

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) on Global research trips

Questions related to eligibility

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

Cultural practitioners from the following disciplines may apply for a global research trip: 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. For example, you can be an artist, a curator, an event organiser or a cultural intermediary. In any case, for all global research trip applications you need to have a convincing track record that shows artistic activity with a 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'?

'Swiss or Swiss-based cultural practitioners' refers to professional cultural practitioners who are either Swiss citizens or permanent residents in Switzerland.

4. What are the possible destinations for global research trips?

Cultural practitioners from Switzerland may apply for research trips to any country that is not included in the regions covered by our liaison offices. Please consult our website for more information on our offices abroad.

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 a 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 previous application 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 decision for support is made by the specialists in the respective disciplines at Pro Helvetia in Zurich.

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. What is the difference between the funding measures 'START: artistic project development' and 'Global research trip'?

Global research trips are available in all disciplines supported by the foundation. Their primary aim is to allow for the establishment and expanding of networks while conducting research within a specific local context. On site, applicants are accompanied by a coach and introduced to the respective local scene. In contrast, [START: artistic project development](#) focuses on the initial phase of projects in the field of visual arts. While travel and exchanges with experts may be part of the artistic research, the project does not need to include stays abroad or networking.

13. What is the difference between the funding measures 'Artistic or thematic research' and 'Global research trip'?

The [Artistic or thematic research](#) measure focuses on independent companies or artists in the performing arts that have been cross-regionally and/or internationally active for several years and regularly receive guest performance grants from Pro Helvetia. The grant enables artistic or thematic research, trying out different formats and to learn new skills without any production pressure.

14. Do I have to reach out to a local partner before I apply for a global research trip?

Yes. You must suggest a local coaching partner (e.g. a festival/institution/museum/curator/collaborator) who can help you connect with the local scene and guarantee assistance for the research. In this case, a letter of interest from the suggested local coaching partner is required.

15. 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 would help you to fulfil the aims of your travel. The research trip should serve as a platform for developing your ideas and gathering inspiration and input for your artistic work by immersing yourself in new environments, experiences, and perspectives.

16. Should I apply for a global research trip 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.

17. Should I present a finished project at the end of the global research trip and is production support available?

Global research trips 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 research trips is to gain inspiration and establish networks, the production support is rather limited.

Questions related to practicalities

18. 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.

19. Will Pro Helvetia assist me in obtaining a visa?

You are responsible for submitting all the required documents in time to obtain a visa.

20. 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.

21. What data formats can I upload?

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

22. Does my account expire after I have submitted my application?

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

23. Can I send my application by email?

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