

The Malta Book Fund – Frequently Asked Questions

For the sake of those who have never applied for funds before and have no experience of such procedures, we will firstly point out the importance of paperwork, proper documentation and presentation. The application will be assessed mainly on the merits of the project, but applications that are handed in without the proper documents, or that have omitted required information will not make it to the stage where they will be assessed for their content.

We hope the following serves as a useful guide to all those wishing to apply for the Fund. Please do take the time to study Malta Book Fund guidelines and regulations for the respective grants in order to assess the eligibility of your project and ensure you hand in the application properly and duly filled in.

In case of difficulty, or if you would like to consult us regarding this Fund, you can email us on simona.cassano@ktieb.org.mt. You can also call us on +356 99968511 Monday to Friday between 09:00hrs and 16:00hrs.

FAQs

What type of grants does the Fund offer?

There are two types of grants – Publishing Grants and Translation Grants. All grants awarded may support up to 100% of the proposed project or up to a maximum of € 5,000. A specially-appointed adjudication board will evaluate each project in a rigorous application process that will ascertain both the value of the project and funding requirements. The Malta Book Fund will be issuing grants totalling €105,000, to be distributed among eligible publication and translation projects, as follows:

- €50,000 allocation for the Publishing grants;
- €55,000 allocation for the Translation grants:
 - Category 1 - €40,000 for the translation of Maltese books (in English or Maltese with Maltese ISBN) to other languages;

Category 2 - €15,000 for the translation of books from other languages into Maltese.

Who can apply?

The guidelines and regulations for the Malta Book Fund grants provide lists of eligible applicants and definitions of their professions in order to qualify as applicants. These are writers, translators and publishers. A writer is defined as someone who has published, or has had published at least one story in book form or an article or a story in a published book. The definition of publisher, on the other hand, requires that the person owns a publishing house that has already published a minimum of one book by one author. A translator is a person who has translated a minimum of one book, or a story or article in book form, or can prove a literary translation skillset. Authors that have as yet not published any work cannot apply in their own name. However, they can still present their work if they find a publisher willing to be present their work.

What documents should be included in the application?

As stated on the [Malta Book Fund page](#), every application must include the following:

- Applicant's copy of ID card (front and back)
- Application form (specify Grant)
- Budget breakdown (including copies of quotes)
- Project proposal (1,500 words for publishing projects and 1,000 words for translation projects)
- Bibliographic references of applicant and/or author's proposed project
- Other relevant bibliographic references
- Additional references made by third parties supporting the project or application (only for Publishing Grants)
- Copies of related press cuttings
- List of past public funding opportunities (where applicable)
- Any additional mandatory documents as listed in the guidelines and regulations

It should also be clear that the documents and requested information should be presented as neatly as possible and be limited to the requirements above. It is not necessary for applicants to send copies of the texts they aim to publish. The initial stage of the application process is administrative, meaning that the application will be screened for eligibility in terms of documents and other information related to the project.

When will the results be out?

A specially-appointed board of adjudicators will assess the applications in the four (4) weeks following the deadline for submission of applications.

Can applicants present work that has already appeared in print?

No. As stated on in the guidelines and regulations, the fund aims to support the publication of material that has no commercial viability despite its high cultural value. If a work has already appeared in print, whether self-published or not, it means that some means of publication has been found so there is no need for funds.

Can applicants present work that they intend to self-publish?

Technically yes, but it is not advisable. Ideally, all projects would be eventually published with a local publisher, and translations by a foreign publisher. Publishers have the experience and expertise in editorial work, book layout and proofreading, as well as marketing and distribution, which can hardly be matched by any one individual. This means that work submitted for publication (original work or translation) with a publisher will make the best possible use of the funding and ensure high quality in terms of book production.

What kind of projects are eligible?

Publishing Grants

The Publishing Grants will be open to works of fiction, non-fiction and works of academic research. Preference will be given to ambitious projects of high cultural value and relevance to the target local market, and particularly if such projects face limitations relating to commercial viability. The grants support applications for the publication of original works of fiction, including novels, poetry, drama, biographies, literary nonfiction and graphic novels, as well as academic and scholarly books including monographs, edited collections, and critical editions. Books based solely on imagery or photography are ineligible.

Translation Grants

The Translation Grants section of the Malta Book Fund is divided into two categories:

- Category 1 - Translations of Maltese books
This category supports applications for translation projects of Maltese works (published in the Maltese or English language in Malta with a Maltese ISBN) into any other language. Works which are going to be translated through a bridge language translation but which were

originally written in the Maltese language will be considered, but priority will be given to works translated from original Maltese editions. The annual allocated budget for category 1 is €40,000.

- Category 2 - Translations into Maltese
The category supports applications for the translation of works into Maltese of works originally published in any other language. The annual allocated budget for category 2 is €15,000.

Both categories of the programme address the translation of the following types of original works: literature (fiction, poetry, drama, biographies, literary nonfiction and graphic novels); works of research including academic and scholarly books (monographs, edited collections, critical editions, researched exhibition and gallery catalogues containing analytical material that is the result of research).

The original work needs to have been already published and identified by its foreign ISBN.

Is there a deadline for the completion of the project?

Applicants who pass the adjudication stage will have to present timeframes for their project upon signing the beneficiaries contract with the NBC. Applicants will be required to submit a final report upon completion of the project by not later than eighteen (18) months after signing the fund beneficiary contract.