

## FAQ – Focus Photo

### **There was a thematic focus for the Focus Photo open calls in 2023 and 2024. Is this still the case?**

No. Focus Photo is open to all new productions in the fields of artistic, documentary, or applied photography. These can be based on various image practices, including analogue, digital, or post-photographic image practices.

### **My project involves photography alongside other artistic mediums. Should I submit my application for a Focus Photo or a production grant?**

Applications submitted via Focus Photo are assessed by a jury specialising in photography. If photography constitutes the central part of your project, you should apply for a Focus Photo grant. If your project falls within the broader field of visual arts, where photography plays a less central role, then you should apply for a production grant.

### **My project falls under the category of press photography. Can I submit an application?**

No, press photography as a specific sector and practice is not covered by our funding measures.

### **I would like to produce a photographic publication. Can I submit an application via Focus Photo?**

No, for the support of a photographic publication, applications must be submitted via the support measure [Photographic Publication](#).

### **Can I submit my application for both Focus Photo and a production grant?**

No, only one application may be submitted per person per call for applications for the following funding programmes: Focus Photo; production grant; production grant with presentation.

### **I wish to carry out a photography-related project that I will present in a planned exhibition. Should I submit my application via Focus Photo or for a production grant with presentation?**

You can submit your application via Focus Photo, ensuring that you attach to your application the invitation letter from the organiser confirming the planned presentation. Additionally, the project must be carried out with organisers who provide appropriate remuneration for the artists.

### **In this case, can the organising institution also submit an application for exhibition support?**

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

### **Why is the earliest project start date set to 1 January?**

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 or presented after the four-month period. The application deadline is 1 September of each year. As a result, the start of the project or the first presentation are not possible before 1 January.

**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 submit an application for Focus Photo?**

No. We do not consider applications for projects as part of prizes/awards and the associated events.

**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.

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

No. Students registered at a university of the arts are not eligible for support via Focus Photo. Our support measures are 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 the work carried out 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.

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

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

**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.