



Frequently Asked Questions

These are the frequently asked questions for **Mobility First! – ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative**, which supports international travel for Asian and European cultural professionals. Through this grant, we wish to enable artists and cultural professionals to participate in relevant activities¹ that would enrich their professional growth and initiate a multiplier effect to others.

Details about the project, timelines and the application process for the 2019 open call can be found here: <https://mobilityfirst.asef.org/>.

¹ Eligible activities include workshops/trainings, residencies, conferences/forums, festivals/biennales/international exhibitions, partnership meetings, practice-led research and networking trips in Asia and Europe.



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Mobility First!

A travel grant for artists
and cultural professionals
in Asia and Europe

Applicant Profile

Do I have to be a national of an [Asia-Europe Meeting \(ASEM\)](#) country?

Yes, only nationals of ASEM member countries are eligible to apply. However, your current residence need not be in an ASEM country. The important pre-condition would be that you are an ASEM national and you are travelling to an ASEM country through Mobility First!.

The ASEM countries are:

Asia	Europe
Australia	Austria
Bangladesh	Belgium
Brunei Darussalam	Bulgaria
Cambodia	Croatia
China	Cyprus
India	Czech Republic
Indonesia	Denmark
Japan	Estonia
Kazakhstan	Finland
Korea	France
Lao PDR	Germany
Malaysia	Greece
Mongolia	Hungary
Myanmar	Ireland
New Zealand	Italy
Pakistan	Latvia
Philippines	Lithuania
Russian Federation ²	Luxembourg
Singapore	Malta
Thailand	Netherlands
Viet Nam	Norway
	Poland
	Portugal
	Romania
	Slovakia
	Slovenia
	Spain
	Sweden
	Switzerland
	United Kingdom

² Note: Russian Federation is considered as an Asian country in the ASEM context.



Is there a minimum age to apply?

Yes, the applicant must be at least 18 years old at the time of travel in order to apply. There is no upper age limit, but artists and cultural professionals who are in the early stages of their professional career are encouraged to apply.

Can we apply as a group of artists/cultural professionals?

Mobility First! supports both outgoing and incoming mobility through 2 kinds of applications: from individuals and arts organisations.

Individual applications are made directly by artists and cultural professionals who have been invited to or have been selected for participation in a cultural event abroad (incoming mobility).

On the other hand, arts organisations are able to apply for up to 5 artists and cultural professionals whom they want to invite to participate in an event they are organising in their country (outgoing mobility).

Mobility First! does not cater to applications made by artistic groups such as dance groups, theatre groups, orchestras, etc., and these applications will hence not be prioritised.

I am applying on behalf of an arts organisation. Is it mandatory to submit 5 names of participants for mobility support?

No, 5 is the maximum number of people you can apply for to participate in your event. You may apply for up to 5 artists/cultural professionals that you have invited to your event. You will be asked to provide reasons for why you have chosen to invite each participant.

If we make an arts organisation application, do all participants need to be a national of an [ASEM](#) country?

Yes, all 5 artists/cultural professionals whom you have invited to your event would need to be a national of an ASEM country.

For the list of ASEM nationals, please refer to the question [Do I have to be a national of an Asia-Europe Meeting \(ASEM\) country](#) on page 3 of this document.



Are UK Nationals eligible to apply after the UK's departure from the EU?

Yes. The UK's departure from the EU does not affect the eligibility of UK nationals to apply to any ASEF project. The UK remains an ASEM partner country and the full list of ASEM partners can be found here: <http://aseminfoboard.org/members>.

Application Process

When is the deadline for applications?

Please refer to the timeline below or <https://asef.live/mobilityfirst2019>.

The deadline for each round of application will be **11:59 PM GMT+8 (Singapore time)**.

Timeline	
Open call	1 to 31 January
Results	28 February
Travel period	15 March to 31 July
Open call	15 February to 15 March
Results	15 April
Travel period	1 May to 15 September
Open call	1 to 30 April
Results	31 May
Travel period	15 June to 31 October
Open call	15 May to 15 June
Results	15 July
Travel period	1 August to 15 December



Is ASEF able to provide exceptions for travel dates that fall outside of Mobility First's application timeline and travel period?

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide exceptions on the travel dates and are unable to accept early applications for an earlier assessment.

Please refer to the question [When is the deadline for applications?](#) on page 5 of the Frequently Asked Questions document for the timeline of Mobility First!

Is it possible to change my travel dates that differ from the time period that I initially applied for?

Should there be any changes in travel dates, please provide an explanation to ASEF in writing as soon as possible. Do note that all date changes are subjected to approval.

Where can I travel to?

Mobility First! supports international travel for the following mobility routes: Asia to Europe; Europe to Asia, and within Asia. Destination countries must be ASEM member countries.

Can I travel within my own country?

No. Mobility First! only supports international travel.

Can I travel within Europe?

No, currently Mobility First! only supports international travel from Asia to Europe; Europe to Asia and within Asia.

What types of activities are supported?

The 7 types of cultural activities supported by Mobility First! are:

- Workshops or trainings
- Conferences or forums
- Festivals, biennales or international exhibitions
- Artists' or writers' residencies
- Partnership meeting to set up or maintain an existing partnership



- Practice-led research
- “Go and see”/short-term exploration/networking

Similar to 2018, the following focus areas will be prioritised in 2019:

- Skills transfer / knowledge exchange
- Innovation in arts & culture
- Local development
- Art and social issues: the role of art & artists in society

What types of events/projects/programmes has Mobility First! supported in the past?

You can view past successful applications on our [website](#). Alternatively, testimonials from our Mobility First! grantees can also be viewed on ASEF's [Facebook](#) page.

Is it possible to apply for and receive mobility support for multiple events?

No. Each successful applicant will receive mobility support only once and for one event.

If you are a prospective applicant who wishes to travel from Asia to Europe to attend multiple events in Europe, for example, we recommend that you apply for mobility support for the first event in Europe, for which you are flying from Asia.

Is a multi-city or multi-country tour considered 1 event?

No.

How often can I apply for Mobility First?

For past grantees (both individuals and organisations), Mobility First! will not be accepting re-application for a period of 1 year. For example, if your application to Mobility First! was successful in 2018, you will only be allowed to re-apply in 2020.

However, if your application to us has not been successful, you are welcome to apply again.



What if I do not have an invitation letter given to me by the activity organisers or if the invitation letter does not apply to me?

In this case, it would be good if you could provide us with a programme booklet or other related supporting documents of the activity that you would be attending. This would allow the Selection Committee to obtain a clearer idea of the activity which you are intending to attend.

When will I hear feedback about my application?

Due to the large number of applications we receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback to applicants who have not been selected.

Grant coverage

What are the grant amounts for 2019?

Grant amounts (up to these maximum caps)	
Asia to Europe and Europe to Asia	SGD 2,000
Australia/New Zealand to Europe and vice versa	SGD 2,300
Russia to Europe	SGD 1,000
Intra-Asia	SGD 1,000

What does the Mobility First! grant cover?

The Mobility First! grant is intended for covering international travel and visa costs only. Accommodation and any other costs are excluded from the grant amount.

Does ASEF provide support for visa application?

If your application to Mobility First! is successful, an official letter of offer will be generated. This letter may then be used as a supporting document to facilitate the visa application process.



Does ASEF provide travel insurance?

No. However, to prepare for unforeseeable events such as health issues, security risks, etc, ASEF advises all selected grantees to ensure that they are insured for their travels. For selected arts organisation, we advise them to get insurance for the supported artists/cultural professionals as well.

If my cultural mobility application is successful, is it possible for ASEF to also fund the transfer of my artworks to the event I am going for?

No. Currently, we are only able to support the mobility of people.

Can I apply for funding for my project? What about production costs of my artwork/instruments/materials which I will require for my project?

Mobility First! only supports cultural mobility/travel of artists and cultural professionals to enable them to attend the 7 cross-border activity types supported. We are unable to provide funding for production costs for artworks or specific projects like a theatre play, for example.

Can I purchase my flight tickets before the results for each round of Mobility First! open call is announced and get reimbursed for my flight expenses after?

Yes, you may purchase your tickets early if the tickets are available at a cheaper price. However, do note that ASEF **will not be held liable** if your application has not been successful.

In addition, the actual flight expenses do not determine the grant amount allocation. ASEF determines the grant amount allocated and it is based on the published maximum caps.

Please refer to [What are the grant amounts for 2019?](#) on page 7 of the Frequently Asked Questions document for the maximum grant amounts for 2019.

Are the travel grant amounts per organisation or per person?

The maximum grant amounts are per person. For instance, for an organisation applying for mobility support for 5 people from Asia to Europe, the maximum amount the organisation would get is SGD 10,000 (5 pax x SGD 2,000 each).



For successful partner organisation applications, is it possible to change the names of supported artists/cultural professionals who receive mobility support from ASEF?

The funding is only intended for the persons in the successful application. Should there be any changes in the names of supported artists/cultural professionals, please provide ASEF an explanation in writing along with the names of the suggested replacements. Do note that all name changes are subjected to approval.

Can I apply for Mobility First! if I am also seeking grants and funding from other organisations for the same event/project/programme?

Yes, you may still apply for Mobility First!. As part of the application requirements, applicants are required to fill in a budget application form, where they would need to indicate their sources of income from other grants, if applicable. This information is however only used for statistical purposes and does not have any impact on the evaluation of your application.

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