

Production grants (with/without presentation): FAQs

I'm an artist and would like to develop a new production for an exhibition. Can the institution hosting the exhibition apply for support for my production costs, or am I responsible for this?

You, as the artist, need to submit the application for a new production. We support new productions as part of our biannual call for applications for production grants (application deadlines: 1 March and 1 September). However, institutions can also apply for support with an exhibition, provided the criteria for the promotion of an event in or outside Switzerland are met. Artists' productions cannot be supported under this funding, but travel and transport costs, materials costs for temporary works of art, artists' fees and rental costs can be covered.

I'm making an application for a grant for production with presentation. Is the event organiser also permitted to submit an application for exhibition funding in parallel?

Yes, this is possible in principle, provided that applications are not being made for support with the same expenses, e.g. travel costs. Please note the criteria and the application and decision deadlines.

As an institution, I want to submit an application for support with an exhibition in or outside Switzerland, and I need funds for a new artistic production that will be shown for the first time under the auspices of the exhibition. Can I apply for support?

No. Artists must submit applications for new productions within the biannual call for applications for production grants (application deadlines: 1 March and 1 September). However, institutions can apply in parallel for support with an exhibition (see answer above), provided the criteria for the promotion of an event in or outside Switzerland are met. The production costs incurred for the artist's new productions cannot be supported under this funding, but travel and transport costs, materials costs for temporary works of art, artists' fees and rental costs can be covered.

How does Pro Helvetia assess the cross-regional appeal of artists' work?

Pro Helvetia primarily assesses this with reference to the artists' exhibition activities, as documented in their CV. Our Grant Ordinance requires us to review the project's connection to Switzerland and whether it is of nationwide interest. A connection to Switzerland exists if the artists are either Swiss citizens or can demonstrate that they are permanent residents of Switzerland and are also presented at relevant events in Switzerland on a regular basis. A project's nationwide interest is proven in various ways, including regular presence at artistic and cultural institutions recognised cross-regionally and located in various regions of Switzerland or abroad. We check this using your CV and exhibition history. As a result, we always need these documents with your application: please send us your full CV.

I am currently studying for a bachelor's/master's degree at a university of the arts. Am I allowed to apply for a production grant?

No. Students registered at a university of the arts are not permitted to receive a production grant, as this support is aimed at artists who have completed their education.

What fee guidelines does Pro Helvetia recommend?

Pro Helvetia recommends consulting the 'Guidelines - Artists' Fees' published by Visarte Schweiz.

Can I state my fee for work undertaken in the studio, and am I permitted to list costs (e.g., studio rent) directly linked to the new production?

Yes, you can state a fee for work undertaken in the studio. It is also possible to include costs such as studio rent. Pro Helvetia assesses whether the rent is explicitly incurred for the new production, e.g., if more space is needed for a set period of time, which leads to additional outlay.

What does Pro Helvetia mean by stating that projects need to be 'adequately funded'?

In line with its statutory remit, Pro Helvetia provides subsidiary funding that supplements the support provided by other municipal, city and cantonal bodies. As a result, the foundation is obliged to review whether the financial plan is suitable, whether the costs are reasonable in light of the anticipated impact and whether the project is feasible. We assess every project on an individual basis. As a result, it is not possible to make any general statements regarding the percentage distribution of funding across various institutions or cantons.

Can I apply for support with costs as part of a grant for production with presentation if these costs are partially (but not entirely) covered by the institution hosting the exhibition? This is the case, for instance, if the museum's production budget doesn't fully cover the production of the new work.

Pro Helvetia can take into account all costs of relevance to the new production. A financial plan is always required, in addition to the budget. This states the extent to which the event organiser is contributing to the costs.

Am I permitted to submit my project and budget/financial plan in advance for review and advice?

Pro Helvetia is not able to offer this kind of advice due to the high number of applications. Subscribe to our newsletter for ongoing information on funding-related topics.

Is it possible for me to submit multiple projects for the production grant within the same round of a call for applications?

Unfortunately, it is not possible to submit multiple applications for the production grant within the same round of a call for applications: only one application may be submitted per round. We recommend selecting the application with the best prospects. If we receive multiple applications from the same person, we will automatically only take the first application submitted into account.

Is it possible for me to submit multiple projects to different funding pots or divisions?

Yes, you can simultaneously apply for a production grant from the visual arts and for support under a different call for applications (e.g., residencies at the liaison offices).

Who should be listed in the field marked 'Individuals involved'?

Here, you can list the people actively involved in the project and who you believe are particularly relevant to your project. The list can be very brief, but it is important that it shows who is playing a substantial role in the new production.

What does it mean for my project that the first event can only take place four months after the application deadline?

This means that the period required for the jury's decision – four months – needs to be taken into account. Pro Helvetia cannot provide retroactive grants. If an event starts before the decision-making period is over, the application is classed as retroactive. This means Pro Helvetia cannot offer support. To avoid this, a production may only be created in a substantive capacity or, in the case of 'grants for production with presentation', be presented at all, after four months has passed. The application deadlines are 1 March and 1 September of each year. As a result, the project may only be presented or commenced from 1 July or 1 January in each instance.

I have been nominated for an established prize that is associated with an exhibition; I am planning a new production for this. Am I allowed to make an application for a grant for production with presentation?

We do not consider applications for projects as part of prizes/awards and the associated events.

May I re-submit the same project if it has previously been rejected?

You can only submit the same application twice if the project has undergone substantial development. This is the case, for instance, if identifiable and significant portions of the content have changed or a new exhibition site has been added, and this substantially impacts the production concept. If so, it is recommended that you mention this in the explanation and detail the extent to which the project has evolved.