

## FAQ - START: artistic project development

### Who is 'START' aimed at?

Professional artists, photographers and architects whose work is recognised across multiple regions in Switzerland and is of national interest. Applicants must demonstrate several years of continuous artistic activity, as well as a regular presence at recognised exhibition venues in different linguistic regions of Switzerland and/or abroad.

### I am still at the beginning of my cross-regional exhibition activities – is this support measure intended to help 'START' my artistic career?

The term 'START' does not refer to the beginning of a career, but to the initial phase of a project. It is a support measure for research, project development and first experimental implementation processes. It is aimed at both promising emerging artists and established artists. Applicants must meet our [general requirements](#).

### What costs are covered by this support measure?

'START: artistic project development' supports the initial phase of a project. The grants are intended to cover the cost of fees, travel, rental, and material for research, project development, or first experimental implementation processes. The submitted budget can outline the total project costs, but emphasis will be placed on expenses directly related to the initial phase of the project. The maximum grant amount is CHF 5,000.

### How specific does my research goal need to be?

'START: artistic project development' aims to enable research and first experimental implementation processes that serve as a foundation for artistic production. No specific implementation or presentation is required at the time of application, but the motivation and interest in the research project must be clearly stated, including the budget and an approximate time schedule. Projects that have advanced beyond the initial research phase and moved into production are not eligible for support through START.

### What results should I present to Pro Helvetia at the end of the research?

As with all our support measures, we require final documentation and a financial report (budgeted versus actual costs) upon completion of the research project.

### Should I submit my application for the 'START: artistic project development' support measure or as a 'Global research trip'?

Pro Helvetia's support measure for '[Global research trips](#)' is open to all disciplines supported by the foundation. Its 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 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.

### Can participation in workshops be funded under this measure?

In general, the foundation does not support continuing education. However, if the workshop contributes to the development of artistic work or the exploration of a new topic, and this is explained in the application, we may consider this type of cost.

### How do I calculate my fee?

For artist fees, we adhere to the guidelines of [Visarte Switzerland](#).

**Can I submit multiple 'START: artistic project development' applications for different research and development phases of a project?**

No, only one 'START: artistic project development' application can be submitted per project.

**I am currently enrolled in a bachelor's or master's programme at an art university. Can I submit an application?**

No. Applications are not accepted while your studies are still in progress. 'Start' is exclusively aimed at artists who have completed their degree.