

Residencies FAQs

Q1) I am a creative writer with considerable number of years of experience behind me. Is this Residency open to creative writers as well?

Yes, the Residency is open to artists from visual arts, performing arts and applied arts as well as to writers, curators, musicians, organisers and art mediators. However, please note that your proposal should exhibit an intent to collaborate with a Swiss partner.

Q2) Is it essential to know either German, French or Italian to be eligible to apply for the Residency programme?

A good working knowledge of English, German or French is essential.

Q3) I am a Design student. Do I need to have some work experience in my field, before I can apply for the Residency programme?

Students are not eligible to apply. You are advised to build on your portfolio and have a substantial body of work before you consider applying. You need to be a full fledged practising art practitioner for the Residency.

Q4) What is the difference between a Residency and a project?

A Residency is an opportunity for the artist to add to his/ her current body of work, which has the potential to grow and develop into future collaborations with Swiss artists. While, a project is an existing and well explored idea with a pre-determined concept, partner, duration and budget.

To cater to specific needs of projects as well as artists, Pro Helvetia also offers the possibility of short residencies.

Q5) Is there an age limit after which artists are not eligible to apply?

No, there is no age limit. The Residency programme is meant to support art practitioners who are willing to engage with new cultures.

Q6) Whom does one select, as a referee, for the application?

An ideal referee would be someone from your area of speciality and/ or a prominent figure who knows your work well and has engaged with it.

Q7) Is the Residency programme open to physically challenged artists?

The Residency programme is open to all. The jury selects the candidate for the Residency depending on merit and on being able to find an appropriate partner in the host country.

Q8) My spouse and I want to apply for the Residency together and are keen to be selected together. Is that a possibility?

Each artist is assessed individually by the jury.

Q9) Can my spouse and child join me during the Residency?

Pro Helvetia covers costs for the selected artists only. Spouses and children are allowed to join the artists only if the host institutions are agreeable and additional costs and arrangements are met by the artists.

Q10) Does the Residency cover medical insurance for the duration of the time spent in Switzerland?

No, the artist covers medical insurance by him/her-self.

Q11) Can I apply again in case my application of the previous year was unsuccessful?

Yes, you can apply again and submit your application form for the next application process. However, your application should include new aspects.

Q12) I am organising a residency programme for international artists in Estonia and

would like to invite a Swiss artist. Whom should I contact for assistance?
Please contact Pro Helvetia Warsaw for assistance.