
JAZZAHEAD! 2025 BURSARIES

APPLICATION GUIDANCE

DEADLINE: 6pm Monday 20 January 2025



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What is jazzahead!?

jazzahead! is the largest gathering of world-class professional delegates working in jazz. The event features a trade fair, showcases and conference sessions. It is a professional and career development opportunity to expand awareness of the international jazz sector, and to network with industry professionals from all over the world: programmers, promoters, record labels, publishers, distributors, artist managers, broadcasters and journalists. In 2024, jazzahead! welcomed around 3,000 professional participants from 66 nations.

jazzahead! 2025 takes place Thursday 24 – Saturday 26 April 2025 in Bremen, Germany.

Registered participants of jazzahead! get access to the trade fair, showcase concerts and conference programme events, as well as to the online networking portal.

Further information

Further information about jazzahead! can be found at www.jazzahead.de/en/

Artist bursaries to attend jazzahead! 2025

Bursaries are available for Scotland-based artists to attend jazzahead! 2025 in Bremen, Germany.

The Artist Bursaries are funded by The National Lottery through Creative Scotland, working with Glasgow International Jazz Festival to coordinate and administer the bursaries.

Creative Scotland believes that attendance at jazzahead! encourages and enables artists working in Scotland's jazz and improvised music scenes to develop professional knowledge and international connections that enhance their careers, such as through future collaborations, bookings and other opportunities.

We recognise that these connections take time to develop and may not produce instant results. However, representing Scottish jazz and improvised music internationally is an important part of reflecting the full depth and breadth of Scotland's creative talent. Engagement with jazzahead! is part of a long-term approach to strengthening the domestic scene with more international opportunities in ways that have had strong positive results in other genres.

What does an Artist Bursary cover?

- jazzahead! registration costs (currently valued at around £183). Successful applicants will be expected to complete their own online registration using a code provided by Creative Scotland via the Delegate Manager.
- Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs will be booked and paid for by the Delegate Manager. As part of our commitment to environmental sustainability, we encourage travel via land, rather than flights. Artist Bursary recipients will be asked to discuss the practicalities of this with the Delegate Manager before travel is booked.
- Access support costs, as required, in addition to the items above.
- Pre-event briefings, advice and mentoring.
- Inclusion in promotional material produced by Creative Scotland for jazzahead! 2025. However, all delegates are also required to produce promotional material for their own work for the event.

If I am awarded a bursary, what does attendance at jazzahead! involve?

As an Artist Bursary delegate, we require you to:

- Commit to attending jazzahead! 2025 in person for at least 2 full days of the 3-day event.
- Have a valid passport and travel insurance at the time of the visit.
- Participate in information sessions with other delegates before the event.
- Create your own promotional material to use at the event.
- Provide promotional material (biography, photograph, links to music and social media) to Creative Scotland, and participate in filming a promotional showreel, to use at jazzahead!
- Prepare for the event using jazzahead!'s online resources.
- Provide feedback after the event as requested, including in a post-event meeting. This is likely to take place in May/June 2025.
- Remain aware of and comply with all COVID-19 regulations in Germany, Scotland and any other countries you may transit through when attending jazzahead!. This includes agreeing not to attend jazzahead! if restrictions do not allow travel.

We also invite all Artist Bursary delegates to staff the Scotland trade fair desk for at least one hour-long slot during the event to welcome delegates from other countries, answering their questions or sharing information about Scotland's jazz scene. Artists who attended jazzahead! in the past say that it is a good way to meet other international delegates. Staffing the desk is optional and we will give you the information you need to do this in whatever way suits you best.

Who can apply for an Artist Bursary to attend jazzahead!?

Scotland-based jazz and improvising musicians can apply for a 2025 Artist Bursary. Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are ready to take advantage of this opportunity.

We are aiming to support people who are attending jazzahead! for the first time, as well as people who have attended the event in the past. There is no limit on the amount of times you can have attended jazzahead! in the past, but you will only be eligible to apply for an Artist Bursary if you have received no more than two jazzahead! Artist Bursaries since the 2022 edition of jazzahead! (inclusive), when the bursary programme was set up in its current format. This is so that artists new to the event can be supported to attend, and artists who have attended on a few occasions in the past can continue building their professional networks and profiles at the event.

We envisage supporting around five delegates in total to attend the event in person in 2025, and that there will be a balance of new and returning delegates.

To be eligible to apply for an Artist Bursary:

- Applicants must currently be resident in Scotland.
- Applicants must be individual artists working in jazz and improvised music in Scotland. Individuals who are employed by an organisation but have their own distinctive artistic practice may apply if they wish to represent their own work and not the work of the organisation that employs them.
- Applicants must be available to travel to and attend jazzahead! 2025. The event takes place Thursday 24 – Saturday 26 April, with travel to take place 1-2 days either side of the event, depending on the type of transport used.
- Previous jazzahead! delegates can only have received one or two bursaries since jazzahead! 2022 (inclusive).

Who cannot apply for or receive an Artist Bursary to attend jazzahead!?

- Artists currently based outside Scotland cannot apply for a bursary.
- Artists who have received three bursaries to attend jazzahead! in person since 2022 (inclusive) cannot apply again. This is so that artists new to the event can be supported to attend, and artists who have attended on a few occasions in the past can continue building their professional networks and profiles at the event.
- Full-time students cannot apply for a bursary. Part-time students can apply, but will need to prove their part-time status and that the activity they are applying for does not contribute to their academic studies.
- Organisations or individuals who are not practising jazz or improvising artists cannot apply. Please contact Creative Scotland Enquiries to discuss whether the Open Funds for either Organisations or Individuals would be an appropriate alternative route to apply to.
- Artists who have been selected by jazzahead! for the 2025 showcase programme cannot be awarded a bursary. Please apply to the **PRSF International Showcase Fund** instead.

What are we looking for?

In order for artists to be able to make the most of this opportunity, we're looking for people who meet the following criteria by demonstrating:

- That their work is of a high quality, innovative, rooted in the jazz music genre and suitable for the jazzahead! market. We strongly recommend that potential delegates consult the **the attendee list on the website** to get an understanding of which organisations and individuals attend the event, and explore the **showcase videos from jazzahead! 2024** to see what kind of artistic work they prioritise.
- A committed track-record of working professionally in the Scottish jazz scene.
- That they and their work are export-ready (i.e. ready to tour, promote or export to an international market).
- That they will be able to clearly communicate, express and promote their work and practice to potential partners (eg promoters, labels, commissioners, artists).
- That they can convey what they aim to achieve by attending jazzahead! 2025 and why this point in their career is an appropriate time to do so.

Who will make the decisions on the Artist Bursaries?

The selection will be made by a panel that will include independent experts from the sector and Creative Scotland staff. Your application will therefore be shared with all members of the panel. Please read Glasgow International Jazz Festival's **Privacy Policy** to see how your personal information will be used.

We will aim to select a cohort of delegates that best represents the vibrancy and diversity of Scotland's jazz scene, and anticipate supporting around five artists in 2025. The panel reserves the right to support only one person per band. The panel also reserves the right not to support all applications, even if sufficient budget is available.

Timeline

Applications open: **Wednesday 18th December**

Deadline for applications: **6pm on Monday 20th January 2025**

When you will hear your decision: **by Friday 31 January 2025**

Pre-event briefing(s): **February – April 2025**

jazzahead! takes place: **Thursday 24 April – Saturday 26 April 2024**

Evaluations due: **Friday 2 May 2025**

Post-event debrief: **May/June 2025**

How to apply

Complete the Artist Bursaries application form, which can be found on the **Glasgow International Jazz Festival website**.

Please submit the completed form by email to **glasgow@jazzfest.co.uk** by **6pm on Monday 20 January 2025**.

Additional information, access support and questions

If you have any queries about jazzahead!, this bursary programme, or would like to speak to someone before submitting your application, please email **glasgow@jazzfest.co.uk** with 'JAZZAHEAD 2025' in the subject line

We offer access support to disabled applicants, tailored to individual requests. If you require any access support when making your application, or want to apply using an alternate format, please email **glasgow@jazzfest.co.uk** with '**JAZZAHEAD 2025 ACCESS SUPPORT**' in the subject line.

The deadline for all applications is **6pm, on Monday 20 January 2025**.

www.creativescotland.com
www.jazzfest.co.uk



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December 2025