

Guidelines for applicants

Colmcille Projects Scheme

These guidelines provide information on the Colmcille Projects Scheme. They will help you:

- decide whether the applicant is eligible to apply for funding under this scheme (an individual or an organisation can apply)
- prepare an application which contains all the information needed

Please read them carefully before you begin to complete the application form.

1. About this scheme

Foras na Gaeilge provides funding through the Colmcille Projects Scheme to help applicants foster a relationship between Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic language communities and to strengthen these two languages through the relationship.

Colmcille Projects Scheme 2026

- Deadline Wednesday 3rd December 2025, 5.00p.m.
- An upper limit of €12,000/£10,100

Grants are awarded with public money, and Foras na Gaeilge has statutory duties to ensure the value for money of all funded projects.

Foras na Gaeilge recommends applicants seek joint funding for projects, when appropriate, and to cooperate with other organisations in order to achieve the best value from the Foras na Gaeilge grant.

2. Can we apply?

Eligibility criteria

Required

1. The application links Irish Gaelic and Scottish Gaelic
2. Skills in Irish and Scottish Gaelic are central to the project
3. The applicant is capable of completing a project:
 - a. which will have a significant and/or long-term outcome
 - b. which will be of benefit to the wider Irish language and/or Scottish Gaelic community

Desirable

1. The project fosters partnership between both countries
2. The applicant is based in Ireland or Scotland

Foras na Gaeilge may add to these qualifying criteria.

If you have any question on any aspect of the qualifying criteria, you can contact colmcille@forasnagaeilge.ie at least five days before the deadline.

3. How will the applications be assessed?

Foras na Gaeilge uses assessment criteria to assess applications. The assessment criteria of the scheme are set out below. We will assess and score applications in accordance with these criteria:

The priorities below are based on Irish Gaelic and Scottish Gaelic but Colmcille also accepts applications which in which Manx is part of the project as well.

1. The amount of language learning that will take place in the project, Scottish Gaelic in Ireland or Irish Gaelic in Scotland
2. The effective use of both languages during the project and during events for example presentation, simultaneous translation and signage as appropriate
3. Raising awareness of Irish Gaelic language and culture in Scotland, and of Scottish Gaelic language and culture in Ireland
4. The relationship and partnership that will be fostered between Scottish Gaelic and Irish speaking communities
5. Influence of the project in strengthening Scottish Gaelic or Irish Gaelic, or their language communities, by promoting the link between them
6. The applicant's experience and appropriate capacity to complete the project
7. The project's value for money

Activities eligible for funding through the scheme

- Projects which will add to these strategic themes outlined in the Colmcille Strategy:
 - The arts and media
 - Heritage, environment and cultural tourism
 - Youth
 - Learning of Irish Gaelic and Scottish Gaelic
 - Language planning, partnership and community development
- Initiative planning with a partner in Scotland, or in Ireland if the applicant is a partner in Scotland
- Simultaneous translation or other arrangements, if appropriate, so that Irish and Scottish Gaelic can be used at the same event

- Workshops or training
- Travel, accommodation, subsistence and fees necessary to complete the project and which demonstrate value for money
- Any other activity which would be necessary in the opinion of Foras na Gaeilge and agreed in advance with Foras na Gaeilge.

Activities and items not eligible for funding through the scheme

- Events or activities which do not appear to Foras na Gaeilge staff that they fulfil the criteria of the scheme
- Events, trips or activities where there is no apparent connection with Irish and Scottish Gaelic or with the relationship between the two languages, for example an excursion in which Irish Gaelic or Scottish Gaelic are not a central part
- Spending on intoxicating drinks
- Activities, events, trips etc. which were not included in the original application or which have not been agreed in advance with Foras na Gaeilge staff
- Internal invoices from the applicant which have not been agreed in advance with Foras na Gaeilge, for example salary, monetary compensation, rent
- Items funded by other sources

4. How will we apply?

Before you start to complete the application form read the guidelines in full again and ensure that the applicant (individual or organisation) fulfils the scheme qualifying criteria under section 2 above.

Applications for this scheme will only be accepted as Word or PDF documents via email.

It is up to the applicant to ensure that the application is completed and submitted in time.

If you have any question about any aspect of the application contact colmcille@forasnagaeilge.ie at least five days before the deadline.

5. What will happen to our application?

Foras na Gaeilge will assess all valid applications under the assessment criteria stated in section 3 above.

The funding decision will be made known to applicants by email.

Canvassing of any board member or any employee of Foras na Gaeilge will result in the application being rescinded.

Any application in which inaccurate information is given will be rescinded.

It is the executive of Foras na Gaeilge who is responsible for all decisions regarding all projects to be funded, and who will implement all funding decisions.

6. If our application is successful?

If your application is successful, we will send you an offer by email containing all relevant information on payment and monitoring of the scheme grant.

This offer will be a legal contract and the terms and conditions of this contract must be adhered to. Any portion or all of the grant may be cancelled or recalled if any of the terms or conditions of the contract are violated.

If the applicant is an organisation, there must be a bank account in the name of the organisation, under the control of a committee or board. All payment from the Foras na Gaeilge grant should be made from this account so that there is a written record available of all payments (for example cheque, direct debit, bank cards associated with the account, BACS etc.). In the case of an organisation, **a personal bank card or credit card may not be used and repayments will not be approved from the account to a personal card in any case.**

Foras na Gaeilge will not provide funding for payments made with cash unless there is an agreement.

Foras na Gaeilge will not fund any spending not approved in advance or unexpected payments that are unreasonable in the opinion of Foras na Gaeilge. If there is any doubt contact Colmcille staff at Foras na Gaeilge, colmcille@forasnagaeilge.ie. No grants will be paid retrospectively.

7. How can I give feedback, make a complaint or appeal?

Foras na Gaeilge welcomes any recommendations or feedback you may have about this scheme.

If you have cause for complaint about this scheme this can be made known to Foras na Gaeilge as well.

Foras na Gaeilge has an appeals system in place. If you are not happy with the decision made in respect of your application you can request in writing a review within fourteen days from the date of the offer. All requests for review must be based on these grounds only:

- i. That Foras na Gaeilge misread the information given during the assessment.
- ii. That Foras na Gaeilge departed, in a substantial way, from the assessment process itself.