

Guidance (English) • Small Grants Fund 2026

Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week) | 23 February – 1 March 2026

Overview

The Seachdain na Gàidhlig 'Small Grants Fund' is supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and is open to individuals, community groups and organisations. The fund aims to support activity during Seachdain na Gàidhlig 2026 (23 February – 1 March) and assist in the development and delivery of community events that celebrate the Gaelic language. Our theme for 2026 is 'Use It or Lose It' and we are looking for projects/events that have this theme embedded at their core. The application has been slightly streamlined this year to make the process easier, based on feedback from 2025 applicants.

Timeline

- Applications open: Tuesday 23 September 2025
- Online Information Session 1: Wednesday 8 October 2025 (reserve your place via Eventbrite)
- Online Information Session 2: Thursday 23 October 2025 (reserve your place via Eventbrite)
- Applications close: Friday 31 October 2025
- Applicants advised: Friday 28 November 2025
- Programme launch: January 2026
- Seachdain na Gàidhlig: 23 February – 1 March 2026
- Final report for successful applicants: due Friday 13 March 2026

Who Can Apply?

- Individuals (over 18), voluntary groups, schools, educational institutions and professional organisations can apply.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate a positive track record in and/or commitment to Gaelic.
- Applicants must have a UK bank account.

Planning an Application

The Fund is open to anybody, from anywhere, with an idea or project that promotes the use and development of Gaelic. Your proposed activity does not have to be fully through the medium of Gaelic but should have Gaelic at its core, whether through opportunities to use and experience the language or similar.

The objectives of the Fund are to:

- Celebrate the theme of 'Use It or Lose It' through Gaelic.
- Promote interest and participation in Gaelic.
- Increase opportunities to experience Gaelic.
- Strengthen and broaden the network of people engaging with Gaelic.
- Raise the profile of Gaelic locally, nationally, and worldwide.
- Ensure activities are inclusive and accessible to as many people as possible.

When planning your project, please consider your target audience, participants, performers and volunteers. We encourage projects to be inclusive and accessible, engaging with protected groups where relevant. You will be asked to provide details of who will be involved in your project as part of the application.

Use It or Lose It

All applications must have our 2026 theme, 'Use It or Lose It', at their core. We will consider applications of any kind and are keen to ensure a wide geographical spread of the funds available. We will welcome applications from across a diverse range of communities and are committed to ensuring equality across all funded activity. We encourage applicants to think creatively about how they can incorporate 'Use It or Lose It' into their projects. Innovative and non-traditional ideas are welcome, whether they involve new ways of using technology, unique community engagement methods or cross-cultural collaborations that highlight the diversity of Gaelic connections.

Examples of events and activity that could be considered are: performances and concerts; pop-up Gàidhealtachd; language cafes; online gaming; school projects; cèilidhs; craft groups. Most of all, we want you and your community to have fun engaging with Gaelic through your activity.

If you would like to discuss your idea, please contact our team:
tabhartasan@seachdainnagaidhlig.scot (mailto:tabhartasan@seachdainnagaidhlig.scot).

Budget Planning

Please think carefully about your budget and consider the appropriateness of costs and income you wish to include. Give as much detail as you can and ensure you submit a balanced budget as this is required to proceed with your application. Your budget should forecast a minimum of 20% income or support from other sources - this could be your own contribution or a grant from somewhere else. It could also include support in-kind - this could be your own hours spent on the project at an hourly rate. Please include full detail of income from other sources as part of your balanced budget.

If your project is receiving financial support from other sources, please specify whether this funding is confirmed or pending. If pending, provide the expected confirmation date. Additionally, for workshops, please include detailed information about who will be running

them and the content. Even if tutors are yet to be confirmed, provide as much information as possible at this stage.

Applicants should bear in mind that funding is limited, and the Fund may not be able to support all eligible applications. Applicants should demonstrate how their proposed activity will promote use and development of Gaelic within their local community and are encouraged to seek income from other sources and support in-kind where possible.

Example of a Balanced Budget

Expenditure

Description	Amount (£)
Venue Hire	£200
Workshop Facilitator (2 days)	£300
Supervisor	£100
Marketing Materials	£50
Refreshments	£50
Total Expenditure (£): £700	

Income

1. Seachdain na Gàidhlig Small Grants Fund: £400
2. Minimum 20% contribution (cash or in-kind): £150
3. Other income (e.g. ticket sales, sponsorship, fundraising)

Description	Amount (£)	Pending / Confirmed
Local Business Sponsorship	£75	Pending
Community Fundraising	£75	Confirmed

Total Income (£): £700

Remember: your total income must equal your total expenditure before you can submit your application.

Planning Considerations

We encourage you to consider any insurances, risk assessment or licensing that may be applicable in delivering your event or activity. For more guidance on this, you can contact your local Council.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

As part of your application, you will be asked to describe how your project will be as inclusive and accessible as possible. Inclusivity is about ensuring that as many people as possible have the opportunity to participate in or benefit from your project, regardless of their background or circumstances. You do not need to have a perfect plan, but we want to see that you are making efforts to be inclusive and thinking about how you can reach those who might otherwise be excluded.

When answering this question, you could/should:

- Consider any specific groups you might want to reach, such as: Children and young people; Disabled people or people experiencing long-term ill health; Faith communities; LGBTQ+ people; Older people; People from minority ethnic communities; People living in poverty.
- Consider the accessibility of your venue: Is it physically accessible for people with mobility issues? Does it offer facilities such as ramps, accessible toilets, and clear signage? If your project is online, consider how you can make it accessible, e.g., through captions or visual aids.
- Reflect on barriers that people might face in accessing your project, whether financial, geographical or related to language, and think about how you could overcome these.

By showing us that you have considered these factors, you are demonstrating a commitment to making your project welcoming and accessible to all.

Information Sessions

We will be hosting two online information sessions for those interested in applying for the Small Grants Fund. We encourage all applicants, whether they have previously received a grant from us or not, to attend one of these sessions to learn more about the application process, what we are looking for in projects and this year's theme of 'Use It or Lose It.'

- Wednesday 8 October at 19:00
- Thursday 23 October at 19:00

Each session will last approximately 45 minutes and will be led by our director, Joy Dunlop. There will be time for questions and discussion at the end.

You can reserve a place at either of the session dates through Eventbrite. If you need the direct links, please request them from the SnG team.

Guidance

We encourage applicants to review resources on how to write a successful funding application. Quality applications are more likely to succeed, and we are here to help you present your project effectively. For general guidance, you may find this briefing from Creative Lives helpful: <https://www.creative-lives.org/>.

Additional Notes

- **Event Timing:** Applications will only be considered for events and activity taking place during Seachdain na Gàidhlig 2026 (23 February – 1 March).
- **Be Concise:** Please be clear and concise, giving us enough information to be able to assess your application fully.
- **Fair Pay:** Please refer to guidance from the relevant body (e.g. Musicians' Union, Equity). If no industry rate is available, you should use the UK Living Wage as a minimum benchmark. Please consider the Living Wage and industry standard fees when working out payment for anyone carrying out work on your project (including administration and support roles).
- We recognise some artists/practitioners may wish to work for less or contribute free of charge. If so, you should make their wishes explicit in your application, and your budget should reflect, as 'in-kind' support, the contribution of an artist/practitioner by including the difference between the industry standard rate and what they will actually be paid.
- **Realistic Funding Requests:** While £500 is the maximum grant available, please only ask for what you need. This allows more communities to benefit from the available funds.
- **Multiple Applications:** Applicants may submit more than one project for consideration, but please be aware that it is unlikely we will be able to offer more than one grant.
- **Existing Funding:** If you are already funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, you must show how this project is additional and not double-funding work you have already received support for. We cannot support activity that is already scheduled to happen regardless of this grant.
- **No Equipment Purchase:** We are unable to fund equipment purchase and capital costs.
- If you are unsure about how to calculate industry-standard rates, balance your budget, or identify appropriate in-kind contributions, please contact our team for guidance.

Application Process

Each applicant may apply for an award of up to £500. In exceptional circumstances, applications for more than £500 may be considered but applicants should contact us to discuss their application as soon as possible. The final deadline for all applications is Friday 31 October 2025 at midnight.

You may use our Word document template to draft your answers offline. However, you must submit your final application through the online application form. Applications will not be accepted by email. If you experience any issues with the online form, please contact us as soon as possible.

Here is the information we will require when completing your application:

1. Lead contact
2. Name of group/organisation (if applicable)
3. Contact email/phone
4. Project title
5. Date and time of project
6. Brief Project Description (one sentence in Gaelic, one sentence in English)
7. Main Project Description (up to 700 words)

Please include information on: what you will do and why; who will be involved; where and when it will take place; who will benefit; how your project links to the 2026 theme Cleachd e no caill e (Use it or lose it); how you will promote Gaelic; how you will attract and engage the public; how you will ensure accessibility and inclusivity; and what legacy or impact it will have.

8. Will the project be fully through Gaelic or bilingual?
9. Provide evidence of your work in, or commitment to, the Gaelic language (i.e. YouTube links, social media links, press or media articles, short summary of your experience)
10. Projected Numbers for Your Project (Audience, Participants, Performers, Volunteers)
11. Which local authority will your activity take place in?
12. Budget
13. Bank account details

Applicants are required to submit a budget using the inline budget form provided within the application. Please note that you will not be able to continue with the application unless your budget balances and includes all required information.

Once your application has been submitted, you will receive an automated email acknowledging receipt. Seachdain na Gàidhlig will notify all applicants within four weeks of the final deadline above. Successful applicants will be notified with a letter of offer detailing how funds will be paid and any conditions attached to the award. Any subsequent changes to project plans must be submitted in writing to Seachdain na Gàidhlig. Unsuccessful applicants will be contacted with a short summary of feedback from the assessment panel and are encouraged to continue with their activity as part of the open programme if feasible.

Seachdain na Gàidhlig will offer ongoing support to all successful applicants, including towards our programme launch in January 2026. We have a range of resources available, including template posters and press releases, that can be used when planning and delivering your own projects. All funded projects will be part of our Events Calendar at <https://seachdainnagaidhlig.scot> and all funded projects must use the provided Seachdain na Gàidhlig and Bòrd na Gàidhlig logos across all physical and online marketing materials. All events must be submitted to the web portal: <https://www.cleachdi.scot>. Applicants are encouraged to obtain (free of charge) and use #cleachdi merchandise in their project.

Seachdain na Gàidhlig will require all successful applicants to monitor and evaluate their activity including the submission of a final report within one month of the project end. We may also feature some completed projects as case studies on our website to illustrate the kinds of projects the fund can assist. As part of the evaluation process we ask that you assess the impact of your project against the following criteria:

- “This [project/event] has encouraged me to use Gaelic more often.”
- “This [project/event] has enhanced my Gaelic skills.”
- “This [project/event] has made me believe more strongly that Gaelic is important to Scotland.”

Grants will be agreed by a panel of assessors in November with applicants being advised no later than Thursday 28 November. Successful applicants can benefit from support as delivery partners of Seachdain na Gàidhlig. It is anticipated that there may be more qualifying applications than available funding.

If you require clarification on eligibility or assistance to complete your application, please contact Seachdain na Gàidhlig by email at tabhartasan@seachdainnagaidhlig.scot (<mailto:tabhartasan@seachdainnagaidhlig.scot>).

Final Reminders

- Ensure your application is complete and submitted by the deadline: Friday 31 October 2025 at 5pm.
- Make sure all required information is included.
- Verify that your budget is balanced and includes at least 20% income or support from other sources.
- Keep in mind that funding is limited, and priority may be given to projects that align closely with the fund’s objectives.
- If you have any last-minute questions or need clarification, please contact us at tabhartasan@seachdainnagaidhlig.scot before the deadline.