

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) on residencies

### Questions related to eligibility

**1. In which artistic discipline do I need to work to be eligible to apply?**

Cultural practitioners from the following disciplines may apply for a residency: design (incl. game design), literature (including poetry, comics, children's and youth literature), music (including podcasts), performing arts, and visual arts (including architecture and photography), as well as cultural practitioners with a transdisciplinary focus. In any case, for all residency applications you need to have a convincing track record that shows artistic activity with national/cross-regional reach in your field.

**2. Is there an age limit after which cultural practitioners are no longer eligible to apply?**

There is no age limit.

**3. What do you mean by 'Swiss or Swiss-based cultural practitioners' and 'cultural practitioners living in the regions covered by our liaison offices'?**

'Swiss or Swiss-based cultural practitioners' refers to professional cultural practitioners who are either Swiss citizens or permanent residents in Switzerland. Likewise, 'cultural practitioners living in the regions covered by our liaison offices' refer to professional cultural practitioners who either hold citizenship or are permanent residents in one of the countries Pro Helvetia is active in. For the complete list of countries, please consult our website.

**4. I am a cultural practitioner coming from a country that is not on the country list on your website. Am I eligible for support?**

No, at present, Pro Helvetia only supports residencies and research trips to Switzerland for cultural practitioners coming from one of the countries listed on our website.

**5. I am a student. Do I need to have work experience in my field before I can apply?**

Students are not eligible to apply. If you are a student, we recommend building up your portfolio based on a substantial body of work and finishing your studies before you consider applying.

**6. I am an emerging artist. Am I eligible to apply?**

Emerging artists are eligible to apply, if their artistic activity has national/cross-regional reach.

**7. We are working as a duo; can we apply together?**

Yes, you can apply as a duo. Please only send one single application, it is not necessary to apply separately.

**8. I was already supported by Pro Helvetia for a residency in the past. Can I apply again?**

Yes.

**9. Can I apply again if my application of the previous year was unsuccessful?**

Yes, you can apply again. However, we recommend including new aspects in the application or applying with an overall new application.

#### **10. How does the selection process work?**

The whole selection process is accompanied by the specialists working in the respective disciplines at Pro Helvetia in Zurich and in our liaison offices.

## **Questions related to content**

#### **11. What is the difference between a residency and a research trip?**

A residency (max. three months) gives cultural practitioners the opportunity to gain broad insight into a different cultural environment hosted by a local partner organisation. The aim of the residency is to find inspiration, establish networks and continue existing projects, or launch new projects or collaborations. The call for applications is open once a year from the beginning of January until 1 March. A research trip is shorter (two- to four-weeks) and enables cultural practitioners to carry out research on a specific topic and expand their network. You can apply at any time, but you must do so at least three months before the start of your project.

#### **12. Do I have to reach out to a residency partner before I apply for a residency?**

No. The residency partner is carefully determined by Pro Helvetia after the applicant selection process. The aim thereby is to ensure the best possible match with regards to the artist's interests and goals. If you think your project idea is suitable for a specific residency partner, you are free to indicate this in your application.

#### **13. What should I write in the motivation letter?**

You should clearly articulate your goals and explain why it is important for you to realise your project in a specific city or region, and especially how the selected city or region's network and institutions would help you to fulfil the aims of your travel. Furthermore, you should include information on how you would develop your ideas, as well as find inspiration and input for your artistic work through the residency.

#### **14. Should I apply for a residency with a specific new project?**

You can work on new ideas or continue working on your existing projects. In any case, we encourage you to apply with a specific cultural exchange project that promises to have a sustainable impact.

#### **15. Should I present a finished project at the end of the residency, and is support for production available?**

Residencies are not mainly production oriented. Their outcome can include new ideas, a new network of partners and collaborators, or a clearer understanding of your further artistic work. If you want to organise a public presentation, you are welcome to do so. Since the main goal of residencies is to gain inspiration and establish networks, the production support is rather limited.

#### **16. How does one select the starting and end dates of a three-month residency?**

The dates of the residency can be suggested by you, based on your preferences. Pro Helvetia will attempt to obtain residency spaces for the period requested, but this depends on the availability of spaces.

#### **17. Which cities should I choose for my residency?**

You are not obliged to choose a city for your application. Nevertheless, we encourage you to think about what topics are the most interesting for you and your research goals and if you would like to connect to a specific scene in a particular city or region. Such considerations might help you in your choice of city or region.

#### **18. Can I apply for more than one residency?**

Simultaneous applications by artists from Switzerland for a residency in the regions of the liaison offices are possible if they are linked to the respective region in terms of content. However, only up to two applications can be submitted for residencies to the regions of the liaison offices, each with distinct proposals. Only one may be approved per call for applications.

## **Questions related to practicalities**

#### **19. What can the 'parental support' (measure to support selected cultural practitioners with children) be used for?**

The amount of maximum CHF 1,000 per month may be used to co-finance the following expenses in relation to underaged children:

1. additional childcare
2. additional travelling cost for children and caregivers
3. additional costs for the accommodation of children and additional caregivers

Please note:

1. Pro Helvetia operates in a global context. Regulations and visa restrictions for international travel may apply. Pro Helvetia cannot guarantee the approval of visa applications for accompanying children, partners, family members or caregivers.
2. Pro Helvetia collaborates with many different partners and facilities worldwide and not all of them are able to host children.

If you have questions regarding parental support, please reach out to [residencies@prohelvetia.ch](mailto:residencies@prohelvetia.ch).

#### **20. Will Pro Helvetia assist me in obtaining a visa?**

You are responsible for submitting all the required documents in time to obtain a visa. Pro Helvetia will provide assistance, if needed, in the event of problems or financial difficulties.

#### **21. Does the residency cover medical insurance for the duration of time spent in Switzerland?**

Pro Helvetia covers the costs of medical insurance for the duration of the travel. However, the insurance company's terms and conditions apply. It is important that medical conditions are communicated prior to the departure.

#### **22. Can the liaison offices provide assistance in connecting Swiss-based artists with local contacts from their network before the application is handed in?**

We are not able to provide this type of support before an application is approved. Once approved, the respective liaison office team will assist in connecting you to the local scene.

#### **23. How much is the 'daily allowance' mentioned in the call for applications?**

The 'daily allowance' is an amount of money that you will receive on a monthly basis to cover your daily expenses. It is calculated based on the cost of living in the destination country.

#### **24. After application approval, how is the collaboration with the residency place coordinated?**

After approval, the respective liaison office contacts the selected applicants to understand their needs and define a possible time frame. Then, the liaison office team identifies potential locations and verifies availability. Occasionally, alternative places are suggested (e.g. if residency spaces are unavailable or not entirely suited to the project).

**25. Which data formats can I upload?**

It is possible to upload all standard file formats; however, we strongly recommend that you only upload PDF documents.

**26. Does my account expire after I have submitted my application?**

No, your account will continue to be active after applying.

**27. Can I send my application by email?**

No, we only accept applications via our [website](#).

**Please find below an overview of the selected artists-in-residence for 2025:**

[East Asia: selected artists-in-residence 2025](#)

[South Asia and Vietnam: selected artists-in-residence 2025](#)

[Southern, East, Central and West Africa: selected artists-in-residence 2025](#)

[Arab region: selected artists-in-residence 2025](#)

[South America: selected artists-in-residence 2025](#)