applying. In this document, we outline the process, what information we will ask you to submit and top tips to help you write your application.

[Read more about In Motion](#)

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for In Motion you must:

- Be over 18 years old at the point of applying
- Not be in full or part-time education (in any subject and including PhDs) between April 2025-November 2026
- Have been based in the UK for the last two years
- Plan to remain resident, and have permission to stay, in the UK until November 2026
- Provide two recordings of your works
- Not have received an award, grant, or been on one of our artist development programmes in the last six months

Applications are open to individuals only. While you can apply to receive support for a group project, we can only accept one named applicant on the application and all fees and grants will be payable to that person.

For In Motion 2025 we will be looking to allocate:

- Seven places to composers with fewer than 10 years non-continuous practice
- Three places to composers at any stage in their career
- One place (minimum) for a d/Deaf, disabled or neurodivergent composer at any stage of their career

Access support

Deadline to request access support: 18 November 2024

In line with our commitments to [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#) we want to make our programmes and processes as inclusive as possible to as wide a range of applicants as we can.

If you would like to inquire about or arrange access support with applying to In Motion or would like to request this document in another format, please contact Grace Bailey (Grace.Bailey@SoundandMusic.org).

If you would like to arrange a session with an access support worker, you need to let us know by 18 November 2024 in order for us to make arrangements with our access support team. We always aim to make reasonable adjustments to our processes, but if we receive an access support request after the above date, we may not be able to book time with a dedicated access support worker.

[Read more about our access support offer](#)

Selection process

The selection panel includes members of the Sound and Music team and independent artists. We rotate our external panel with each open call, in line with our Fair Access Principles. When applications open, you can submit your application online (Airtable form) on the link below:

Apply here: <https://airtable.com/app0YhjFxpKg8Elux/shr1FToYsKtq6uo14>

Deadline: Wednesday 4 December 2024, 23:59 GMT

You can submit answers either written directly into the form or as a link to a short video or audio recording. As part of our commitment to [access support](#), we offer alternative ways of applying. If you would like to discuss what reasonable adjustments we can make to the application process, contact Grace Bailey (Grace.Bailey@SoundandMusic.org)

We have divided the application into two stages. In this first application, you will:

- Submit your personal information
- Share your bio
- Tell us what step change you want to undertake
- Tell us what will be different about your practice at the end of the programme
- Share two examples of your work

After applications close, our selection panel will review eligible applications and select a longlist of 45 applicants to progress to the second stage. If you are selected to progress, we will invite you to submit answers to two additional questions which will complement your original answers. These additional questions will ask:

- Why now is a good time to apply to the programme
- What are your creative ideas that will support your artistic development

After the second stage of applications, the panel will review all applications in their entirety and select a shortlist of 18 applicants to be invited to interview. After the interviews, we will select 10 composers to take part in In Motion and eight composers will be offered a [Seed Award](#).

If at any point your application is not progressed, you can request feedback. We offer feedback to anyone who requests it.

See below for [Key Dates](#) for all important dates and deadlines.

[Read more about the In Motion 2025 panellists](#)

[Read more about our Fair Access Principles](#)

Application form questions

Information about you

We ask you for some information about yourself: your name, address, contact number. There is also a voluntary Diversity question. We invite you to tell us if you are from an under-represented background in terms of your gender, ethnicity, being D/deaf/disabled/neurodivergent and/or your socio-economic background.

In line with our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#), we are committed to taking positive action and work hard to ensure our support is as representative and diverse as possible. If you identify as under-represented in the sector, we strongly encourage

you to apply and share any information you think can help us assess your application in context. This information will only be seen by people involved in shortlisting and interviewing, and handled according to our [Data Protection and Privacy Policy](#).

Biography (150 words max)

- You can include brief details of performances, collaborations, releases, broadcasts, relevant courses, training or other life experiences you think will support your application

What is the step change you want to make? (up to 250 words)

Think about:

- What part of your artistic or professional practice would you like to develop on this programme?
- What is it you want to try out that's new for you?
- What support do you need to achieve this?
- Why is this step change important to you?

What do you hope will be different for you as an artist after the programme? (up to 250 words)

Think about:

- How would your proposed step change or development impact on your artistic or professional practice?
- What do you hope to learn about yourself as an artist?

Your ideas and intentions may change throughout the programme. The information we ask for at this stage helps us understand the potential for impact, and by demonstrating self-awareness and reflection you can make a more compelling case.

Your work

We ask you to share two examples of your work. Please provide links to a website where we can access the material via a streaming service such as Soundcloud, Vimeo, YouTube or your own website. Check any links from a different device to ensure they are viewable, and provide any relevant passwords for private files as an attachment in the Supporting Documents section. Please do not attach your works.

Supporting documents

You can submit additional documents relating to your works, such as scores, programme notes, descriptions etc. The supporting description files should be no longer than one side of A4 in total each.

If a work you submit is longer than 10 minutes, please indicate in a supporting document which section(s) you would like the panel to review. The panel will listen to a minimum of up to four minutes for each work submitted due to the high number of applications we expect, and we cannot guarantee the panel will be able to listen to longer works in their entirety. If you don't specify which section(s) of a longer work you want the panel to listen to, the default will be to listen to the first four minutes.

Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

Once you have submitted your application, we will ask you to complete our Equal Opportunities Monitoring form. This information is anonymous and will not be associated with your application or be seen by the selection panel. We use this information to better understand who we are reaching and how to improve our programmes to make sure we reach everyone who can benefit from them.

You should receive a confirmation email in your inbox once your application has been submitted which will include the answers to the questions above for your reference.

Top Tips

In Motion is a very competitive programme and we expect to receive between 300-500 applications. A small number will not meet the eligibility criteria and will be automatically excluded. Of the remaining eligible applications, a large number will not be progressed further.

We urge you to read and re-read these application guidelines carefully and tailor your applications as much as possible to this programme specifically. We hope the information in this document will help you write a stronger application.

Please note the below criteria apply to the entire application process and we may not assess all of the criteria in this first application stage. Please refer to the application questions and ensure you directly answer the questions asked at each stage.

Selection criteria

For In Motion, we are looking to select composers who have a clear idea of an area of their practice they want to develop.

You have original ideas and the ambition to create unique, high-quality work, in whatever form

- This is not genre-specific
- By quality we mean interesting ideas within and between genres. This is not a competition, and we are not necessarily seeking advanced technical skills
- Propose new, ambitious creative ideas that will stretch and challenge you – and here the benchmark is your own context – looking for works that are ambitious and realistic for you

This is very subjective and is one of the reasons behind changing the panel each year: a different panel on a different day may score differently. An unsuccessful application doesn't necessarily mean that your work is not high quality.

You are at a pivotal moment in your career, and you want to try something new or make a step change in your career

- What is it you want to try out that's new for you? Why do you need support to achieve it?
- Where do you imagine you'll be after the programme? We won't hold you to this, but it helps us to understand the potential for impact. Demonstrating self-awareness and reflection here can make a compelling case
- What will have changed for you after the programme?
- What makes it important for you to do this right now?

You are able to self-reflect: this is an artist development programme, not a project grant

- Think about why you make your work, who is it for, what makes it successful. Time to think about this is built into the programme, and it's something we will encourage you to reflect on.

Common reasons why an application is not successful

- Your answers to the application questions come across as a funding application rather than outlining the need for artistic and professional support and development. If the only reason you are applying to In Motion is because you need funding to realise a project, we would suggest looking at alternative sources

- You do not articulate what step change you want to achieve with enough clarity or explain why this step change is important to you right now
- You don't outline clearly what you hope to achieve through the programme and what the impact of achieving your step change will be
- If you have just come out of an extended period of development, either through Higher Education or another artist development programme, you will need to make a strong case for why you need further support right now.
- If you are currently enrolled on other artist development programmes, the panel might feel our limited resources are better spread over those who are not currently receiving support. You will need to outline a strong case for what specific support you are looking for from In Motion that is not covered by other support you're currently receiving
- The works you submitted are not representative of the work outlined in the application. Consider what musical examples best demonstrate the work you describe in your application, and which represent you as an artist most effectively

Key dates

Date	Activity
Monday 18 November 2024	Deadline to request access support with applying to the programme
Wednesday 4 December 2024, 23:59 GMT	Deadline to submit applications
Friday 24 January 2025	We will let you know the outcome of your application. If your application is progressed, you will be invited to submit a second part to your application
Wednesday 18 February 2025	Deadline to submit the second part of your application if your application is progressed
Friday 21 March 2025	We will let you know the outcome of the second application. If your application is progressed, you will be invited to do an interview with four members of the panel
Monday 24–Tuesday 25 March 2025	Interviews for shortlisted applicants (online)
Friday 28 March 2025	We will let you know the final outcome of your interview and application: 10 composers will be selected for In Motion, and eight will be offered the Seed Award
May 2025	In Motion 2025 induction takes place

If at any point your application is not progressed, we offer feedback to any applicant who requests it as part of our [Fair Access Principles](#).

Contact us

If you have any questions about the form or application and selection process, or if you would like to discuss your access needs and any support we can offer at the application stage, please contact Grace Bailey: Grace.Bailey@SoundandMusic.org

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