

Regulations Governing Development Grants for Literary Creators

The board of the Dutch Foundation for Literature,
mindful of the Dutch General Administrative Law Act,
mindful of Article 10, Section 4, of the Dutch Cultural Policy Act,
mindful of the General Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature
has decided to adopt the following Regulations Governing Development Grants for Literary
Creators

Article 1. Definitions

In these regulations, the below terms are defined as follows:

- a. *advanced literary creator*: writer or image maker of original Dutch-, Papiamento- or Frisian-language literary work who focuses on the presentation of their own largely Dutch-, Papiamento- or Frisian-language literary creation and who at the time of application has received a project grant within the past two years
- b. *beginner literary creator*: writer or image maker of original Dutch-, Papiamento- or Frisian-language literary work who focuses on the presentation of their own largely Dutch-, Papiamento- or Frisian-language literary creation and of whom no book publication based on a publishing contract has yet been published
- c. *board*: the board of the Dutch Foundation for Literature
- d. *book publication*: an original literary work in book form in the Dutch, English, Papiamento or Frisian language in the following genres: prose, nonfiction, poetry, children's and young adult literature, plays or graphic narrative, including graphic novels, illustrated children's and young adult literature, and picture books
- e. *English*: the English language as used by its native speakers in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- f. *Foundation*: the Dutch Foundation for Literature
- g. *graphic narrative*: fiction and nonfiction books for children and/or adults in which the illustrations enter into a creative dialogue with the text, such as graphic novels, picture books, illustrated novels, novels, young adult novels, or books without words in which the illustrations tell the story
- h. *graphic novel*: a book publication with a series of drawn or painted images that have a narrative connection between them
- i. *Papiamento*: Papiamento and Papiamentu

- j. *project grant*: project grant based on the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Literary Creators or the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Publications
- k. *publisher*: a legal entity that on a continual basis is engaged in business activities for the purpose of publishing literary works, and that complies with the following conditions:
 - has at its disposal an independent, expert editorial staff that supports the author in the creation of the literary work
 - the literary works published and to be published are presented to the book trade on a regular basis, at least once a year, in the form of a catalogue, and are distributed in paper book form to the mainstream book trade, and
 - the publisher supplies its literary works with an ISBN
- l. *publishing contract*: an agreement between author and publisher concerning the exploitation rights in the publication in which as a minimum the terms of the royalty percentage and the license have been agreed upon as laid down by the Groep Algemene Uitgevers / Literaire Uitgeversgroep (GAU / LUG) and Auteursbond [Model Contract](#) for Literary Translations
- m. *website*: the website of the Dutch Foundation for Literature, to be found at www.letterenfonds.nl.

Article 2: Activities for which a grant is available

1. Based on these regulations, the Foundation can award development grants for literary creators, whether beginners or advanced.
2. The development grant is intended as a contribution towards the costs of education, coaching, guidance and editing, or towards the costs of travel and accommodation for purposes of education or research in the home country or abroad.
3. The development grant is intended for activities that must take place a maximum of three years after the grant is awarded.
4. The development grant is not to be used towards the costs of full-time or part-time HBO or WO writing courses, or towards the costs of permanent residence or subsistence, or for domestic expenses, electronic aids such as smartphones and laptops or materials of any other kind.

Article 3. Requirements of the applicant

1. The literary creator who is a beginner has never before received a development grant and complies with at least one of the following conditions:
 - i. the applicant has been provided by a publisher, no more than two years ago, with a declaration of intent
 - ii. the applicant has concluded, no more than two years ago, a publishing contract with a publisher
 - iii. the applicant has in the past two years engaged in a performance focused on the presentation of their own largely Dutch-, Papiamentu- or Frisian-language literary creation as part of a literary happening or literary educational activity, for which activities a grant was awarded by the Foundation
 - iv. the applicant completed an HBO or WO writing course between one and three years ago
 - v. the applicant has published their work, within the past two years, in a literary magazine that has been awarded a multi-year grant by the Foundation
 - vi. the applicant has, within the past two years, taken part in a talent-development programme by the Foundation
 - vii. the applicant has, no more than two years ago, received a grant based on the Foundation's Regulations Governing Creators Beyond the Book, or
 - viii. the applicant has, no more than two years ago, received a grant based on the Caribe Literature Scheme.
2. If the application for a development grant is rejected, the applicant cannot submit a new application until the following calendar year.
3. The advanced literary creator has at the time of application received a project grant within the past two years.
4. Advanced literary creators who have received a development grant in the past qualify for another development grant only if they have since been awarded a project grant and if the previous activities for which a development grant was awarded have been completed.

Article 4. Application

1. An application for a grant is submitted via the website by making use of the application form provided on the website via 'Start your application'.
2. The application form must be completed truthfully, fully and according to the guidelines in the explanatory notes included with the application form, and accompanied by all mandatory attachments. The application must be made in either Dutch or English.

3. An application consists of the following mandatory elements:
- a. a fully completed application form, via ‘Start your application’ on the website
 - b. a development plan compiled according to the model made available on the Foundation’s website
 - c. a budget
 - d. evidence showing that the applicant complies with at least one of the conditions as defined in Article 3, Section 1
 - e. where applicable, a reflection on how earlier development grants received by the applicant have contributed to the applicant’s own talent development.

Article 5. Assessment criteria

1. The board assesses all applications based on the following criteria:

criterion 1: the quality of the development plan, and

criterion 2: the realism of the budget.

The costs of the intended activities must be in reasonable proportion to the objective of those activities. Aspects such as durability and functionality may be of relevance here.

2. The applicant qualifies for a grant only if:

- a. the assessment of both criteria is positive, and
- b. the applicant has spent an earlier development grant according to the requirements attached to that development grant.

3. After a decision to reject an application based on evaluation according to the assessment criteria, that application cannot be resubmitted.

Article 6. Size of grant

The size of the grant is determined based on the budget submitted and ranges from a minimum of €500 to a maximum of €2,500.

Article 7. Funding rounds and budget ceiling

1. The board deals with applications in the order in which they are submitted. As an exception to Article 11, Section 6, of the General Regulations of the Dutch Foundation for Literature, the time at which a complete application is received is regarded as the time of submission.

2. The budget ceiling is €200,000 per year and consists of a partial budget ceiling of €125,000 for advanced literary creators and a partial budget ceiling of €75,000 for beginner

literary creators. Any changes to the budget ceiling and the partial budget ceilings are announced by the Foundation in the *Staatscourant* and on the website.

3. The board rejects an application if awarding it would mean exceeding the budget ceiling.

Article 8. Obligations of the recipient of the grant

1. The recipient of the grant spends the grant on carrying out the activities described in the development plan.

2. The recipient of the grant notifies the Foundation without delay of any substantial changes to the development plan submitted with the application.

3. The recipient of the grant must have completed the activities described in the development plan within a year of the date of the decision to award the grant.

4. If the recipient of the grant cannot complete the activities, or cannot complete them within a year, the recipient must report this to the board immediately, making known the reasons.

5. The board can impose further obligations when deciding to award the grant.

Article 9. Decision on awarding a grant and on its terms

1. When awarding a grant, the board immediately decides on the size of the said grant.

2. That decision includes the way in which the grant will be paid.

Article 10. Decision period

The board makes its decision within 8 weeks of the time at which the application is submitted.

Article 11. Grounds for withdrawal of and alterations to the terms of a grant

1. The board can withdraw a grant or alter the terms on which it has been awarded if the recipient of the grant has not complied with the obligations attached to that grant.

2. If the board establishes that substantial changes have been made with respect to the information provided in the application, the board can alter the terms of the grant or withdraw the grant.

3. The board can alter the terms of the grant or withdraw the grant if the activities have not taken place within three years of the awarding of the grant and the recipient of the grant has not, in the judgement of the board, been able to provide well-founded reasons for this.

4. The board can change the terms of the grant or withdraw the grant by virtue of the death of the recipient of the grant.

5. The withdrawal of the grant or alteration to the terms of the grant applies back to and including the time at which the grant was awarded, unless it is decided otherwise at the time of withdrawal or alteration.
6. The sum by which the grant may be reduced will either be set against any parts of the grant yet to be paid or reclaimed from the recipient.

Article 12. Hardship clause

The board can, mindful of the interest these regulations aim to protect, decline to apply an article of these regulations or deviate from it insofar as its strict application would lead to gross unfairness.

Article 13. Coming into force

1. These regulations come into force as of 1 January 2026.
2. The Foundation's Regulations Governing Development Grants is repealed.

Article 14. Official title

These regulations are to be cited as *Regeling ontwikkelbeurzen voor makers van boeken* (Regulations Governing Development Grants for Literary Creators)

These regulations shall be placed in Dutch in the *Staatscourant* and published on the Foundation's website.

The board of the Dutch Foundation for Literature,
As represented by,

R.N. de Bildt, managing director

Explanatory notes

As of 2026 the Foundation for Dutch Literature is increasing the opportunities for literary creators to apply for a grant. The revised Regulations Governing Project Grants for Literary Creators mean that henceforth debutants, illustrators of picture books and graphic narratives, and literary creators in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will be included among those who qualify for a grant.

This broadening is carried through into the revised Regulations Governing Development Grants for Literary Creators. By means of these regulations, the Foundation is investing in the artistic and cultural entrepreneurship of writers and illustrators. The grant is intended for their professional development, whether it is a matter of coaching, education, (additional) editing or a research trip within their home country or abroad. The regulations thereby contribute to the future-proofing of the literary field in which talent can continually deepen and rejuvenate.

New is that writers who have not yet published their debut qualify for a development grant. This means that talented writers and illustrators who are at the start of their career can apply for a one-off grant to aid their professional development. These are creators of whom no book publication based on a publishing contract has yet been published.

Who qualifies?

1. Advanced literary creators

Writers and illustrators who within the past two years have received a grant under the Regulations Governing Project Grants for Literary Creators.

2. Beginner literary creators

Talented writers and illustrators who have not yet made their debut qualify for a development grant if within the past two years they have complied with one of the following conditions:

- a publisher has provided them with a declaration of intent
- the applicant has concluded a publishing contract with a publisher
- the applicant has participated in a talent development programme provided by the Foundation
- the applicant has participated in a literary happening or literary educational activity subsidized by the Foundation

- the applicant has published work in a literary magazine that is supported by the Foundation
- the applicant has received a subsidy through the Foundation's Regulations Governing Creators Beyond the Book or the Caribe Literature Scheme.
- the applicant, at the time of application, completed an HBO or WO writing course a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3 years ago.

Beginner literary creators who are still taking an HBO or WO writing course do not qualify, because those courses are already supplied with support for artistic development. Beginner literary creators who have completed a course in an artistic discipline do not qualify for this grant, for the reason given above, until at least a year after they have completed the course.

For what can application be made?

The development grant is intended to strengthen the professional practice of writing. Literary creators can use the grant for a diversity of activities that contribute to their craftsmanship and professional practice. Think for example of coaching or guidance, such as extra editing or a mentorship, participation in courses or workshops, or a research trip or residence in their own country or abroad. Further development of cultural entrepreneurship is also an option, for example through education or specific guidance. It is important that the route chosen fits with the phase that the creator has currently reached and is properly substantiated in the development plan.

How much can I apply for?

The grant is for a minimum of €500 and a maximum of €2,500 per application.

How does application work?

Applications for the development grant can be submitted at any time via the online application form on the Foundation's website. An application consists of a development plan compiled according to the model available on the Foundation's website and a balanced budget. If the application is complete and the applicant complies with the threshold conditions, it will be considered and its content assessed. The board makes its decision within 8 weeks of the submission of an application.

How is an application assessed?

Applications are assessed according to the following two criteria:

1. Quality of the development plan

What are the development goals and how do these fit with the applicant's literary practice? Are the plans realistic and achievable in structure and time schedule? Does the plan make clear why this development is relevant for the applicant at this time? And how sustainable is the investment: will implementing the plan provide insights or skills that the applicant can deploy in the longer term, or for a specific project?

If the application includes a trip abroad, the assessment will involve an examination of the extent to which the journey is relevant to the programme with respect to its content. The Foundation will also look at the sustainability of the journey, including the number of kilometres and the costs in relation to the nature and extent of the planned activities.

2. Realism of the budget

Is the budget complete, correct and realistic? Are the costs proportionate in relation to the development the applicant has in mind. The budget must balance.

What does the grant not cover?

- Material expenses, the rental or purchase of equipment (such as telephones, tablets, computers and photo or video cameras)
- Projects that are largely outsourced to third parties (such as building a website or producing a podcast)
- Travel abroad that qualifies for a grant under the Regulations Governing the Costs of Foreign Travel
- Full-time or part-time courses at universities or colleges of further education.

When can a subsequent application be made?

- **Advanced literary creators:** a new application is possible as soon as another project grant has been awarded. From that moment a new two-year period begins within which application can be made for a development grant.
- The development grant for **beginner literary creators** can be awarded only once. As an exception to this, on substantive grounds a fresh application can be made in the following calendar year.