
Fee Waiver Policy

2026 ICAD Awards

ICAD

Fee Waiver

The Institute of Creative Advertising and Design (ICAD) is committed to making our programmes accessible to all commercial creatives, regardless of their financial circumstances. We know that forging a career in the creative industries can be challenging. It's vital that we support each other through the tough times and ensure that promising individuals are not prevented from engaging in ICAD programmes.

In certain instances, we may grant a fee waiver to applicants who can show significant financial hardship and for whom paying the application fee would be an insurmountable barrier to entry.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for a fee waiver, applicants must demonstrate significant financial hardship. This might include individuals facing long-term unemployment, bankruptcy, homelessness or serious medical expenses.

Applicants may be asked to submit paperwork to verify their financial situation.

Application Process

To apply for a fee waiver, please send a written request to info@icad.ie. Please include a brief statement of < 150 words explaining your circumstances and any supporting documentation.

Review Process

All fee waiver requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by a committee made up of ICAD board members. The committee will consider the applicant's needs and the potential impact of the fee waiver on their ability to participate in the Awards. The granting of a fee waiver is at the sole discretion of the ICAD committee, and they are not liable for any decisions made regarding fee waivers.

Confidentiality

All information provided in connection with a fee waiver request will be kept strictly confidential.

Disclaimer

Fee waivers are limited and subject to the availability of funds. ICAD reserves the right to refuse any fee waiver request at its discretion.

Please note:

Working with limited budgets is common in the creative industries and, regrettably, does not automatically qualify for a fee waiver. This policy is intended to support those facing more significant financial difficulties.

We encourage all individuals and organisations who are able to pay the entry fees to do so. Your contribution directly supports the ICAD Awards programme and our mission to champion creative excellence in Ireland.

Need Support?

If you are struggling today, need support with your mental health, or have experienced a traumatic event, consider contacting a helpline. You can find a directory of services on [Find a Helpline](#).