



Cross Channel Theatre

Call for Proposals – Application Guide

The Institut français du Royaume-Uni launched the **Cross Channel Theatre** programme in 2014 to promote francophone plays in the United Kingdom.

Cross Channel Theatre supports the creation, touring and promotion of innovative and high-quality theatre projects by French-speaking writers across all genres and encourages engagement with audiences across the United Kingdom. The programme aims to contribute to artistic dialogue and collaboration between French and British theatre professionals, to promote diversity and innovation in contemporary French creation and to enhance engagement with audiences across the United Kingdom.

This call for proposals supports:

- **Translation of French plays** into English
- **Programming, production, promotion, and/or touring** of French theatre in the UK
- **Professional meetings and networking trips**

Translation of French plays

Since 2014, Cross Channel Theatre has supported and coordinated the translation of over 30 plays into English. For more information on the texts translated between 2014 and 2025, please see: [An Anthology of Translated Plays – Cross Channel Theatre](#)

Eligibility:

- Support is available for francophone plays that demonstrate confirmed relevance¹ in the UK or for the UK theatre scene.
- The translation must be completed within 12 months following the closing of the Cross Channel Theatre call for proposals.

¹ This confirmed relevance may include, but is not limited to, projects of:

- Forthcoming production;
- Public or professional presentation of the translated text (such as a reading, showcase, participation in a translation festival, etc.) in the United Kingdom and/or to British professionals;
- Publication or circulation of the translated text (in a specialist journal, on a digital platform, or through a UK-based publishing house);
- Public conversation with the author;
- Participation in an event or research/training programme related to contemporary theatre or translation, based in the United Kingdom.

The Institut français du Royaume-Uni may act as an intermediary between the company or rights holder and a specialised translator.

The rights holder and the translator shall grant the Institut français du Royaume-Uni the following rights:

- The non-exclusive right to have the work translated;
- The right to reproduce the translation in any existing digital format;
- The right to distribute the translation in any existing digital format, for non-commercial purposes only;
- The right to present the translation publicly through directed readings, for non-commercial purposes.

This is solely intended to promote awareness of the translation within the English-speaking professional network and its potential future use. The IFRU does not seek any commercial exploitation of the work under this call for proposals. Accordingly, it is expressly agreed that the rights holder and translator shall grant those rights free of charge.

Production, Co-Production & Tours

The Institut français du Royaume-Uni supports several projects each year involving the production and programming of French plays in British venues.

Eligibility:

- Projects must involve a partnership or collaboration between a French or France-based artists or organisation and a British or UK-based artist or structure.
- Eligible projects may include readings, full productions, tours in the UK, or similar initiatives
- The project must be completed within 18 months following the closing of the Cross Channel Theatre call for proposals.

For any questions regarding eligibility and selection criteria, please contact: arts@institut-francais.org.uk.



Questions & Answers

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Step-by-Step Application Process

1. **Check your eligibility:** Make sure your organisation and project meet the eligibility criteria.
2. **Submit your project:** Submit your application and proposed budget before the deadline via the online application form available on the dedicated page of the Institut Français du Royaume-Uni website. The project will be reviewed by an internal committee at the Institut français du Royaume-Uni².
3. **If your project is selected**
You will receive a draft agreement detailing the terms of the support provided, including the requirement to acknowledge the support of the Institut français du Royaume-Uni and Cross Channel Theatre on all communication and promotional materials related to the project.
4. **Claim your grant:** Submit your payment request following the steps outlined in your agreement

Who can apply?

Translation grants: Legally constituted organisations, established in France and/or the United Kingdom, submitting a project to translate a text from French into English.

Production and programming grants: Formally constituted organisations based in France and/or the United Kingdom presenting a project that includes a French play (by an artist residing in France or of French nationality living abroad) or a French-language work.

Projects must be submitted by a legal entity with the capacity to receive a grant and manage its administrative and financial aspects.

² The IFRU may also invite industry professionals or partners to act as external consultants and offer additional insight.

What can be funded?

The programme supports collaborative theatre projects involving French and UK professionals.

- **Production and programming grants** may cover eligible expenses such as travel, accommodation, rehearsals, promotion and outreach, and artist fees. They cannot be used to support internal operating costs of the organisation receiving the grant. The Institut français du Royaume-Uni's contribution may not exceed **50% of the total eligible costs**.
- **Translation support** covers translation costs for selected works according to agreed rates.

What are the project selection criteria?

The Cross Channel Theatre projects will be selected by the Institut français du Royaume-Uni according to criteria of **artistic excellence**³ and **project feasibility**⁴.

Additional attention will be given to:

- Contemporary writing: Plays written within the past 20 years
- Emerging talent
- Innovation
- Contemporary themes
- Diversity and inclusion

³ Quality and relevance of the artistic proposal, its originality, aesthetic coherence, and ability to engage with contemporary issues in theatre.

⁴ Credibility of the schedule and partnerships, organisational strength, alignment of the requested budget with available resources, and the project's potential for visibility or touring within the UK.