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Stipend 2026 – information for applicants

Application deadline is 15. October 2025, at 13:00

The application portal opens around one month before the deadline.

Who nominates and awards?

The NBK Grant Committee processes applications on behalf of

- Norwegian Visual Artists' Fund (Billedkunstnernes Vederlagsfond – BKV)
- The Relief Fund for Visual Artists (Bildende Kunstneres Hjelpesfond – BKH)
- Government Grants for Artists (Statens Kunstnerstipend – SKS)
- Anne og Jakob Weidemanns stipend

The nominations are then sent to the granting institutions for the final decision.

How to apply?

Artist grants from BKV, BKH and Anne og Jakob Weidemanns stipend can be applied for via the NBK application portal: soknad.norskebilledkunstnere.no

Grants from the Government Grants for Artists can be applied for via the Arts Council Norway: <https://www.kulturdirektoratet.no/statens-kunstnerstipend>

When can you expect an answer?

The lists for grants from BKV and BKH are usually ready in April, and are then published on the NBK's website ([stipendtildelinger](https://stipendtildelinger.no)). Lists for the Government Grants for Artists are published on the web sites of the Arts Council Norway.

Do you need help or guidance?

Please contact NBK via stipend@norskebilledkunstnere.no

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Applicants for Government Grants for Artists are asked to contact The Arts Council Norway directly.

Applications for BKV, BKH and Anne og Jakob Weidemanns stipend:

The application must contain:

Important: If in addition to this application you also plan to apply as a visual artist for the Government Grant for Artists, we ask you apply with identical material in your application for NBK. This is due to the capacity of the committee.

Short summary of the application (maximum 1000 characters):

This text is meant to give the committee a quick understanding of your work thematically and technically, as well as what your plans for the grant period are. This text is important because it is often the first thing the committee reads in the application, often just before evaluating the artistic documentation.

About the artist (maximum 2000 characters):

This text should provide a deeper understanding of your work. You may for example write about overarching goals, motivation and impact for your work, as well as methods, materials and important projects. We recommend focusing on more recent artistic activity and projects from the last five years. This can work as a background for the documented artistic projects in the application.

Artistic plans (maximum 5000 characters):

This text should give the committee a deeper understanding of your work, and is the very reasoning for why you should be awarded a grant. The text should include an overall description of the artist (oeuvre), as well as describing the plans you have for a possible grant period. For example, you can write about artistic goals and key elements of the artistic work. Please emphasize activity and projects from the last five years (background for documented artworks in the application). What plans do you have for the grant period? This can be, for example, specific exhibitions, projects, courses or in-depth studies, exploration, experimentation, etc. Explain what you want to explore, why you want to do it, how to do it and in what larger context your work is in. Agreements and contracts should not be included in the application, but confirmed agreements can be mentioned in this text or in the CV.

We always recommend keeping your text short and concise, as the committee has to read through a great deal of applications in a short amount of time.

CV:

A CV of up to two A4 pages is uploaded as a pdf. Order the activity in a way that places the most recent exhibitions or other activity at the top. If you have a long CV we recommend that you make a selection and accentuate high points from your career where extra focus is put on activity from recent years. The use of Æ, Ø, Å, space or other special characters is not permitted in the file name.

The CV should contain the following information:

- Relevant artistic education and courses
- Artistic activity and production – both completed and planned projects.
Upcoming activity is only to be included in the CV if confirmed. Mark this clearly as “upcoming”. We recommend a clear division between solo and group exhibitions.
- Other relevant information related to artistic activity, like previously received grants, prizes, commissions and similar.

Attachment - artistic documentation:

Documentation of up to 7 works can be attached as image, video or sound. The attachments should be representative of the artist and should mainly document recent works from the last five years. We do not accept physical artistic documentation.

Digital images are preferably uploaded as pdf files, but jpg and png format can also be used. If you upload images as pdf files, all documentation (maximum 7 works) should be gathered in one pdf. You may have up to 2 pages per work, which means the pdf may consist of up to 14 pages. We recommend including a picture of the work installed in a space as well as more detailed closeups. Information about artistic medium, materials, format, title and year of production can be written directly into the pdf, but we recommend avoiding larger amounts of text in addition to this. It is recommended to place the newest documentation first. If you upload using a jpg or png format this information can be included in the file name and in the designated fields directly in the application form. It is also recommended that the visual material is delivered in horizontal format as this is most ideal for displaying on screen (1080x1920). Make sure that any text included in a pdf is big enough to be readable when viewed fullscreen without having to zoom.

Video and audio works can be attached as a web link in the portal, such as Vimeo or SoundCloud. The material cannot exceed 5 minutes. It is recommended that longer material is clearly divided into excerpts. Web links should point directly to the material in

question. If login information is required, passwords must be entered in the text box of each attachment. The material must be available for at least 6 months after the application deadline. If you have more than one video, it is recommended to gather these into one video-link, if possible.

Remember that video also can be used to document exhibitions, publications or similar, where image documentation is not sufficient.

The committee will only go through excerpts equal to the allowed amount of artistic documentation, if the attached material exceeds the allowed page- or minute-limitations. If you do not have the opportunity to upload video and audio work as a web link, you can submit this on a memory stick. The attachments must be in standard audio or video format that can be played from a computer. The material must be postmarked or delivered in person by the deadline of **15 October 2025 at 13:00**. The correct return postage must be attached if you want the memory stick returned.

NB:

Agreements and contracts are not to be attached in the application, but confirmed agreements may be mentioned in the application text or the CV.

Attachments can not be sent after the deadline. There will not be a chance to correct errors after the deadline.

NBK does not accept attachments that exceed what is asked for in the application form. Applications and attachments that are sent in after the deadline will not be evaluated.

Applicants that do not have the possibility to deliver an application to BKV and BKH through NBK's application portal can contact NBK for having paper forms sent to them. If applicable, visual material and attachments must then be delivered on a memory stick together with the filled-out forms. Applications on paper must be delivered to NBK or postmarked within the deadline. Applications and attachments post-stamped on a later date will not be processed.

Guidelines for BKV and BKH

Norwegian Visual Artists' Fund – Billedkunstnernes Vederlagsfond (BKV)

Last adjustment September 2025

The grant schemes from Norwegian Visual Artists' Fund are made to contribute to a diverse artistic activity and production, through securing an economical foundation for the artistic work of visual artists.

All visual artists that mainly live and work in Norway can apply for grants independent of age, gender, place of residence, artistic expression or organizational affiliation. A sum for grants is set aside by the fund's board yearly, and this is administered and awarded through Norske Billedkunstnere and Norske Billedkunstnere's Grant Committee. The board can tie additional requirements for the committee's use of these means.

The Fund's grants can not be awarded in the following instances:

- Where the applicant is a holder of GI (Statens garantiinntekt for kunstnere), the Grant for Senior artists, the Grant for Established Artists, Work Grants from the Government, grants from Norwegian Visual Artists' Fund or artist grants from the Relief Fund for Visual Artists in the year of allocation.

There is an exemption in instances where the applicant in the allocation year receives one or more payments from a previous grant that expires or has been postponed and only takes place a part of the year, per example with instances of illness or parental leave. In such instances an allocated grant from the fund will be proportionally truncated for the overlapping period, so that the allocated grant from BKV and the remaining payments of the previous grant in total does not exceed the amount of the largest grant of the ordinary grants from BKV.

- Where the applicant simultaneously is awarded the Grant for Senior artists, the Grant for Established Artists, Work Grants from the Government or artist grants from the Relief Fund for Visual Artists.
- Where the applicant is undergoing education in the allocation semester. This encompasses all types of education, including non-artistic education.

Exceptions apply if the educational programme makes up to a percentage of 50 (15 credits per semester).

Holders of grants from the fund cannot at the same time receive:

- GI (Statens garantiinntekt for kunstnere), the Grant for Senior artists, the Grant for Established Artists, Work Grants from the Government or artist grants from the Relief Fund for Visual Artists
- Temporary grants from the government, where the same limitation is applied for lasting governmental grants.

If holders of grants from Norwegian Visual Artists' Fund are allocated and at the same time will receive one of the abovementioned grants, the right to receive the remaining amounts of their grant from BKH is retracted and the funds are reverted back to BKH.

The Rune Brynstad Memorial Grant is BKH's largest one-year grant, and is applied for at the same time as the other grants from the fund. The allocation is marked by a reception with focus on the receiver, Rune Brynstad and the fund.

The Relief Fund for Visual Artists – Bildende Kunstneres Hjelpefond (BKH)

Last adjusted September 2025

Stipends and other individual grants from BKH can be allocated to artists within the visual field that mainly have, or have had, their artistic practice in Norway. The grant is allocated independent of gender, nationality, place of residence or organizational affiliation. By "artist" one considers practitioners within the visual field that professionally and occupationally produce, or have produced, the type of work that is levied after The Art Tax (Kunstavgiften). The artistic grants are allocated on grounds of artistic quality, after criteria that are set for the different types of grants.

BKH Artist Grant – BKH Kunstnerstipend

Purpose: BKH Artist Grant has the purpose of giving the opportunity and space for artists to concentrate on their artistic work. The grants are primarily of three years, but may also be allocated as one- and two-year grants.

Allocation criteria: The grants are allocated on grounds of artistic quality. The grant cannot be allocated to artists who receive GI (Statens garantiinntekt for kunstnere) or other grants that are paid out beyond the month of April the year the grant is to be given out. Artists who are undergoing education of more than 15 credits per semester in the allocation year, cannot receive a grant.

Allocation process: The allocation of the artist grant from BKH is made by grants committees from the corresponding artist organizations. The grant is allocated through the ordinary grant-application process, and one has to fulfill the formal demands for application and visual documentation that is established through this process.

Grant size: The board of the fund decides every year how many grants are to be allocated, the distribution and amount of grants per artist group/grant committee, and what size these grants are to have. The yearly payment of the grants are not to sink for holders of the grants within the three-year period. For instances where holders of grants of more than one year from BKH, apply for and are allocated a new grant, or start education of more than 15 credits per semester the following year, the right to the grant is removed and goes back to the fund.

Payment: The yearly grant payment is paid out in full without withholding tax as soon as BKH has received the message of which applicants have been allocated grants. The grants are reported as remuneration to the owner of intellectual property, and may be entered as business income.

BKH Artist Grant for Senior Artists – BKH kunstnerstipend for seniorkunstnere

Purpose: BKH Artist Grant for Senior Artists has the purpose of stimulating artistic work for older, active artists. The board decides every year how many grants are to be given out, as well as the size of the grant.

Who can apply

The grant may be allocated to artists who turn 57 years of age in the application year, and who wish to work with a specific artistic project. The grant may also be used for exploration in one's own artistic work, for example studies or exploration of artistic practice.

The application must contain a description of the project/artistic exploration one wishes to undertake, using the grant.

Allocation criteria: The grant is allocated on grounds of artistic quality after further specified criteria. The grant cannot be allocated to artists who receive GI (Statens garantiinntekt for kunstnere) or other grants that are paid out beyond the month of April the year the grant is to be given out.

Allocation process: The allocation of the grant is made by each artistic group, as part of the ordinary grant-application process set up by the artist organisations. One has to fulfill

the formal demands for application and documentation that is established through this process.

Grant size: The board of the fund decides every year how many grants are to be allocated, the distribution and amount of grants per artist group/grant committee, and what size these grants are to have.

Payment: The yearly grant payment is paid out in full without withholding tax as soon as the board of BKH has processed the allocations from the grant committees. The grants are reported as remuneration to the owner of intellectual property, and may be entered as business income.

Guidelines for Anne and Jakob Weidemanns stipend

Anne and Jakob Weidemanns stipend is one of Norway's largest grants for artists and is allocated yearly to a mid-career artist who stands out with their exceptional artistic work. The grant was founded in 2024 by the Ringsveen foundation which in 1999 was founded by Anne and Jakob Weidemann for the support of Norwegian visual artists. The grant consists of kr. 400.000 in 2025.

The grant is allocated by NBK's grant committee as a part of the grant evaluation process for visual artists. The guideline for the grant follows the guidelines for artist grants from BKV.

Differences between governmental working grants and grants from BKH and BKH

The governmental work grants and the ten-year grants given out by Kulturdirektoratet, is paid monthly as earned income. For these grants there is a demand that the receiver can not work more than 50% in another position. One attains social rights by receiving work grants, since the grants are paid as earned income and the state pays employer's tax to the Folketrygd. be aware that there is a report duty from the Government Grants for Artists. For more information see kulturdirektoratet.no.

The grants from BKH and BKH are paid in one and two payouts, respectively, and are counted as business income. In this instance there is no income limit, and the artist can be allocated grants from BKH and BKH even though they already have a job with an employment percentage above 50%. These grants do not provide the same social rights as the work grants. However, as business income, one can deduct expenses in the tax returns, and only the potential profit is taxable.

About BKV and BKH

Norwegian Visual Artists' Fund (Billedkunstnernes Vederlagsfond – BKV) and The Relief Fund for Visual Artists (Bildende Kunstneres Hjelpfond – BKH) manage funds from collective initiatives that constitute an important part of the direct support of visual artists.

Norwegian Visual Artists' Fund (Billedkunstnernes Vederlagsfond – BKV) manage the collective funds from “visningsvederlag” for exhibiting visual art owned by the public, as well as collective compensation funds from “kopieringsvederlag” (charged by Kopinor) and “kabelvederlag” (charged by Norwaco). The compensation funds go directly back to the visual artists through grants and project support.

The Relief Fund for Visual Artists (Bildende Kunstneres Hjelpfond – BKH) manages the statutory Art Tax of 5% on public sale of art with a price that exceeds 2 000 NOK. The tax funds are put towards new production of art through fundings and grants for artists that mainly have or have had their work in Norway

General tips for a good application

- The committee has to evaluate a great amount of applications in a short span of time, so it is important to get to the core of your work early on in the text. Keep the text short and to the point, and avoid unnecessary complicated terms and language. It is not expected that the applicant should write the maximum amount of words allowed. Some will need more text than others in order for the committee to fully understand their work.
- Prioritize to use time on the text, this is important. Get help from others to read through the text, and sleep on it before you hand in the application. A clear and concise text will provide a good entrance point to the distinct qualities of your work. Remember that the committee members that are going to read your application are all artists themselves.
- Focus on the art when writing your application. If you have had longer periods of low activity due to parental leave, illness or other causes, this can be explained with a short sentence or a point in the CV if you find it to be relevant for the committee's evaluation.
- Be careful when writing your CV. The information you give here will make up the foundation for the activity assessment. Completed exhibitions and projects must

be written correctly, and upcoming activity that is mentioned must be confirmed.

- Follow the limitations when it comes to the number of image attachments and minutes of video/sound. If you extend beyond this limitation the committee will only be able to look through parts of your documentation, and you lose control over what the committee will be able to evaluate.
- Have in mind that the artistic documentation that you deliver should give the committee a quick understanding of the project's format, size and other qualities. Feel free to put an installation picture or picture of a detail in addition to documentation of the work itself (if you upload a two-page pdf). A publication can also be documented as a video that shows someone reading through it. Do not place too much text in the picture files, this might disturb the committee's evaluation of the project. Divide the text into paragraphs and use headlines to mark the parts of the text that are connected to the documentation.
- Remember that video also can be used to document exhibitions, publications and similar, where images are not seen as sufficient documentation.
- Apply to all of the grants you are qualified for. Deliver an application in both application portals (NBK and the Arts Council Norway) if you have the opportunity.
- There are many people on the line seeking assistance the last few days before the deadline, so it is ideal to start on the application well ahead of the deadline.
- We recommend that you work with the text locally on your computer and save it there before pasting it into the application form. This is in case of technical difficulties.
- If your practice demands further explanation connected to your artistic documentation, this can be explained in more detail in your text under "Kunstneriske planer". Remember to use line breaks and to clearly mark the parts of the text that are connected to the artistic documentation.