

FAQ - Art spaces

I want to submit an application for the funding of either an annual programme or a specific project for an art space. The art space has just been founded this year. Am I allowed to submit an application?

Yes. Unlike other funding measures that require a multi-annual curated programme, the measures promoting emerging artists do not stipulate a minimum period of existence at the time the application is submitted.

What deadlines do I need to bear in mind for annual programme support?

Pro Helvetia cannot offer retroactive financial support. In other words, a project can only be funded if the project starts at least eight weeks after the submission date (1 March or 1 September).

Your annual programme may already have commenced by the time the application was submitted.

However, we can only consider supporting programmes including works by emerging artists that will be shown after the eight-week decision-making period. Specifically, this means that exhibitions opening on 26 April or after can be considered for support for all applications submitted by 1 March. For applications submitted by 1 September, all exhibitions opening on 27 October and after can be considered for support.

Why do you require such in-depth information on planned exhibitions featuring emerging artists, specifically their CVs and details of their exhibition activities?

The annual programme and project grants for art spaces are ways to support emerging artists, which is why we require these details.

We need this information to check whether artists are eligible to receive funding as 'emerging artists'. Our criteria stipulate that emerging artists are in the first five years of their artistic career. This is determined by the date of completion of their artistic training or, in the absence of a formal degree, by the date of the first public presentation of their work, which is why it is important to provide the full CV of emerging artists.

Can this funding measure also be used to support emerging artists who are still enrolled at university?

No. For the funding of annual programmes and art space projects, we can only consider emerging artists who are not enrolled at a university at the time of application.

Does the art space's annual programme also need to meet the requirement of 'exchange between linguistic regions'?

Unlike other funding measures at Pro Helvetia (e.g. 'Event in Switzerland'), 'exchange between the language regions' is not a criterion relevant to the promotion of emerging artists. The presentation of Swiss emerging artists within the programme is decisive.

What does Pro Helvetia mean by projects within the annual programme that 'promote intergenerational or international exchange' for which additional funding of up to CHF 5,000 can be made for?

In principle, we only support the components within an annual programme that show work by emerging artists. However, additional costs of up to CHF 5,000 can be covered if the annual programme includes further projects that promote intergenerational or international exchange benefiting emerging artists in Switzerland.

We define 'intergenerational exchange' as projects that promote exchange between emerging artists in Switzerland and artists in other stages of their artistic career, while 'international exchange' refers to projects that support international exchange between emerging artists in Switzerland and (emerging) artists from other countries.

How are projects that 'promote intergenerational or international exchange' to be depicted in applications for the annual programme?

Describe the special project in the application, focusing particularly on its exchange-related nature. Mention the project in the brief description, too, and list the artists as participants.

How many applications can we submit as an art space each year?

Per year and art space, a maximum of one application for an annual programme and a maximum of two applications for project grants can be submitted. For each application round on 1 March and 1 September, only one application may be submitted. Specifically, this means that per year, an art space can either submit a maximum of one application for an annual programme and one application for a project grant, or a maximum of two applications for a project grant.

Is it possible to submit an application for a commercial project?

No. This funding measure by Pro Helvetia is exclusively intended for non-commercial projects.

Are nomadic or digital art spaces eligible for funding?

Yes, nomadic or digital art spaces can receive funding. The decisive factors are the presentation of Swiss-based emerging artists in the programme and the professionalism of the project. If your project is digital, we recommend including a digital dissemination strategy in your application.