

Grant McLennan Fellowship Guidelines 2026

About Grant (GW) McLennan

Grant McLennan is acknowledged as one of Australia's greatest songwriters and one of Queensland's first successful cultural exports. As a founding member of the Brisbane band, The Go-Betweens, Grant created an outstanding musical legacy which has paved the way for many great artists and for the burgeoning Creative Industries sector in Queensland. His lyrics captured a unique Queensland spirit and the band was fundamental in bringing Australian music to a global audience. Grant passed away at the age of 48 in May 2006.

About the Grant McLennan Fellowship

The fellowship will consist of an award of **\$15,000** to a Queensland based contemporary songwriter or songwriting duo. The recipient will undertake a trip to either London, Berlin or New York. The Fellowship has been designed to expose the recipient to the full cultural life of one of these cities as a source of inspiration and creativity. The Fellowship does not support international touring and/or professional recording.

The Grant McLennan Fellowship provides a growth opportunity for mid-late career artists. The prestigious \$15,000 fellowship offers the recipient funds to be used toward an opportunity to travel to New York, London or Berlin for up to six months and use the experience of being immersed in a foreign and vibrant musical culture with a focus on developing their own artistic skills.

Robert Forster, Go-Betweens co-founder, and Grant's partner, Emma Pursey, contributed towards the Fellowship's development

'The Fellowship is to be shaped in accordance with Grant's ideals - encouragement and respect of other artists at all times, and the belief that an artist needs to be exposed to new challenges and ideas to create better work.

The Fellowship shall allow a Queensland songwriter each year the opportunity to visit and absorb the music and culture of one of three cities, New York, London, or Berlin. These are three cities Grant McLennan knew well, performed in, and recognised as vibrant centres of ideas that inspired his songs.

Grant would be happy to know fellow Queenslanders would be following in his footsteps, seeking inspiration where he sought it, to the benefit of their own craft, and to the benefit of those in the broader community who shall get to hear it.

Grant loved the arts more than any other person I know. And although forged and continually inspired by his Queensland surroundings, he dreamt of foreign cities, as places to see, and places that he knew would add to his own knowledge and depth as an artist. That this is to continue through the Grant McLennan Fellowship is very pleasing to me and honours him.'

Robert Forster, November 2006

On their return to Queensland, the Fellowship recipient will provide a legacy object symbolising the Fellowship experience to the Grant McLennan Archive. The Archive is housed and exhibited by the State Library of Queensland. Objects could include diary entries, songs, lyrics or a meaningful object. The recipient will also provide a report to Arts Queensland on the creative and professional outcomes which the Fellowship enabled.

The Grant McLennan Fellowship is delivered through Arts Queensland and is administered by QMusic.

Arts Queensland and QMusic are committed to supporting gender diversity in the music industry. All selection panels involved in the assessment of the Fellowship will have a minimum of 40 percent of each gender (as an individual identifies themselves).

Submitting Your Application

QMusic is Queensland's music industry development association and has been contracted to manage the Grant McLennan Fellowship on behalf of Arts Queensland.

Applicants are required to apply online through QMusic's website (www.qmusic.com.au). All sections of the online application will need to be completed, addressing all selection criteria and attaching all requested support material. Incomplete applications will not be eligible for assessment. Applicants must only submit one application in each round.

Your application must be electronically submitted by the closing date. Late or incomplete applications will not be assessed.

If circumstances prevent you from being able to submit your application, please contact a QMusic Officer prior to the closing date to make alternative arrangements.

Applicants are responsible for notifying QMusic if their contact details change throughout the assessment process.

Please contact QMusic if you have questions about your application.

Tel: 07 3257 0013

Email: info@qmusic.com.au

Eligibility

Please read this information before commencing your application. Applications deemed to be ineligible will not be assessed.

The Fellowship is for a contemporary music songwriter or songwriting duo with both experience and exceptional talent. The artist/artists will have more than five years of professional experience and will have developed a profile through releases, touring and media recognition.

Songwriters will need to demonstrate a very strong case for the Fellowship to be awarded early in their career. Although not limited in musical genre, the Fellowship is primarily aimed at songwriters of contemporary popular music.

Note to all applicants

The Grant McLennan Fellowship is designed to enable the winner/s to have experiences in foreign places that inspire creativity and songwriting. Applications should communicate how they believe spending time in one of the nominated destinations could be used to evolve their creative process. Relating to GW McLennan's ideals, applicants should be descriptive about how they are inspired by other artists and by their surroundings. It is strongly recommended that applicants write the application in their own artist voice, as your application will be judged by other artists who will be seeking to understand your perspective. Professional recording and/or promotional activities such as publicity and touring, are not the focus of the Fellowship and the inclusion of these activities will reflect negatively on your submission.

NOTE: The successful project MUST be completed within 12 months of the Fellowship being awarded.

The Fellowship will be awarded:

annually

to an individual or songwriting duo (the Fellowship would be shared)

once in the life of an individual/songwriting team

All applicants must:

be not less than 21 years of age on 1st January in the year of application

be an Australian citizen or permanent resident

have resided in Queensland for at least two years prior to the due date of applications. You may be asked to provide proof of your Queensland residency status during the eligibility check process.

- have satisfied the reporting requirements of any previous Arts Queensland grants
- have an ABN
- only submit one application in each round (e.g. songwriting duos may not also submit individual applications)

The Fellowship does **not** support:

- costs associated with a project or program that has already commenced
- International touring and/ or professional recording
- the costs of completing degree courses, theses or university, college or projects undertaken to gain formal qualifications
- the purchase of musical equipment
- Employees of Arts Queensland or QMusic
- Former employees of Arts Queensland or QMusic who ceased employment less than six months before the closing date

- Staff members of an Arts portfolio statutory authority or the Department Environment and Science unless their application includes a covering letter from their employer that states the person's role and employment details and that their application does not relate to carrying out the duties of their role.
- The use of Artificial intelligence in songwriting and composition. Only original work/songs created by humans are eligible for submission and scholarship consideration. Any work/songs created by AI will be ineligible for consideration. Upon submission, all applicants will be required to acknowledge the following, I/We acknowledge the work submitted in this entry has not been generated by Artificial Intelligence. All work submitted for scholarship consideration has been human created including but not limited to songwriting, vocals, arrangements, melodies.

Assessment criteria

Applications for the Grant McLennan Fellowship will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Outstanding artistic and creative potential of the applicant
 - Describe the quality of your work and your talent
- Artistic merit of the Fellowship proposal
 - Describe how you intend to use this fellowship opportunity, by outlining the proposed city, the details of your project, including proposed activities/evidence of research into possibilities, the project objectives and your aspirations for the Fellowship
- Demonstrated professional and/or creative achievement of the applicant
 - Describe your track record, practice and recognition in the contemporary music industry. You may reference reviews, support letters, gig history, training history etc.
- Potential to contribute to the development of contemporary music and songwriting practice in Queensland
 - Describe your future aspirations/career plan and any significant contributions to the Queensland music sector to date.

Applicants are encouraged to research their proposal thoroughly. It is suggested that the proposal include a detailed and specific description of what the applicant intends to do during their Fellowship and activities the Fellowship will enable. Applications should refer to your support material included to provide evidence of your claims.

The application also includes a budget template, which should detail the way in which the Fellowship grant will be spent. Your budget should be at least \$15,000 to demonstrate how you would utilise all of the Fellowship funds. If your project costs are more than \$15,000, please indicate how you will cover the shortfall (e.g. your own funds, another grant, sponsorship, ticket sales from performances). **Please note that the income and expenditure must balance.**

Support material

The support material is to include the following items:

- Curriculum vitae
This is to be a maximum of 2 pages and should include details of your songwriting and music career experience and achievements to date. If you are applying as a duo, this is required for each member.
- Up to three letters of support from industry professionals.
Industry professionals are people who have knowledge and experience in the music industry and who are aware of your work. They may include producers, managers, music journalists, publishers, festival directors, leaders of organisations who work in music and respected musicians. Letters should state why they feel the applicant would benefit from the Fellowship at this time in their career, the likely outcomes and opportunities which would arise for the applicant from the Fellowship and the capacity of the applicant to make best use of the Fellowship opportunity.
- Songs
Up to 3 tracks of original material.
- Accompanying lyric sheets
1 song per page, labelled with copyright details. Song writing credits must be included stating whether applicant is sole or primary songwriter or collaboration details.

Selection process

Assessment and funding decisions are based on the information provided in your application, including support material. All eligible applications will be assessed in terms of how well they address the assessment criteria.

Applications for the Grant McLennan Fellowship will be assessed using the following selection process.

- Step 1: QMusic and Arts Queensland will undertake eligibility checks of all applications. Ineligible applicants will be notified by email. Three Arts Queensland approved music industry experts will undertake a preliminary assessment of all eligible applications creating an initial list of recommended applicants.
- Step 2: Recommended applicants will then be considered by the Fellowship judging panel. The panel of judges will select four applicants as shortlisted finalists to be interviewed.
- Step 3: Those not shortlisted by the selection panel will be notified by email.
- Step 4: Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to participate in an interview with the selection panel.
- Step 5: The recipient of the 2026 Grant McLennan Fellowship will be awarded at the Queensland Music Awards; however, scholarship winners and unsuccessful finalists will be notified of their results under embargo prior to the event.

Translating and interpreting services

Applications and support material may be submitted in any language. If you have difficulty understanding this information and would like to talk to staff in your first language:

- telephone the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 during business hours contact Arts Queensland on the above number about speaking with an interpreter.

If your application is successful

Letter of offer processes

QMusic will send you a request for your payment details and a copy of the funding agreement, signed by QMusic on behalf of the funding bodies.

- sign and date the funding agreement.
- return a copy with your payment details.

Acknowledgements

All successful Fellowship recipients will need to acknowledge Arts Queensland's and QMusic's support in all published material associated with the Fellowship. Further information about the use of the Arts Queensland logo and a standard text of acknowledgement is available from the Arts Queensland website <http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/aq-funding/acknowledgement>.

Proposal variation

Fellowship funds cannot be used for any activities except those specified in your application and the program's guidelines and letter of offer, unless a variation of the funding agreement is sought and approved in writing by QMusic.

You should advise QMusic in writing immediately if there are changes to:

- timelines
- budget
- location
- anything else that would alter the outcomes of the Fellowship from your original application.

If you anticipate any possible changes, you should contact QMusic. If you fail to obtain written approval for any changes, you may be required to repay the Fellowship grant and you will not be eligible for future funding from Arts Queensland.

Tax

Funds received from this Fellowship may be considered as part of your income in a financial year and may therefore be subject to tax. Under the tax system introduced on 1 July 2000, grants paid to artists and arts organisations may be subject to the Goods and Services

Tax (GST).

Please note:

- QMusic cannot give specialist advice about taxation or legal issues. Further information about the GST and other tax issues is available from the ATO's website at www.ato.gov.au or the Business tax enquiries line 13 28 66 or Personal tax enquiries line 13 28 61.
- Fellowship recipients will need to take into consideration the impact of this income on their personal financial situation. Taxation requirements will need to be planned for.

Goods and services tax (GST)

If you have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and are registered for GST, your grant will be grossed up by 10 per cent to cover the GST liability. QMusic will issue Recipient Created Tax Invoices on your behalf with your payment/s.

Please note that your funding agreement incorporates the following terms:

- a. You will not issue invoices in respect of the supply
- b. You acknowledge that you are registered for GST when you entered into this agreement and that you will notify QMusic if you cease to be registered for GST
- c. You will provide all necessary information to QMusic to enable QMusic to issue correct Recipient Created Tax Invoices.

A copy of the Recipient Created Tax Invoice for your records and taxation purposes will be provided with your payment/s.

If you have an ABN but are not registered for GST, any grant QMusic pays to you will not be grossed up for a GST component. This is because you will have no liability to remit any part of the grant money to the ATO. QMusic will not issue an invoice on your behalf.

Reporting on your project outcomes

Fellowship acquittal

Fellowship recipients will be required to provide an appropriate written outcome report and financial acquittal to QMusic on the completion of the Fellowship detailing the impact of the Fellowship on the individual or duo's creative development and the skills and/or professional development opportunities that were created as a result of the Fellowship.

Your Outcome Report should be returned to QMusic within four weeks of the agreed completion date of the Fellowship and is to provide information about the Fellowship, the outcomes achieved and how the funds were spent.

All Outcome Reports should include the following:

- details about the Fellowship experience and any outcomes including successes, short-term and long-term benefits and any difficulties you experienced during the Fellowship and what you learnt from them
- documentation including photographs, videos, recordings, press clippings and/or programs, which should acknowledge Arts Queensland funding as appropriate.
- a short reflection piece/diary piece provided by the recipient about their experience with the Scholarship. (This may be utilized by Arts Queensland, for e.g.: in a blog post)

You must also provide a legacy object symbolising the Fellowship experience to the Grant McLennan Archive housed at The State Library of Queensland.

Late outcome reports

If you need advice about preparing your Outcome Report or you have concerns about the agreed date, you should contact QMusic. If your Outcome Report is more than one month late, this may affect how your future applications to Arts Queensland and QMusic are considered in terms of financial integrity and managerial competence.

Unsatisfactory outcome reports

If you anticipate any difficulties with your Outcome Report, you should contact QMusic. If your Outcome Report is unsatisfactory, you will be notified by QMusic within four weeks of submitting the report and further information may be required. If you fail to provide the information, you may be required to repay the grant and you may not be eligible for future Arts Queensland funding.

If your Outcome Report is satisfactory, you will be notified by QMusic that the Fellowship has been acquitted.

Contact QMusic

For further information about the Fellowship, please contact:

- Telephone QMusic (07) 3257 0013
- Email programming@qmusic.com.au
- Online applications only through the QMusic website www.qmusic.com.au