



Asian Cultural Council 2024 Grant Overview

The Asian Cultural Council is committed to advancing international dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect through supporting cultural exchange projects by individuals and organizations between Asia and the US and between Asian countries.

ACC grants provide long-term, immersive exploration of other cultures. ACC's individualized programmatic support expands the horizons of grantees by nurturing their perspectives, fostering creative growth, and fostering valuable international connections.

ACC values long-lasting relationships with our grantees. We partner with them and help them form communities to share their transformative experiences and cultivate valuable international connections.

ACC grants go beyond mere travel funding; they offer a unique opportunity for recipients to design an experience individually and fully immerse themselves in a different culture.

ACC takes an unconventional approach by not funding production-based grants, such as the creation of artwork or an exhibition. Instead, our Fellowships and grants seek to provide cultural enrichment opportunities for selected grantees. We have found that through funding a period spent in an unfamiliar environment where grantees can take a break from their day-to-day responsibilities and deadlines, they are more open to expanding their perspectives and integrating learned experiences into their creative practices.

Accordingly, ACC has developed four distinct grant types to support immersive cultural exchange:

- New York Fellowship
- Individual Fellowship
- Graduate Fellowship
- Organization Grant

Please read the guidelines carefully to determine your eligibility and identify which grant can best support your needs. Please note you are only able to apply for **one** type of grant during the 2024 grant cycle.

Asian Cultural Council recognizes that the arts have become increasingly intersectional with the rapid advancement of technological innovations. For the 2024 grant cycle, proposals that focus on the relationship between the arts, technology, and culture are encouraged.

We seek artists and cultural creators who demonstrate a dedication to their ongoing artistic and professional growth. Applicants should articulate their goals, strategies, and plans for advancing their artistic careers, including how a Fellowship will support their development.

The 2024 grant cycle is a global open call. ACC will accept applications from individuals and organizations based in Asia and the United States. Applicants are asked to provide one letter of recommendation, as

well as contact information (name, email, and phone number) for two additional professional references. All applications will be reviewed by selection committees consisting of regional, national, and international field experts. For a detailed list of countries, please click here:

<https://www.asianculturalcouncil.org/apply/faq>

Please note that ACC's next grant cycle will open in the fall of 2025 and will be open to residents of qualified <https://www.asianculturalcouncil.org/apply/faq> Asia grantees only.

General Eligibility

- Must be a scholar, practicing artist, or arts professional in an [eligible field](#).
- Project must fall within one of the 16 eligible disciplines.
- Applicants can only apply for one grant type per cycle.
- Applicants must not have received an ACC grant in the past two (2) calendar years.
- ACC highly recommends all applicants receive vaccination for COVID-19. For US-bound grantees, our partners may require vaccination to host grantees.
- Proposed activities must begin and end within the grant periods defined below:
 - Applicants from Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Mainland China; Japan; the Philippines, and Taiwan: August 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025
 - Applicants from the U.S. and eligible Asian countries/regions (see list below): August 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Bhutan
 - Brunei
 - Cambodia
 - East Timor
 - India
 - Indonesia
 - Korea
 - Laos
 - Malaysia
 - Mongolia
 - Myanmar
 - Nepal
 - Pakistan
 - Singapore
 - Sri Lanka
 - Thailand
 - Vietnam

ACC Does Not Support

- Activities
 - Projects taking place outside the applicable funding periods (see above)

- Promotional activities and services, including but not limited to travel, public relations, and marketing
- Projects focused on commercial and industrial design or activities incorporating commercial activity or commercial artists of any kind
- Projects exclusively focused on attending workshops, arts and culture festivals, conferences, or participation in residency programs
- Administration
 - ACC does not provide visas and/or funding for spouses, partners, children, and other family members
- Costs/Expenses
 - Production-based costs (ex: need funding to finish Project X by January 1, 2025)
 - Capital and equipment purchases
 - Expenses and/or direct costs to organize or support events, including but not limited to, performances, exhibitions, fundraising, and receptions
 - Expenses to support or fund K-12 arts in education
 - Tuition expenses including Graduate, Undergraduate, and/or secondary school tuition
 - Funding to support regranting programs

2024 Grant Application and Process Timeline

- Applications Accepted: 11/1/2023-11/30/2023
- Application Deadline: 11/30/2023 at 11:59 PM EST.
- Selection (Panel review and interviews): 12/1/2023-04/30/2024
- Board Approval: Mid-May 2024
- Notification to Grantee: Mid-May 2024
- *Please note there may be additional steps for each global ACC office.*

Selection Criteria

Applications are reviewed using the following selection criteria:

- Alignment with ACC's Mission: Cultural Exchange
- Quality of Proposal (Feasibility, Clarity, and Impact)
- Artistic/Professional Merit
- Critical Time in Applicant's Career
- Ability to Communicate in Destination Country/Region

Panelist Information

- ACC invites regional, national, and international experts in a wide range of disciplines to serve in our review process.
- Panelist names are made public at the discretion of each ACC global office.

Graduate Fellowship Guidelines

Description

The Asian Cultural Council gives a small number of scholarships to students admitted to a graduate degree program in the United States. Grantees must be enrolled in a program that falls within the 16 accepted disciplines <https://www.asianculturalcouncil.org/apply/faq>

Funding is intended to cover travel and living expenses related to graduate study. Tuition costs are not supported.

Priority is given to applicants who will study in the United States because comparable programs are not available in their home countries and/or because they work in a field that is underrepresented in their home countries.

Graduate Fellowships are awarded for one academic year, with the possibility of renewing for one (1) additional year.

Through the Graduate Fellowship, ACC aims to contribute to the diversification of scholarly narratives and critical discourses through increasing access to academic training in the arts and cultural field.

Graduate Fellowship-Specific Eligibility

- Must be enrolled in full-time, in-residence degree within the United States.
- Proof of admission and acceptance to an accredited university is required by April 1.
- Graduate students who have completed their coursework phase of their graduate education are not eligible.
- Applicants in part-time, summer-only, or online programs are not eligible.
- Applicants in non-degree programs are not eligible.

Eligible Travel

- Asia to United States only

Budget for Graduate Fellowship

- \$15,000 for one (1) academic year; opportunity to renew for another year if applicant is enrolled within the same graduate institution and has maintained academic eligibility
- Graduate Fellowship applicants do not need to provide a detailed budget

Expectations from Graduate Fellowship Recipients

- Maintain good academic standing at their graduate institution.
- Graduate Fellowship-Specific Selection Criteria
- A successful applicant will be able to clearly articulate the impact of this specific cultural exchange opportunity and how a graduate degree will help them foster cross-cultural dialogues after graduation.
- Applicants should also be able to clearly state why earning a graduate degree in an underserved or underrepresented artistic practice, profession, or field of the scholarship will benefit their community or home country.

FAQS for Graduate Fellowship

- I have applied for graduate school, but I have not been admitted yet. Can I apply for the Graduate Fellowship?
 - Yes, you are welcome to apply, but ACC must receive proof of admission before funding can be awarded.
- For how many years can I renew the Graduate Fellowship?
 - One (1). Once your first year of coursework is completed, your Program Officer will reach out to you regarding the renewal process.
- Can ACC help me apply or get into graduate school?
 - No, ACC cannot help prospective students with their applications or provide letters of recommendation.
- Can ACC provide advice regarding specific graduate programs in the United States?
 - No, ACC cannot provide advice on specific graduate programs.
- Does ACC provide assistance with the student visa?
 - No, please contact your university regarding the student visa process.

General FAQS

- Can I travel to the United States on a traveler's visa?
 - No, all grantees who receive an Individual Fellowship, New York Fellowship, or an Organization Grant must travel on a J-1 Specialist Visa. ACC will sponsor a J-1 Visa except for Graduate Fellows who must obtain a F-1 Visa through their university.
- I have received ACC funding in the past. Am I eligible to reapply?
 - Past grant recipients are eligible to apply again, and ACC is especially interested in helping alumni strengthen and extend their international networks. Alumni may apply in any grant category, with the following exceptions:
 1. Past recipients of an ACC New York Fellowship are not eligible to apply again for a New York Fellowship.
 2. Alumni who have received a 6-month Fellowship or similarly large grant in the past are not likely to be awarded another grant of comparable size.
 3. Alumni must not have received a grant from ACC in the past two (2) calendar years.
- Can I apply for more than one grant program in one cycle?
 - No, please only apply and submit one application for the entire grant cycle.
- My question was not answered here. Can I email an ACC staff to request more information?
 - Please email application@accny.org.
- Can I submit an application for a virtual experience?
 - ACC acknowledges that in the past, we have funded virtual/digital experiences due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions. Moving forward, we will only fund in-person experiences as they best serve our mission of cultural exchange.