

Who assesses your application?

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We use external peer assessors to assess applications for all our project funding programmes.

Peer assessment is critical to Creative New Zealand's decision-making process for funding. External peer assessors are people from the creative sector who do not work at Creative New Zealand and come from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. The external peer assessors use their knowledge and expertise to provide independent and impartial advice.

External peer assessors can nominate themselves for the role or be nominated by other people in the arts sector (there is information on our website about how to nominate an external peer assessor). The Arts Council approves all external peer assessors before they participate in a funding round.

All external peer assessors are registered for a period of five years. There are approximately 400– 450 assessors on the register at any time and we use up to 200 of them annually.

The role of external peer assessor is explained in the [Peer Assessor Terms and Conditions](#) on our website.

We select external peer assessors for each funding round based on a number of factors, including but not limited to their availability, artform experience and previous performance in other funding rounds.

We ask external peer assessors to declare any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest so we can manage these conflicts to ensure a robust and fair process. Assessors who have a financial interest (either direct or indirect) in a funding round are not used as assessors for that round.

Conflict of Interest protocols are set out in full in the [Peer Assessor Terms and Conditions](#).

Before participating in each funding round, each external peer assessor is given a briefing and assessment training. We also try to use a mix of new and experienced assessors for each round. They are generally selected because of their expertise in a relevant artform or genre.

In most funding rounds we use two assessors per application, however occasionally we use three assessors for funding rounds with higher financial thresholds.

Applications submitted to our Ngā toi Māori and Pacific arts funding pools must be assessed by Māori and Pacific assessors, respectively.
