

Make It Happen

Make It Happen Fund (Easy Read Guide)

What is it?

The **Make It Happen Fund** gives **£1,500** to recent RCS graduates to help with:

- Training and learning
- Trying out new ideas
- Starting creative projects or businesses
- Running events or performances
- Meeting people in your industry
- Working with others

There are **20 awards** available.

Important Dates

- **Application deadline:** Wednesday **24 September 2025, 5:00 PM**
- **Online info session:** Wednesday **27 August, 12:30–1:30 PM**

[You can join online by clicking here](#) (Meeting ID: 318 292 279 952 1 / Passcode: f75j6Lo7).

- **In-person application writing session:** Wednesday **17 September**, 12:00–2:00 PM at **Clockwise Glasgow, Room M2:13**

RSVP for in-person application writing session by emailing cedo@rcs.ac.uk

Who can apply?

You must:

- Have **graduated from RCS** in **2023, 2024 or 2025**
- Live in the **UK** and provide proof of your address
- Not be on a **student visa**
- Never have received the MIHF before

What the money can be used for:

- Projects after **15 Nov 2025**
- Trying out new ideas
- Events or performances
- Festival/show costs
- Marketing or branding
- Company start-up
- Training or networking
- Artist's fees

What the money can't be used for:

- Living costs or rent
- Debts or loans
- Business consultants
- New instruments
- Professional membership fees
- Tuition fees
- Projects **starting before 15 Nov 2025**

At least **30% of the awards** will go to projects led by people from **underrepresented backgrounds**, such as:

- Global majority / global south
- Working class
- D(d)eaf or hard of hearing
- Disabled or neurodiverse
- LGBTQIA+
- Care-experienced
- Migrants
- Homeless or formerly homeless
- Criminal justice experience
- Romany travellers
- Mental health, substance misuse, or unpaid carers

You don't need to prove this, but please be honest on your form.

How to Make A Strong Application

- Be **clear** about what you want to do
- Show how the money will help your **career goals or creative development**
- Include a **budget** showing what the money will pay for (artist fees, space hire, travel, etc.)
- If your budget is **over £1,500**, explain where the extra money is coming from – or explain what your Plan B is
- You can upload **1 page with images, links or mood boards** to support your application (PDF only)

Can I pay myself?

Yes! You should pay yourself and your collaborators fairly.

We recommend that you use:

- **Real Living Wage**
- Or **union rates** (e.g. Musicians Union, Equity)

Make sure your budget shows this clearly.

Don't Forget you must also:

- Get a **referee** (someone who knows your work, not a family member)
- Decide if you want to get the **CEDO newsletter** (optional)
- If you want to receive the newsletter, fill in all questions about your current work – this helps CEDO provide data to the government and helps us receive the resource required to provide these opportunities in the future

How To Apply

[Apply online by clicking here.](#)

Alternately, you can apply by video (in BSL). To do this please email Stephanie at cedo@rcs.ac.uk. The application form includes questions and a time limit for each video. We will then have this translated for the panel to review.

With either option, we will ask you to complete a short form which includes your contact information, graduation details, working information (i.e. are you self employed), and reference information.

If you are successful

You'll need to send:

- Proof of address (bill or letter from the last 3 months)
- Bank account details

You will not receive funds until at least mid-November at the earliest.

You must include the **Make It Happen Fund logo** in your publicity.

If you're not successful

- You'll hear back by **mid-November 2025**
- You can ask for **feedback** to improve for next time

Questions?

Email **Stephanie Edwards**: cedo@rcs.ac.uk

Make It Happen Fund Assessment Criteria

You will be scored on three main questions for the *Make It Happen Fund*. Each question is scored on a scale from **1 to 10**. Questions scored 1-3 are considered 'Weak'. Questions scored 4 – 7 are considered 'Moderate'. Questions scored 8 – 10 are considered 'Strong'.

The panel is looking for strong applications to award funds.

Question 1: Tell us about your project.

Here, the panel is looking for a clear and compelling project description. It should outline the aims, expected outcomes, and any collaborators — with a good explanation of why these collaborators matter. Most importantly, the description should align with how you plan to use the funding.

In a strong application, the project should come across as compelling and well thought out. Aims and outcomes are clearly described and connect directly to the funding request. Collaborators are named and their involvement is clearly justified.

In a weak application, the project is unclear or vague. The applicant hasn't explained what they're trying to do, and there's little or no mention of collaborators or outcomes.

Question 2: Please outline the learning and development opportunity the Make It Happen Fund will enable and crucially the difference that you hope it will make for you as a next step in your career.

Here, the panel is asking how this project will support your growth. Will it help move your career forward? Will you develop new skills, expand their network, or push into new territory?

In a strong application, the applicant clearly connects this project to their career journey. They explain what they'll learn, how they'll grow as a creative, and why this funding matters now.

In a weak application, the applicant hasn't clearly explained how this project will help them grow. It's unclear how the work links to their goals or future plans.

Question 3: Budget

This should provide an outline of how the funds will be used. Estimated costs will be accepted. If you are using funds as part of package of funding, you need to demonstrate the other sources of funding or stage of application (i.e. pending or writing application) within the budget.

This section tells us how you plan to use the £1,500 – or more, if part of a wider funding package. We're looking for evidence of planning and research, and for a realistic idea of what the money will achieve.

Make It Happen Fund Assessment Criteria

In a strong application, the panel is looking for a clear, detailed budget is provided. It shows what the applicant can achieve with this funding — especially things that wouldn't be possible otherwise. We see research, quotes, and thoughtful planning.

In a weak application, there is either no budget, or it's very unclear. We can't see how the money will be spent, and it's not obvious why the award is needed.