



**Request for Services:
Qualitative research (interviews)
for the Basic Income for the Arts Research Team**

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media

As set out in its Statement of Strategy, the mission of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTCAGSM) is, in regard to culture and arts:

To support and develop engagement with and in, the arts, culture and creativity by individuals and communities, enriching lives through cultural and creative activity; and to promote Ireland's arts, culture, and creativity globally; and to drive a more vibrant and diverse Night-Time Economy.

Basic Income for the Arts

The Basic Income for the Arts (BIA) is a pilot research programme which will inform future government policy on how best to support Ireland's artists and creative arts workers. This pilot scheme has a research programme running alongside its operation, co-ordinated by the Basic Income for the Arts Research team.

The Basic Income for the Arts Research Team is responsible for the administration of a comprehensive research programme in the form of a randomised control trial (RCT) with 3,000 participants made up of artists and creative arts workers drawn from across the arts sector in Ireland.

The centrepiece of the RCT is a longitudinal study that comprises a survey conducted every six months, which allows the research team to analyse and track responses over the duration of the pilot, and to compare responses from those who are in receipt of the BIA grant with those from other artists and creative arts workers who have agreed to participate in a control group.

Papers arising from the research can be found on the Basic Income for the Arts [portal](#).

This research is providing invaluable insights into how the provision of a basic income might impact on elements of an artist's or a creative arts worker's life, including:

- income earned from the arts and other sectors, as well as household income;
- personal expenditure and practice expenditure;
- the living and working conditions of participants;
- the perceptions of participants in relation to working in the arts sector;
- the nature of a participant's artistic or creative practice;



- the time spent by participants on a variety of activities, and whether they are satisfied with the amount of time spent on these activities; and,
- health, well-being and life satisfaction.

The research programme also provides for additional in-depth ad-hoc and/or commissioned research on specific topics that emerge over the course of the research programme.

Contact for Services

This role is for an independent contractor **to carry out qualitative research** that will complement existing quantitative research. Specifically, the researcher will undertake a review of the existing qualitative data from the pilot, design and conduct **interviews** with participants, structure and assess the resulting data, and present it to the Basic Income for the Arts Team in the form of a written report.

Person specification

- PhD or equivalent qualification in Social Sciences, Sociology, Public Policy, Economics, or related disciplines
- Experience with qualitative research methods (interviews)
- Excellent track record of written communication, including report-writing and publication
- Experience conducting data analysis, including using statistical software package Stata
- Familiarity with the arts sector is advantageous, but not required
- Familiarity with scholarly literature on basic income/guaranteed income pilots or cash transfers is advantageous, but not required

Scope of the Research

The research will involve the following steps:

1. Review BIA data collected this far, including published reports, to identify gaps and topics to explore further
2. Develop a suitable qualitative methodology
 - a. present it to the Basic Income for the Arts Team for approval
3. Formulate interview questions
 - a. present interview questions to the Basic Income for the Arts Team for approval
4. Contact participants
5. Conduct interviews
6. Analyse collected data
 - a. Present early findings internally to the Basic Income for the Arts Team



7. Write report

A Stata licence will be provided as well as a laptop. The researcher will only be able to access the data and work on the data using the Department issued device.

Outputs

The successful applicant will be required to present findings in written form (MS Word, docx format). Please note that outputs must, to the greatest extent possible, adhere to universal design guidelines for written material (see “Document design” in [Customer Communications Toolkit for Services to the Public](#)).

All data outputs must be provided in a pseudonymised format (MS Excel format or Stata format) that can be interrogated and further analysed by the Department.

No data, results or outputs arising from the project shall be published or otherwise communicated to any third party without the prior written consent of the Department. All data collected and papers written will remain the property of the Department.

Term of Contract

The contract will be for a period of up to 12 months part-time, although it could be for a shorter period if a researcher is in a position to work full-time on the project. The anticipated number of days required is not fixed and will be subject to ongoing decision-making. It is envisaged that the research will commence in April 2024.

Day to day engagement with the Department will be facilitated through the assignment of a Departmental liaison. Meeting with the Departmental liaison will take place initially every two weeks, later once a month.

The successful applicant is expected to be able to work remotely. Occasionally they might be required to attend meetings in Dublin, upon request.

The successful applicant undertakes to regularly report on progress. They must communicate any significant changes that might impact on the timely, high-quality delivery of the project within two weeks of any such issue arising.

Budget

€37,000 (including VAT) per annum on a pro rata basis. A payment schedule will be agreed before the start of the project.

Data protection

The successful applicant will be provided with a departmental laptop, and will be required to treat all data in accordance with data protection laws and Departmental policies.



Conflict of interest

Any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest on the part of the applicant must be fully disclosed to the Department as soon as the conflict or potential conflict is or becomes apparent.

In the event of any actual or potential conflict of interest, the Department may invite applicants to propose means by which the conflict of interest might be removed. The Department will, at its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action.

Confidentiality and Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquires, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process. Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, are extracted from computer records for general statistical purposes.

Please note that your submission may be retained by the Department for up to one year.

Application

Applicants must demonstrate that:

- They hold a qualification at NFQ 10 level (i.e. PhD or equivalent) in Social Sciences, Economics, Sociology, Public Policy, or related disciplines
- They have experience designing and carrying out qualitative research (interviews), including reporting on results
- They can use Stata
- They have previous publication experience

Please provide:

1. A CV including academic qualifications and details of professional experience.
2. Links to any relevant published work. If not available online, please attach.
3. A short statement detailing your experience with qualitative research methods (interviews), ability to use Stata, and any other relevant information (600 words max).
4. Names and contact details for two referees.

Applications can be sent to Ms Nadia Feldkircher at basicincomeforthearts@tcagsm.gov.ie in word or PDF format. Deadline: 7th of April 2024.