

## **Accreditation Scheme for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom: COVID-19 Update**

Along with our partner organisations across the UK we are taking a phased reopening approach in Northern Ireland.

### **Who are we open to now?**

The programme is open for the following groups now:

- Organisations interested in applying for the first time and ready to send in an eligibility questionnaire
- New applicants who are confirmed as Working Towards Accreditation and applying for the first time or reapplying after a period of non-participation. They will need to be formally Working Towards Accreditation and will need to complete an Eligibility Questionnaire and be confirmed as eligible before they can apply
- Museums holding a Provisional award
- Museums holding a Full Accreditation award who have already submitted their return to us

We should have already been in touch to tell you what you need to do next. If you have not heard from us and you are in one of the above groups, please get in touch by email to the central team [devofficer@nimc.co.uk](mailto:devofficer@nimc.co.uk)

### **What's happening with returns who haven't yet submitted?**

In line with our UK partners, we do not expect to fully re-open the scheme until Summer 2022 at the earliest. We will continue with the 6-month invitation window, so museums won't need to provide a return immediately when we reopen. Although unconfirmed, our intention is to invite our first new returns on **1 July 2022**. You'll still have time to prepare ahead of the first (estimated) deadline of **31 December 2022**. As this is an unfolding situation our current thinking is subject to change and further Government advice.

There's more information on this in the updated FAQ document (November 2021). The next update from the UK Accreditation partnership will be in January 2022.

### **Who'll be up first when we start the returns rollout again?**

We will begin sending out invitations to submit returns to the following groups when we reopen fully next year:

- Museums who had been invited to submit their return for a deadline prior to or by end March 2020 but had not submitted. These museums will form the first batch of invitations
- Museums who had been invited to submit a return and were preparing this ready for the next deadline by end April 2020

- Museums who had not already received their invitation for return but were expecting to make a return sometime from April 2020 onwards during the Scheme pause. A small number of museums from this group will be invited. We'll plan these with guidance from museum development and areas.

See the latest update (November 2021) of the Frequently Asked Questions for more information about what's happening with Accreditation and the plans for phased reopening again <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/uk-museum-accreditation-scheme/accreditation-scheme-museums-and-galleries-united-kingdom-covid-19>