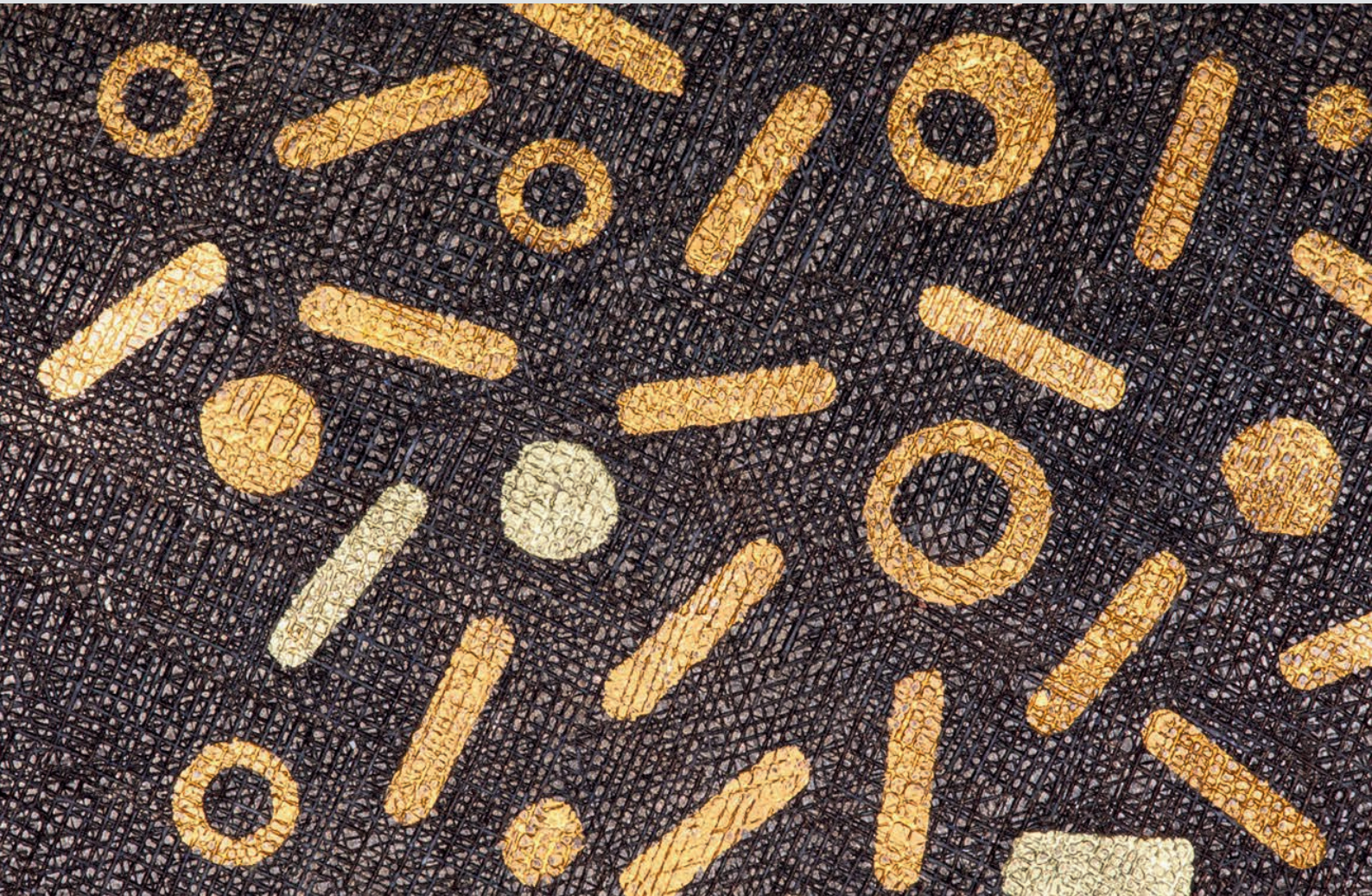




Inches Carr Award 2026

Application Pack & Guidance

**Prepared by Craft Scotland
June 2026**

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Introduction

Applications are now open for the Inches Carr Craft Bursaries 2026 (formerly the Inches Carr Craft Awards).

For over 25 years, the Inches Carr Trust has supported many of Scotland's makers, providing recognition of their talent and support for the development of their craft practice. The Trust was formed in 1995 to commemorate the lives of Deirdre Inches and her husband Malcolm Carr. Its objectives are centred on the aspects of the decorative arts and music in which they were interested.

Deirdre was the daughter of Ian and Betty Inches who ran the established Edinburgh firm of Hamilton & Inches, silversmiths and jewellers. Deirdre met Malcolm when she was in London undertaking her training in the jewellery business. Following their marriage they both became Directors of Hamilton & Inches.

Malcolm Carr was an expert in antique jewellery and particularly cameos. Deirdre was interested in design and especially in design of the late 19th and early 20th century. It was during this period that Hamilton & Inches created a number of particularly interesting pieces of silver, some of which are in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Following the winding down of the Inches Carr Trust in 2021, Craft Scotland has been entrusted with stewardship of the craft-related awards and will distribute bursaries from the remaining capital fund.

The Bursaries

Deadline for applications is **5pm, Monday 31 August 2026**.

The awards consist of two categories:

Inches Carr Craft Bursary: Established Maker

There will be **two** bursaries awarded in 2026, each for an amount of £5,000.

Inches Carr Craft Bursary: Emerging Maker

There will be **four** bursaries awarded in 2026, each for an amount of £2,000.

Please select the most appropriate bursary for you based on the Maker Criteria and Eligibility. You may only apply for one bursary at time of application, either Established or Emerging.

Established Maker

Criteria

These bursaries are for makers who have been practising professionally for five years or more and are looking to develop their practice through strategic research and skills development. This could be through the learning of a new skill, the opportunity to attend a course that would significantly improve existing skills, or a residency to achieve these objectives.

You should be producing one-off pieces or small batch production of handmade objects. All work must reflect excellence and the unique vision of its maker, be well-conceived and skilfully made. If you are using digital technologies and modern materials within your work, we expect you to demonstrate that hand skill and craft knowledge is the lead component in both the concept and finished object.

You may be:

- A self-taught maker or one who has come to the profession via informal education routes (community education, evening classes etc.)

- A graduate (of any discipline or subject) working within the craft sector
- A maker moving into a craft profession later in life, or as a second career
- A maker who is now looking for ways to develop their craft practice

Eligibility

- Makers must be living and working in Scotland
- Makers who have previously been successful in receiving an Inches Carr Bursary (previously known as Inches Carr Awards) may only apply again for funds after a period of five years from the date they were successful
- Applicants should be a professional practicing maker. This will be evidence-based from the maker statement, CV and images provided
- Makers should be working in one or more of the accepted [Craft Scotland disciplines](#)
- All work should be the design of the maker and made by the maker (or small-batch production under their direct supervision)

Emerging Maker

Criteria

These bursaries are for makers who have been practicing professionally for between one and five years.

The proposed activity may include: innovative investigation of processes and materials; exploration of aspects of developing a sustainable practice; development of work with the potential for commercial application; an apprenticeship or mentoring arrangement; further learning in the field of contemporary craft (not including formal college or university diploma or degree courses).

This is not an exhaustive list. We are keen to hear from you about areas you have identified for your development. Any of these activities may be undertaken in the UK or abroad.

You should be producing one-off pieces or small batch production of handmade objects. All work must reflect excellence and the unique vision of its maker, be well-conceived and skilfully made. If you are using digital technologies and modern materials within your work, we expect you to demonstrate that hand skill and craft knowledge is the lead component in both the concept and finished object.

You may be:

- A self-taught maker or one who has come to the profession via informal education routes (community education, evening classes etc.)
- A formally trained maker
- A maker moving into a craft profession later in life, or as a second career
- A maker who is now looking for ways to develop a new or relatively new craft business

Eligibility

- Makers must be living and working in Scotland
- Makers who have previously been successful in receiving an Inches Carr Bursary (previously known as Inches Carr Awards) may only apply again for funds after a period of five years from the date they were successful
- Applicants should be a professional practicing maker. This will be evidence-based from the maker statement, CV and images provided
- Makers should be working in one or more of the accepted [Craft Scotland disciplines](#)
- All work should be the design of the maker and made by the maker (or small-batch production under their direct supervision)

Selection criteria and process

Established Maker selection

Selection for the Established Maker Bursaries will be a three-stage process: application form, shortlisting and online discussion session with shortlisted applicants.

Shortlisting will be done by a selection panel made up of the Craft Scotland team.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to talk through their application during an informal online discussion with the selection panel and external panellists.

This process is designed to allow shortlisted applicants the opportunity to talk about their proposal and ask questions of the panel. This informal meeting will take place online and will last around 30 minutes.

Your application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Evidence of a sustained creative and business practice
- All work must reflect excellence and the unique vision of its maker, be well-conceived and skilfully made
- A clear proposal showing how you intend to use the bursary
- A detailed budget
- Demonstration of how existing skills will be improved and how new skills will impact your practice
- Demonstration of how this specific bursary will impact your practice development as a whole

Emerging Maker selection

Selection for the Inches Carr Craft Bursary: Emerging Maker will be assessed on your application only.

All applicants who meet the maker eligibility and criteria will be assessed and shortlisted by Craft Scotland, with shortlisted candidates' applications assessed by a selection panel who will decide the final recipients. The panel will include members of the Craft Scotland team and two external panellists.

Your application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Evidence of an aspiration to develop a professional creative and business practice
- All work must reflect excellence and the unique vision of its maker, be well-conceived and skilfully made
- A clear proposal showing how you intend to use the bursary
- A detailed budget
- Demonstration of how existing skills will be improved and how new skills will impact your practice
- Demonstration of how this specific bursary will impact your practice development as a whole

Inclusion and access for all

Craft is culturally significant, essential to our economy and meaningful to our communities. Craft Scotland believes that everyone should have the opportunity to see, enjoy, learn about and participate in craft.

We are committed to equality and opposed to all forms of unfair discrimination, and welcome applications from those who are underrepresented in the craft sector. Where required, we can offer additional non-financial access support to bursary awardees to enable you to take your projects through to completion.

Support with your application

Please do get in touch, if you are interested in this opportunity but feel there are barriers limiting your ability to apply and/or participate in the informal discussion element. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Accessibility
- Travel
- Slow internet

This application form is available in large and word formats, and we are happy to accept video applications.

If you require any assistance to complete your application, we can support costs for scribing, which is where you can share your answers with someone who will fill out the form on your behalf. Please contact us by Monday 10 of August to allow us time to assist you in advance of the closing date.

We are happy to answer any questions you might have about your application. Contact the team via email hello@craftscotland.org.

Key dates

Event/Deadline	Date
Deadline to request scribing support	Monday 10 August
Deadline for receipt of all applications	Monday 31 August
Established Maker Bursary shortlisted applicants: online discussion sessions	w/c 5 October
Emerging and Established Maker Bursaries: All applicants notified of the outcome of their application	By w/c 19 October

Responsibilities

Maker responsibilities

As a successful awardee here are some of the key things that we expect:

- Manage your project as required to meet its aims and objectives
- Manage the budget you included with your application
- Maintain communication with the Craft Scotland team as necessary
- Contribute to any case studies, articles, written pieces as requested by Craft Scotland
- Provide feedback as requested at the end of the project

While we encourage makers to consider applying for a profile on the [Craft Scotland Maker Directory](#), please note this is not a criterion of application for this opportunity.

Craft Scotland responsibilities:

Some of the things you can expect from Craft Scotland:

- Support can be provided for applicants prior to the application deadline
- Where required, we can offer non-financial access support to bursary awardees
- We will promote the awards through our marketing and PR campaigns

How to apply

Applicants should apply through the [Craft Scotland online application form](#).

Before starting your application, please be aware that you will need to submit:

- A brief description of your current practice to date (no more than 300 words)
- A proposal of what you would like to do if you received the bursary (no more than 300 words)
- A full estimated breakdown of costs for the project
- Reasons why you are interested in this bursary and how you think your business will benefit (300 words)
- Your CV
- An image of you- preferably this would be a photograph of you at work, with your work, in your studio or delivering a workshop
- Five high-quality images your work that is best representative of your practice.

Advice for applying

- We recommend you prepare your answers on a separate document before beginning your application form, to make sure you have a back-up of your responses.
- We recommend you visit our online resource [A Maker's Guide to Applications](#) on our website before applying.

Make the most of your application with these tips:

Maker statement

This is your chance to tell the story behind your practice. We are looking for information about your process, inspiration, materials and professional journey. If you would like further guidance on writing your maker statement we have a dedicated lesson on [COMPASS: Online](#).

Why are you interested in this award?

It is important for us to understand why you would like to receive this award. Please tell us what made you apply and what you hope to get from the award and your proposed project.

How do you think you/your business will benefit from the award?

We would love to hear how you think this opportunity will benefit you in both the short and long term. You should consider how this might impact you both personally and professionally.

Maker CV

Ensure your maker CV is up to date with your latest events, exhibitions, stockists, education and training. This helps us understand more about your creative and business practice and allows us to understand how this professional opportunity will fit in with your career aspirations.

Photography

To strengthen your application, we recommend high-quality photography of your work that best represents your practice. Pay attention to lighting, composition and simple backgrounds. We have created a guide to taking good-quality product photography with a simple camera or phone which you can find on [COMPASS: Online](#).

We also ask you to include links to your social media profiles and we will look at these during the selection process, but we mostly rely on the images you submit to give us a sense of your design and handmaking skills.

A headshot and images of you working in your studio will also help tell the story behind your practice. Please include five images of your work – these should be representative of the type and range of work you are currently making.

Frequently asked questions

What type of project is eligible for the award?

The Inches Carr Bursaries are designed to be flexible in order to give makers an opportunity to explore and develop their practice. There must be a focus on research and development within your proposal and you must be able to evidence how this specific bursary will support your practice.

How will the money be awarded?

Established Maker: Successful applicants will receive 80% of the bursary amount at the start of the proposed project. The final 20% will be paid out on completion of the project and submission of an end of project monitoring report to Craft Scotland.

Emerging Maker: Successful applicants will receive the full amount of the bursary at the start of the proposed project.

How long can my project last?

Ideally your project will last from one to two years. We will consider all proposals and this timeframe is a guideline.

I have been awarded funding from Inches Carr previously, can I still apply?

Yes, you can still apply. However, there should be a five-year gap between the date you were awarded the funding previously and the closing date for 2026 applications. Successful 2026 applicants will not be considered again for five years from the date of award.

I have applied for the fund before, but I was not successful, can I apply again?

Yes, you can apply again.

I'm not on the Craft Scotland Maker Directory. Will that disadvantage my application?

No, a profile on the Craft Scotland Directory is not necessary for this opportunity and all applications will be assessed on an equal basis.

I've never worked with Craft Scotland before. Will that be a problem?

No. We work with a wide range of makers and are always looking to make new connections with people we haven't worked with before. We actively welcome applications from makers who have yet to work with us.

I work in a discipline that isn't listed on your website. Can I still apply?

Craft Scotland supports a range of [contemporary craft disciplines](#), you can find full information on our website. Unfortunately, we cannot accept applications from those working outside of these disciplines. If you are unsure about whether your practice is eligible, please contact the Craft Scotland team at hello@craftscotland.org.

This information is also available in large print or as a simplified Word document.

About

Supporting Makers, Promoting Craft

Craft Scotland is the national development agency for craft.

We put makers at the heart of all we do, championing diverse and high-quality contemporary craft.

We help people learn about, appreciate and buy craft, promoting the contribution of craft to Scotland's cultural, economic and social well-being.

Through our exhibitions and events programmes, digital platforms and strategic partnerships, we provide leadership for the sector.

We create opportunities for makers to develop their creative and business practice, and to exhibit and sell work in Scotland and beyond.

We are a registered charity supported by Creative Scotland.

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