



Second Funding Call for Taith Champions (2023) – Guidance Information

1. What is Taith?

Taith is a Welsh Government funded international learning exchange programme. It is designed to provide life-changing opportunities for learners and young people in Wales through educational international exchanges.

Taith funds international mobility projects for education providers across Wales, including:

- Schools
- Youth
- Adult Education
- Further Education and Vocational Education and Training
- Higher Education

Taith has two Pathways. Pathway 1 projects support the mobility of individuals or groups, providing flexible short and long term opportunities to learn, study, work or volunteer abroad. Pathway 2 projects focus on Partnerships and Strategic Collaboration. These projects create Welsh-led international partnerships that develop project outputs which address a specific issue or sector priority.

Ensuring that Taith encourages applications from participants and organisations who may have additional barriers to their participation is part of Taith's core mission, and one of the programme's central targets.

2. What is the purpose and objectives of this funding call?

During the initial development of the programme, it was recognised that not all organisations working with young people, learners and staff have the same experience of and capacity for maximising the opportunities offered by international exchanges in the short time available before applications opened. The decision was made to engage a small number of organisations with a role to build capacity within their sector, to promote Taith and to facilitate the successful establishment and delivery of projects.

The first year of this model acted as a pilot with an aim to inform future support and engagement activities with organisations across the relevant sectors for the remainder of the funding period. With this experience, feedback from stakeholders across the sectors, and data from the applications (successful and unsuccessful) to date, Taith is launching a second, revised, funding call for applications for organisations to support the Programme's delivery.

Following a successful first year and significant growth in the second year, the support provided to sectors to ensure their successful engagement in the programme is now being refined to target focus and resource on access and inclusion to Taith opportunities. Successful applicants will complement the work of the Taith Programme Executive team, focusing specifically on engaging those organisations working with the most disadvantaged and hard to reach, from underrepresented groups and those with disabilities and/or Additional Learning Needs. They will provide direct support, advice and guidance, and build capacity for current and future success, with specific targets related to outreach and participation from disadvantaged or underrepresented participants and organisations.





Taith is inviting applications from eligible organisations with Wales-wide reach/networks and significant demonstrable, credible experience in engaging and supporting the relevant sector, to support the Taith Programme Executive to achieve the programme's core principles of inclusivity and accessibility. Funding is available for organisations in the following sectors:

- Schools
- Youth
- Adult Education

The call has two main objectives:

- Outreach – Identification and engagement of organisations working with hard-to-reach participants, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, from ethnic minority backgrounds and those with disabilities and/or Additional Learning Needs (ALN), with little or no previous experience of international exchange;
- Support – Direct and targeted support for organisations with little or no previous experience of international exchange, as identified through outreach, to apply for Taith Pathway funding.

3. Who is eligible to apply?

Organisations registered and operating in Wales that are:

- Membership bodies representing the Schools, Youth or Adult Education sectors;
- Local, regional or national public authorities;
- Non-governmental organisations, social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations.

Organisations must have significant, demonstrable experience of engaging, supporting and advising organisations within the relevant sector in Wales, in particular those working with underrepresented groups.

Please note

- ***Any Organisations that are successful in being awarded Taith Champion funding as part of this funding call will not be eligible to apply for future Pathway funding during the contract period.***
- ***Any Organisations employing staff who hold a role as a Director or Contractor that are successful in being awarded Taith Champion funding as part of this funding call will not be eligible to apply for future Pathway funding during the contract period.***

4. What activities can be funded?

We invite applicants to propose the range of activities that they feel will most effectively support organisations within the relevant sector to engage with and apply for Taith Pathway funding. Indicative activities should include, but are not limited to:

- Targeted outreach to organisations working with participants from disadvantaged backgrounds, ethnic minorities and those with disabilities and/or ALN;
- In person and virtual 1 – 1 engagement and support;
- Attendance at relevant sector engagement opportunities (meetings, workshops, events); which provide an opportunity to speak with target organisations;
- Tailored support for organisations to develop project ideas, and plan the project lifecycle;
- Tailored support for organisations to complete applications;





- Mentoring of individuals within target organisations to support their knowledge, skills and understanding of international exchange, Taith and the opportunities available;
- Group and individual support on how to write a good application;
- Advice and good practice on identifying and engaging staff at the relevant levels to champion international exchanges;
- Practical advice and guidance on engaging participants with international opportunities and supporting their involvement;
- Practical support, advice and guidance on the logistical or administrative requirements of implementing and managing an international exchange project.

5. Funding details

Taith Champions will receive £60,000 to fund activities for 12 months. Projects will start on 01 September 2023 and end on 31 August 2024, with a possible extension of an additional 6 months. Applicants should provide a clear schedule of activities planned over the proposed duration of the award, the rationale for their planned timescale and an indication of key milestones for performance monitoring purposes.

One award per eligible sector (Schools, Youth and Adult Education) will be made. Funding for any agreed extension will be on a case-by-case basis.

Eligible expenditure includes but is not limited to:

- Resources to establish new activity;
- Employment (staff), including recruitment costs, training, translation etc;
- Travel & subsistence (for staff only);
- Event costs e.g. room hire, refreshments.

The following are **ineligible** costs:

- Payments to trustees;
- Costs for activities which have already taken place/started before acceptance of any offer;
- Staffing costs that are not associated with the development and delivery of the activities covered in the approved application;
- Direct costs of fundraising events;
- Applications for 'business as usual' activity;
- International travel;
- Equipment costs such as laptops, mobile phones.

This is not an exhaustive list; Taith reserves the right to discount applications that do not adequately demonstrate how the proposed expenses will meet the priorities outlined above.

6. What is the application process?

An application form is to be completed and submitted to enquiries@taith.wales by 12pm on Tuesday 30 May 2023. Applications submitted after this time and date will not be considered.

On receipt of an application a member of the Taith Programme Executive may contact the applicant to discuss their plans further.

Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application within three working days. Any queries should be sent to enquiries@taith.wales





7. Assessment process

To be considered for funding, an applying organisation must demonstrate in their application how they meet the funding call's assessment criteria (see below). The assessment criteria are intended to enable Taith to evaluate the quality of the applications received and establish an overall assessment score for each application.

All applications will be scored out of a maximum of 100, based on the below criteria and weightings.

To be considered eligible for funding, applications must pass the following quality thresholds:

- At least 60 out of the total 100 points, and
- At least half of the maximum points in each of the three award criteria categories.

Applications that pass the set quality thresholds will be considered fundable.

Applications that do not meet the minimum quality thresholds will be deemed unsuccessful. All applications will be given feedback.

Criteria	Detailed criteria	Rating
Outreach	<p>The application evidences that the applying organisation has strong existing networks across the sector.</p> <p>The application evidences that the applying organisation has a Wales-wide reach and the resources to support this.</p> <p>The application evidences that the applying organisation has an excellent track record of delivery across the sector and is recognised as a trusted partner – in particular by harder to reach organisations.</p> <p>The application evidences that the applying organisation has demonstrable experience of tailored outreach/engagement to reach different audiences.</p> <p>The application evidences that the applying organisation has significant experience of engaging with organisations working with hard-to-reach participants, from disadvantaged backgrounds, ethnic minority backgrounds and those with disabilities and/or ALN.</p> <p>The application clearly details how the project activities will identify and engage with organisations that work with hard-to-reach participants, from disadvantaged backgrounds, ethnic minority backgrounds and those with disabilities and/or Additional Learning Needs (ALN), with little or no previous experience of international exchange to apply for Taith Pathway 1 funding.</p> <p>The application outlines a clear commitment and coherent plans to ensuring the project outreach activities are inclusive and accessible.</p>	35/100





	<p>The application provides detail of how the proposed outreach project activities will lead to the achievement of the funding call's overarching objectives. This may include building on existing work or developing a new area of work.</p> <p>The application details the time frame over which the proposed project activities will be undertaken.</p>	
Support	<p>The application evidences that the applying organisation has significant experience supporting organisations to participate in and engage with activities and projects and develop ideas.</p> <p>The application evidences that the applying organisation has demonstrable experience in providing a range of support and interventions for organisations, groups and individuals.</p> <p>The application evidences that the applying organisation has demonstrable understanding of barriers to participation in international exchange, and articulation of proposed interventions.</p> <p>The application clearly details the project activities and explains how they will meet the requirements of the funding call, with specific targets related to outreach and participation from disadvantaged or underrepresented participants.</p> <p>The application outlines a clear commitment and coherent plans to ensuring the project support activities are inclusive and accessible.</p> <p>The application provides detail of how the proposed support project activities will lead to the achievement of the funding call's overarching objectives. This may include building on existing work or developing a new area of work.</p> <p>The application details the time frame over which the proposed project activities will be undertaken.</p>	35/100
Proposal Design & Implementation	<p>The application details the administrative capacity of the organisation and the processes to manage the delivery of the project and the grant funding.</p> <p>The application provides a detailed budget breakdown with all eligible, appropriate and justified costs that are proportionate to the scale of the project and demonstrates value for money.</p>	30/100





	<p>The application demonstrates a clear case that the funding will deliver activities and impacts that would not otherwise take place.</p> <p>The application represents reasonable value for money in terms of the amount of funding it is requesting when compared with the outputs and results it will achieve.</p> <p>The applying organisation demonstrates it has appropriate safeguarding / duty of care measures for all its proposed activities.</p> <p>The application details the measures proposed to monitor the project’s activities and progress and that the plans to evaluate the success of its outcomes are appropriate and realistic.</p>	
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Taith reserves the right not to award funding should a suitable candidate(s) not be identified.

8. What happens when an application is approved?

It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications in July 2023.

Financial capacity - All applying organisations must demonstrate they have a stable and sufficient source of income to maintain eligible activities throughout the period during which the Taith project is being carried out.

Taith may carry out financial capacity checks, including but not limited to:

- A review of latest accounts on Companies House or the Charity Commission, where relevant.
- A review of the organisation’s most recent management accounts.
- A review of the organisation’s governing documents to confirm that the organisation can receive the funding, the name on bank account matches and other checks, where relevant.
- A check of credit reference agency records where appropriate.
- A review of the organisation's current bank statements showing the closing balance. In such circumstances, applicants should submit the requested additional documentation within three working days of receiving the request from the Taith Programme Executive.

As part of the final reporting requirements, organisations in receipt of grants will be required to provide independent external assurance that grant funding has been disbursed in accordance with the grant funding agreement.

Applicants will be sent a ‘grant offer’. This offer will contain all the conditions for the grant (the Grant Agreement) and will need to be signed by the two authorised signatories to include the signatory that signed the the declaration section of the application form.

Applicants will have up to 10 working days to return the signed copies of the grant agreement and any further information requested. The grant funding cannot be spent until the signed Grant Agreement Letter and any additional documents that may be requested have been approved. Eligible spend will only be within the specified project period as stated in point 5. The appropriate conditions will be applied according to the value of the grant awarded and are non-negotiable.





Successful applicants will be expected to begin activities on **01 September 2023 and end on 31 August 2024.**

9. How is the grant paid?

The grant will be paid in two instalments to the applicant's nominated bank account; the first instalment will be an advanced payment of 80% and the balancing final payment upon project completion, based on the achievement of the project outcomes. Payments cannot be made to individuals.

10. How will the grant be monitored?

The monitoring arrangements will be set out in the grant agreement and applicants will be provided with the monitoring guidance upon receiving the grant. Applicants will need to confirm how the grant has been spent and what the project has achieved.

The Taith Programme Executive will also meet with applicants to receive an update on how the project is progressing. Written update reports will also be required. Final monitoring reports are to be submitted within 30 working days of the end of the grant period.

11. Is there an appeals process?

Yes, there is.

An appeal is defined as a request to review a decision which has been taken by Taith where it is considered by the applicant of the appeal that the published programme procedures have not been followed.

An appeal can only be submitted by an applying organisation (the person or organisation submitting a grant application to Taith), where the appellant can provide evidence of an administrative error on Taith's part or where published procedures have not been adhered to. Where this is not the case, please refer to the Taith Complaints procedure. Information that was not included in the original application form cannot be considered for appeal.

Further information on Taith's appeals process can be found [here](#)

