

Guidance Note

Professional Artists' Jobseeker's Allowance Scheme

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1. Introduction

Following a review of the pilot initiative by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection it is now proposed to acknowledge the professional status of other professional artists and to extend the scheme to those professional artists who apply for Jobseeker's Allowance.

The Professional Artists' Jobseeker's Allowance Scheme is developed in partnership with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, as part of a key commitment to professional artists under the Creative Ireland programme. Further details on the scheme can be accessed at the following link. <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Social-Welfare-Scheme-for-Professional-Artists-on-Jobseeker's-Allowance-.aspx>

An independent and objective validation process of professional certification is a key requirement for the purposes of this scheme. The following professional artists under the various artforms (a-z) are now eligible to apply

Table 1			
<u>Artform/Crossform</u>	<u>Professionals</u>	<u>Certifying Organisations</u>	<u>Contact email</u>
Circus	Circus Street & Spectacle Performers	Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle Networks	info@isacs.ie
Dance	Dancers, Choreographers	Dance Ireland	info@danceireland.ie
Film / Theatre	Actors	Irish Equity SIPTU	equity@siptu.ie
Film	Film Directors	Screen Directors Guild	hello@sdgi.ie
Literature	Writers	Irish Writers Centre	info@writerscentre.ie
Music	Musicians, Composers, Opera Singers	Musicians Union of Ireland and SIPTU	musicians@siptu.ie & equity@siptu.ie
Screen Writers	Screen Writers	Writers Guild of Ireland	info@script.ie
Theatre /Design	Costume Designers	Irish Equity SIPTU	equity@siptu.ie
Theatre /Design	Set Designers	Irish Equity SIPTU	equity@siptu.ie
Theatre /Design	Stage Designers	Irish Equity SIPTU	equity@siptu.ie
Theatre	Theatre Directors	Irish Equity SIPTU	equity@siptu.ie
Visual Arts	Visual Artists	Visual Arts Ireland	info@visualartists.ie

2. Outline of scheme

Under this new scheme, the criteria for Jobseeker's Allowance remain the same but the activation period will be suspended for 12 months.

The key criteria for all applicants applying for Jobseekers Allowance are as follows:

You must:

- satisfy a means test
- be habitually resident in Ireland
- be aged between 18 and 66
- be capable of work
- be available for full-time work
- be genuinely seeking work
- be fully or partly unemployed (at least 4 days out of work in every 7)

Note: If you are self-employed, the last condition does not apply.

3. How do I apply?

To access the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection Professional Artists' Jobseeker's Allowance Scheme an artist must satisfy the conditions in section 2 **and**:

- I. Be registered with the Office of the Revenue Commissioners as self employed
- II. Satisfy a means test with 50% earnings from work as an artist
- III. Be a professional artist under one of the categories listed on Table 1 and you will also need to be able to give evidence that you are a professional artist. This can be obtained from the certifying representative body also listed in the table 1. above.

4. Means Test and Self-Employment

Jobseeker's Allowance is means tested and your means must be below a certain level to qualify. When being assessed for the Professional Artists' Jobseekers Allowance Scheme you will be means tested as a self-employed individual.

The following are the main allowable expenses in most cases:

- Materials (supplies costs)
- Motor running costs (portion applicable to profession)
- Insurance relating to the profession
- Telephone (portion applicable to profession)
- Bank charges
- Any other costs associated with the profession

For this scheme, 50% or more of an artist's earnings from the previous tax year must be from their work as a professional artist. The following are some examples of work that is counted but **this is not an exhaustive list;**

♦ Sales of Artworks ♦ Sale of Books ♦ Royalties ♦ Bursaries and grant arising from status as an artist ♦ Book readings ♦ Appearance fees ♦ Lecture fees ♦ Sales of Artistic Editions ♦ Artist Fee on Commissioned Works ♦ Artist Fee on Exhibitions ♦ Artist Fee on Education & Outreach Programme ♦ Artistic Consultancy ♦ Artist Fee for Selection Panels ♦ Artists Fee for Artistic Advisory Panels ♦ Artistic Technical & Installation Support ♦ Art Awards & Prizes ♦ Artistic residencies ♦ Artist Fee on Design Consultants

For more details on means testing visit the Citizens Information website:

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/unemployed_people/self-employed_and_unemployment.html#l260fc

5. Activation (including Job Path)

Activation will not be expected in the first 12 months. This means that professional artists will not be required to attend training courses in other occupations during that period. Discussions are continuing regarding the appropriate activation supports pertaining to professional artists.

6. Moving onto the Professional Artist's Jobseeker's Allowance Scheme from other Social Welfare Payments

You may get Jobseeker's Allowance if you don't qualify for Jobseeker's Benefit or if you have used up your entitlement to Jobseeker's Benefit. Individuals can move from an existing Jobseeker's Allowance claim to the scheme if they meet the eligibility criteria. They will need to be means tested as a self-employed individual.

For any questions regarding your personal situation or moving to the pilot scheme you can contact your local Intreo office or Citizens Information on 0761 07 4000, Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm.

7 Summary

What the scheme is:

- This recognises certified artists as professionals.
- This scheme is designed to support professional artists during times when their incomes are low and to provide support to develop income opportunities.

What this scheme is not:

- This scheme is not a replacement for specific supports for professional artists from funding bodies.
- The scheme is not a long term benefit.

8 Other Useful Links

More information on Jobseeker's Allowance from the Citizens Information website here: www.citizensinformation.ie

Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection: www.welfare.ie

Creative Ireland: creative.ireland.ie

Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs: www.ahrrga.gov.ie/arts/

The Office of the Revenue Commissioners: www.revenue.ie