

Gulbenkian Exhibitions Fund

Guidelines for Applicants 2026

Showcasing art in the UK from
Portugal and Portuguese-speaking
African countries



CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN
FOUNDATION

Introduction

Gulbenkian Exhibitions Fund is a new open Call from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch) supporting arts and cultural institutions in the UK to feature contemporary artists from, or based in, Portugal and Portuguese-speaking African countries.

The Call is open to UK-based, non-profit arts organisations and institutions developing exhibitions or showcases in visual arts, moving image and, within an exhibition context, performance and performing arts. The Call supports the presentation of living artists through new commissions or the presentation of existing work, in solo or group exhibitions and projects.

The initiative is a core part of the UK Branch's priority to promote international exchange and to build links between artists, organisations and professionals in Portugal and the UK.

Through this initiative, the Foundation seeks to strengthen the international presence and visibility of contemporary arts from Portugal and Portuguese-speaking African countries in the UK cultural landscape.

Grants of up to £30,000 are available. Supported projects must take place between June 2026 and August 2027.

Requirements and Conditions

ARTICLE 1

PURPOSE OF THESE GUIDELINES

These Guidelines set out the rules applicable to the award of financial grants by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, through its UK Branch, under the "*Gulbenkian Exhibitions Fund*" initiative, with a view to ensuring fairness, sustainability and transparency throughout the process.

ARTICLE 2

DEFINITIONS

1. In these Guidelines:
 - a. "Foundation" means the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, acting through its UK Branch.
 - b. "Call" means the "*Gulbenkian Exhibitions Fund*" open Call described in these Guidelines.
 - c. "Applicant" means any organisation submitting an application under the Call.

- d. “Hosting Institution” means the UK institution with which the Grant agreement is entered into, and which is solely responsible for managing the Grant and delivering the project (including where the project involves partners and/or touring).
- e. “Grant” means the financial support awarded under the Call.

ARTICLE 3 CALL OBJECTIVES

1. *Gulbenkian Exhibitions Fund* seeks to:
 - a. Support arts organisations in the UK to expand their programming of international arts and connections to art from Portugal and Portuguese-speaking African countries.
 - b. Advance the visibility and recognition of artists from, or working, in Portugal and Portuguese-speaking African countries, especially through step-up opportunities such as first-time exhibitions.
 - c. Engage UK audiences with arts from these regions, fostering broader recognition and positioning them within contemporary discourse.
 - d. Strengthen organisational capacity by supporting UK-based, not-for-profit institutions to deliver high-quality exhibitions and projects that enrich programmes and networks.
 - e. Foster closer connections between Portugal and Portuguese-speaking African countries and the UK, encouraging more artistic exchange and dialogue across borders.
2. *Gulbenkian Exhibitions Fund* aims to award a limited number of grants of up to £30,000 each and will run from June 2026 to August 2027.

ARTICLE 4 SCOPE, ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSIONS

1. The *Gulbenkian Exhibitions Fund* open Call provides support for the development and delivery of arts exhibitions and showcases in the UK with a core focus on living artists from, or based in, Portugal and Portuguese-speaking African countries.
2. The Call is open to not-for-profit arts organisations and institutions, including (but not limited to) museums, galleries, festivals and biennales. Grants will be awarded directly to the hosting institution, which must lead the project.

3. To be eligible, applications must meet the following conditions:
 - a. Projects must take place in physical venues open to the general public; purely online or private initiatives are not eligible.
 - b. Supported projects may take the form of solo or group exhibitions and showcases, multidisciplinary presentations, art film retrospectives, touring or site-specific projects, new commissions or presentations of existing work.
 - c. Projects may involve one or multiple partners and may be touring projects. However, the Grant will be awarded to, and the grant agreement will be entered into with, one UK hosting institution only, which will be responsible for managing the Grant and delivering the project. The Grant will cover only the eligible costs incurred by that institution.
 - d. Eligible artistic fields are:
 - i. visual arts, moving image (including film), performance and performing arts when presented within an exhibition context.
 - ii. Projects focused primarily on architecture and design are not eligible.
4. The common requirements are:
 - a. Projects are public-facing.
 - b. At least one living artist from, or based in, Portugal or Portuguese-speaking African countries is prominently featured.
 - c. Projects are led, hosted and organised by the Grant recipient (the hosting institution).
 - d. Artists are featured intentionally, not incidentally.
 - e. Projects must take place between June 2026 and August 2027.
5. Applications will be automatically excluded where:
 - a. The applicant fails to meet (whether initially or subsequently) any of the eligibility conditions set out in this Article.
 - b. The applicant fails to comply with any requirement or obligation set out in these Guidelines and/or in the application process.
 - c. The applicant has an active Grant from the Foundation at the time of application.
 - d. The applicant is in breach of obligations under other initiatives developed by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

- e. The applicant fails to provide, within the applicable deadlines, the information and documents requested for the purposes of assessing the application and/or managing the Call.
- f. The applicant does not successfully complete the Foundation's due diligence checks (including, where applicable, checks relating to integrity, anti-bribery/anti-corruption, anti-money laundering/counter-terrorist financing and sanctions/restrictive measures) as determined by the Foundation.
- g. The applicant, or relevant persons connected to the applicant (where applicable), is subject to any restriction, impediment, or actual or potential conflict of interest that may hinder or prejudice the proper award of grants and/or the achievement of the initiative's purposes.
- h. The application contains false, misleading, or materially incomplete information.

ARTICLE 5

ELIGIBLE COSTS AND FUNDING

1. The Foundation aims to award a limited number of grants of up to £30,000 (thirty thousand pounds sterling) each. Grants may cover up to 50% of total project costs. Up to 15% of the Grant may be allocated to core organisational costs directly related to the project. Applicants are encouraged to request an amount proportionate to the scope of their project and this Call. The Foundation reserves the right to award a different amount where appropriate.
2. For the purposes of determining and paying the Grant, only costs that meet all of the following criteria will be considered eligible:
 - a. They are directly related to the project and necessary for its delivery.
 - b. They are incurred by the hosting institution during the approved project period.
 - c. They are supported by appropriate documentary evidence of expenditure.
3. The Grant will not cover:
 - a. Costs covered by another source (save for disclosed co-funding, provided there is no double funding of the same cost).
 - b. Costs incurred prior to the project start date.
 - c. Costs for the acquisition of artworks.
4. The Grant will be paid by bank transfer in two instalments, as set out in the Grant agreement:
 - a. 80% upon signature of the Grant agreement.

- b. 20% upon receipt of the final report.
5. The Foundation will award one Grant per project.

ARTICLE 6

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The application period opens on 23 February 2026 and closes on 27 April 2026 at 12:00 noon (UK time). Late submissions will not be accepted.
2. Applications must be submitted via an online form, which can be found on the Foundation's UK Branch website and must be accompanied by the following documentation:
 - a. Images of the featured work.
 - b. Photographs of the exhibition space and any exhibition mock-ups.
 - c. A letter of engagement from the artist(s).
 - d. A budget and income breakdown.
 - e. The organisation's latest annual accounts.

ARTICLE 7

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

1. Applications will be assessed, ranked and selected on the basis of their artistic and strategic fit, taking into account the following criteria:
 - a. Relevance of the proposed exhibition/project and profile of the hosting institution.
 - b. Relevance and potential benefit of the project for the featured artist(s).
 - c. Scope and relevance of the expected audience and engagement.
 - d. Relevance of the project to contemporary cultural, societal and artistic discourses.
 - e. Financial and operational planning and feasibility.
2. The jury may, at its discretion, contact applicants to request clarification or additional information where necessary.

ARTICLE 8

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

1. Applications will be reviewed by a jury composed of two representatives from the Foundation (in the UK and Portugal) and one external expert. Appropriate measures will be in place to prevent conflicts of interest.
2. The jury's assessment, ranking and selection will be recorded in writing and supported by appropriate reasoning.
3. The final decision will be taken by the Foundation's Board of Trustees, based on the jury's recommendation. Appeals cannot be made against the decision taken by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 9

KEY DATES

1. For ease of reference, the key dates for this Call are set out below:
 - a. Applications open – 23 February 2026.
 - b. Applications close – 27 April 2026, 12:00 noon (UK time).
 - c. Successful applicants notified and announced – mid-June 2026.
 - d. Projects take place – June 2026 to August 2027.
2. The Foundation reserves the right to amend this timetable and will publish any updates on its website.

ARTICLE 10

DUE DILIGENCE AND INTEGRITY CHECKS

1. The Foundation will carry out due diligence checks in relation to successful applicants, in order to assess the applicant's integrity and suitability and its exposure to risks including (as applicable) anti-bribery/anti-corruption, anti-money laundering/counter-terrorist financing, sanctions/restrictive measures, and compliance with obligations under other initiatives supported by the Foundation.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, successful applicants must provide, within the deadlines set by the Foundation, the following documents and information (as applicable):
 - a. evidence of good standing in relation to tax obligations;
 - b. evidence of good standing in relation to social security contributions (or equivalent);
 - c. proof of ownership of the bank account to which the Grant is to be paid;
 - d. evidence of the applicant's legal registration and status (e.g., Companies House and/or Charity Commission extract or equivalent), including details of its directors/trustees (or equivalent governing body) and, where applicable, beneficial ownership/PSC information;
 - e. copies of identification documents for directors/trustees (or equivalent) and any other relevant senior management with decision-making powers; and
 - f. the latest approved annual report and accounts (or equivalent financial statements), including information on the applicant's governing bodies.
3. The Foundation may, at any time, request additional information it considers relevant or necessary for due diligence purposes and/or for compliance with its legal and internal obligations. Failure to provide the requested information and documents may result in exclusion of the application and/or withdrawal of the award, as determined by the Foundation.

ARTICLE 11 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email by mid-June 2026.

ARTICLE 12 ACCEPTANCE AND AWARD

1. Acceptance of the Grant by successful applicants will be confirmed through the execution of a Grant agreement with the Foundation. The Grant agreement will set out, inter alia, the parties' responsibilities, payment method and schedule, and eligible costs.
2. Successful applicants must return the Grant agreement duly signed to the Foundation.
3. For the purposes of paragraph 2, the Grant agreement may be signed electronically and returned by email or signed in wet ink and returned by post, to the contact details set out therein.

ARTICLE 13

FURTHER INFORMATION AND VERIFICATION

1. The Foundation may monitor the delivery of the project and the use of the Grant and may, for that purpose, request from the Grant recipient any information and documentation it considers relevant and/or carry out verification measures, directly or through a third party appointed by it, to assess compliance with these Guidelines and the Grant agreement, as well as the results and impact achieved.
2. The Grant recipient must cooperate fully, providing timely access to information, documentation and any other means required by the Foundation (or its appointed representative) for the purposes of monitoring.

ARTICLE 14

BRANDING REQUIREMENTS

1. Supported projects must acknowledge the “Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch)” in all communications and relevant production materials, including press releases, publications and websites.
2. The Foundation’s logo must be displayed at the entrance to the exhibition, in line with the hosting institution’s usual practices and the Foundation’s branding guidelines (as communicated to the Grant recipient).

ARTICLE 15

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Grant recipients must submit a final report within 30 days of the closing of the exhibition or showcase.
2. Reporting requirements will be shared with recipients and must include, at a minimum:
 - a. a summary of media coverage (traditional and/or digital and social); and
 - b. a selection of photographs of the exhibition or showcase.

ARTICLE 16

SUSPENSION, TERMINATION AND REPAYMENT

Misuse of the Grant, breach of law, or breach of the obligations applicable to the Grant recipient may result in the suspension or termination of the Grant and/or the repayment to the Foundation of any amounts paid which are not duly justified.

ARTICLE 17

AMENDMENTS

1. The Foundation may amend these Guidelines at any time.
2. Any amendments will take effect on the date they are published/communicated on the Foundation's website.

ARTICLE 18

DATA PROTECTION

1. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is the data controller for the processing of personal data in connection with this Call.
2. All personal data provided by applicants and Grant recipients ("Data Subjects") during the application process will be processed exclusively for the purposes of (i) managing the application process and the award and management of grants by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and (ii) assessing the results and impact of the grants. Such processing is carried out on the basis of the relationship established with the Data Subjects through acceptance of these Guidelines and the Foundation's compliance with its legal obligations, including the due diligence and prior assessment described above.
3. Personal data will be retained for the period necessary to manage the application process and the award and management of the Grant, except where a different retention period is required by applicable law. Certain data (namely, the Data Subject's name, application date, the terms and duration of the Grant, personal data that may be included in final reports, works and publications, as well as voice and image recordings collected in the context of events and activities promoted by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation under this initiative) will be retained indefinitely by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation for archiving purposes, within the scope of its activity of managing and preserving its cultural, intellectual and artistic collection.

4. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation guarantees Data Subjects the exercise of their rights in relation to their personal data, such as the rights of access, rectification, erasure, objection, restriction of processing and portability, in accordance with applicable law.
5. To exercise their rights, and for any questions related to the processing of personal data in this context, Data Subjects may contact the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation via the following form: <https://gulbenkian.pt/contacte-nos/>.
6. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation implements all necessary and appropriate security measures to protect the personal data of Data Subjects, whether such data are processed directly by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation or by entities engaged by it.
7. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation may process the personal data collected in this context directly and/or through subcontracted entities (processors). Such entities will process personal data exclusively for the purposes determined by the data controller and in accordance with its instructions, being contractually bound to confidentiality and to ensuring the security of the processing, and appropriate agreements will be entered into with such entities in accordance with applicable law.
8. For the purposes of awarding and managing Grants, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation may share Data Subjects' data with partner entities for the purposes of managing publications and institutional communications. Such entities may be located within the European Union or outside it; in the latter case, appropriate safeguards will be applied at all times, in accordance with applicable law, to ensure the security of the personal data processed.
9. Data Subjects may submit a complaint to the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Privacy Committee via the following form: <https://gulbenkian.pt/contacte-nos/>. Data Subjects may also lodge a complaint with the Portuguese Data Protection Authority ("CNPD") if they consider that the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation has breached applicable data protection law.

ARTICLE 19

ANTI-BRIBERY, CORRUPTION AND RELATED OFFENCES

1. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation adopts and maintains internal measures and procedures designed to prevent, detect, remediate and sanction acts of corruption and related offences committed against it or through it, and collects and retains, in electronic form and for the necessary period, all information required to ensure proper compliance with applicable legal and regulatory obligations in this area.
2. For these purposes, and without prejudice to any other measures and procedures in force that may apply, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation carries out, in accordance with ARTICLE 10 – DUE DILIGENCE AND INTEGRITY CHECKS, a prior assessment of its counterparties and

their exposure to corruption and related risks, including (where applicable) the identification of beneficial owners, image and reputational risks, and commercial relationships with third parties, with a view to identifying potential conflicts of interest.

3. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation has a [Code of Conduct](#), which forms an integral part of these Guidelines. The Code of Conduct sets out the general rules and principles of ethics and professional conduct applicable to members of the Foundation's governing bodies and to all employees, in their dealings with each other and with third parties, and constitutes a reference standard for the conduct required of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in its relations with third parties.

ARTICLE 20

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING, COUNTER-TERRORIST FINANCING AND SANCTIONS

1. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation adopts and maintains measures, procedures and internal control systems designed to prevent and combat money laundering and terrorist financing, and collects and retains, in electronic form and for the legally required period, all information necessary to ensure proper compliance with applicable legal and regulatory obligations in this area.
2. Without prejudice to any other measures and procedures in force that may apply, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation keeps, in electronic form, records of all transactions and transfers carried out by it in connection with grants awarded under these Guidelines.
3. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation carries out, in accordance with ARTICLE 13, regular monitoring of the activities actually carried out and of the use of the Grant, with a view to ensuring that the Grant is applied in line with the purpose and objectives underlying its award, and may request all information necessary for such monitoring, together with supporting evidence.
4. Where the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation detects any suspicions that certain funds may derive from criminal activity or may be related to terrorist financing, it will notify the competent authorities in accordance with applicable law and regulation, and will comply with any applicable duties of confidentiality in this respect, as well as cooperate promptly with the relevant authorities.
5. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation adopts and maintains measures, procedures and internal control systems designed to ensure full compliance with sanctions and restrictive measures adopted by the European Union and/or the United Nations, as well as any other applicable sanctions regimes, and to comply with its legal obligations in that regard, including duties of compliance, cooperation with authorities, reporting/information and confidentiality.

ARTICLE 21

HARASSMENT PREVENTION

1. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation promotes and adopts non-discriminatory conduct, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, opinion or political affiliation, and condemns any form of moral or sexual harassment, verbal or physical humiliation, coercion or threats, as well as sexual abuse and exploitation.
2. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation has implemented measures to prevent and address any conduct involving sexual exploitation, abuse and/or harassment, in line with the principles set out in the Code of Good Conduct for the Prevention and Combating of Harassment at Work and in the Policy for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, available on the Foundation's website.

ARTICLE 22

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is committed to its sustainability pathway, seeking to comply with applicable environmental legislation and to implement best environmental management practices in relation to production processes and the processes associated with the implementation of this initiative, adopting a life-cycle approach to the relevant product/project and its value chain.

ARTICLE 23

FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is solely responsible for addressing any questions relating to these Guidelines.
2. For questions or clarifications, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation may be contacted at: info@gulbenkian.org.uk.
3. Any matters not expressly provided for in these Guidelines will be decided by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

ARTICLE 24 COMING INTO FORCE

These Guidelines enter into force on the date of their publication on gulbenkian.pt/uk-branch.