



Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion

Division I A - Funding for Artists, Projects and Independent Groups

## **INFORMATION SHEET**

### **FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE GRANTS - GLOBAL - 2026**

The Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion awards - subject to the availability of funds - international cultural exchange grants for artistic development in all artistic disciplines at destinations worldwide.

**Deadline for applications: 14 October 2025 at 2 pm (CET).**

#### **Target Group**

This programme is aimed at professional artists based in Berlin who have a proven track record of artistic/curatorial work.

#### **Purpose**

The grants are intended for the artistic development of professional artists and curators. Funding is provided for artistic/curatorial collaboration with one or more co-operation partners at locations of the recipient's choice worldwide. The period for the international grant for artistic/curatorial cooperation can vary from 1 to 3 months, of which at least 50% of the grant period should be spent at the destination. Decisive factors for funding are the artistic/curatorial quality, the quality of the co-operation, the plausibility and the expected resonance.

An invitation from the co-operation partner abroad must be submitted.

#### **Funding volume**

Depending on the number of artists travelling, the destination and the grant period, grants of between € 1,000 and a maximum of € 10,000 can be awarded. A monthly amount of € 2,500 for travelling within Europe or € 3,000 outside Europe serves as a guideline for the amount. The grants are awarded in amounts in stages of € 500.

Necessary assistance or access costs for artists with disabilities that arise while travelling

are eligible for funding within the framework of the grant and can increase the monthly rate accordingly.

The cultural administration recommends that you take out appropriate international insurance.

### **Conditions**

1. The stay abroad must take place in 2026. The trip must not have started or taken place yet. The earliest possible start date is February 2026.
2. Funding is available for artists/curators who have proven themselves through their artistic/curatorial work, can provide evidence of this and are planning a promising cooperation abroad.
3. Applicants must have their main residence in Berlin and give proof of this.
4. The grant should enable collaboration with one or more cooperation partners abroad and the development of a collaborative working method or a cooperation project. The collaboration should pursue common goals of the partners and have a mutual impact. At the end the collaboration should manifest itself in the form of a joint work sketch, public rehearsal, artist talk or similar. Information on this will be included in the evaluation report, which must be submitted within two months of the end of the grant period.
5. Projects that have no cooperative aspects are not eligible for funding:
  - Stays abroad purely for research purposes without a co-operative character, e.g. visiting archives, conducting interviews etc.
  - Residencies without artistic collaboration on site,
  - Travelling for the sole purpose of presenting existing works (e.g. exhibitions, performances, concerts, guest appearances).
6. The co-operation partner(s) should have a proven reference and a connection to the cultural scene of the respective country. The application must be accompanied by a letter of invitation from the cooperation partner(s) stating the services (such as provision of rehearsal space/studio and/or accommodation, support with local networking etc.) and confirmation of the intention of the artistic/curatorial collaboration.
7. During the grant period, there is an obligation to be present onsite for at least 50% of the period.
8. It is not possible to submit several applications for various trips.

9. All grants of the State of Berlin (work, research and cultural exchange grants) can be combined up to a maximum of € 24,000 per calendar year. Grants already approved for 2026 must be mentioned in the application form.
10. Applications are possible for individual artists and groups of artists. The group must confirm this association of artists by means of a joint declaration. If there is already a GbR contract for the group, this must be submitted with the application. More than 50% of the group members must be registered with their main residence in Berlin; in the case of a group of two people, this means both, in the case of 3 people at least 2, etc. Applications from legal entities or institutions such as e.V. or GmbH are not permitted.

### **Exclusion**

Applicants must not be enrolled at a university at the time of application or during the funding period. This includes the goal of a doctorate.

Applicants may not be employed as a professor at a university at the time of application or during the funding period.

Members of the jury and employees of the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion and their relatives are excluded from submitting an application.

Violations may result in the cancellation of funding.

### **Allocation of Funding**

An independent expert jury will decide on the applications to be funded based on the artistic/curatorial quality, the expected quality of the cooperation and the expected resonance and sustainability. The composition of the jury will be published on the website in due course. Please refrain from contacting the jury members personally. All applicants are expected to be informed of the outcome of the jury meeting in January 2026.

The names of the funded artists will be announced to the public.

### **Application**

Applications can only be submitted online. The link will be made available on this [website](#) in good time. It is not possible to send the application documents by e-mail or post.

## **Application form and attachments**

The online application form and the project description contained therein must be submitted in German. If the short description is not in German, the application will not be admitted to the jury process. Attachments can be submitted in German or English.

Please provide a precise and informative description of the proposed project in the online application form under 'Kurzbeschreibung' (brief description) with max. 1,900 characters (including spaces and paragraphs). The following questions can help:

- What project would you like to work on during the grant period?
- Why is the application important to you at this point in time?
- What cooperation is planned?

In addition to the online application form, the following attachments must be uploaded:

Please note the restrictions on data volume and number of pages! Applications with documents that exceed the maximum number of pages will be formally rejected. Cover sheets are included. Your documents are automatically named correctly when they are uploaded. The attachments may not exceed 30 MB in total.

### **1. Project description - maximum 5 pages**

max. 5 MB, pdf

Description of the cooperation project (topics, objectives, etc.) and the type of cooperation, including a brief breakdown of the application amount

### **2. Invitation letter(s) of the cooperation partner(s)**

max. 2 MB, pdf

The invitation(s) should also contain details of the support in kind and/or financial given as well as the address and a signature.

### **3. Artistic CV / Portfolio of artistic work - max. 10 pages**

max. 10 MB, pdf

CV/portfolio should list career, grants, awards and a selection of important projects from recent years. For groups, please provide only one pdf for all group members

#### **4. Proof of identity and residence**

max. 5 MB, pdf

For groups the proof must be provided by the applicant.

For citizens with German nationality: Copy of identity card (front and back)

For citizens from EU countries: Copy of identity card (front and back) or copy of passport AND confirmation of registration from the residents' registration office

For citizens from non-EU countries with a residence permit card: The residence permit card (front and back) is valid as an identification document and as a registration certificate.

For citizens from non-EU countries without a residence permit card:

- Copy of the valid identity card (front and back) or passport and
- Copy of the registration certificate from the residents' registration office and
- Copy of the valid residence permit or certificate of right of residence (front and back)

Please note that the address given in the online application must match the proof of the Berlin registration address.

#### **5. Only for groups (mandatory):**

##### **GbR contract for existing GbR or group declaration**

The cultural exchange grant is a personal grant. Therefore, only natural persons and GbRs consisting of natural persons are eligible to apply. Associations, limited liability companies or similar are not eligible to apply. If a GbR already exists, please upload the GbR contract. In the case of groups of artists who join together to submit an application, all group members must sign a declaration and name a person authorised to represent them. The form can be downloaded [here](#).

##### **Notes on the application procedure:**

- If the formal application requirements set out in this information sheet are not met, the application will be formally excluded and will not be admitted to the jury process.
- Please note that only pdfs can be uploaded as attachments.

- Photos, videos or other documents that cannot be uploaded electronically (e.g. mp4 formats) can be made available to the jury via links (password-protected if necessary).
- If incorrect documents are submitted, the cultural administration will not contact you. Missing documents will not be requested subsequently. Please check your application carefully before submitting it.
- Subsequent submissions are permitted until the end of the application period at the latest, provided they are unavoidable and absolutely necessary (e.g. extension of residence permits).
- Submitting an application on the last day of the application deadline is not recommended as experience has shown that upload times can be delayed. Each applicant is responsible for submitting the application on time.
- All information will be treated confidentially and will only be used for decision-making and funding purposes (privacy policy in the online form).
- After you have submitted the online application, you can download a pdf version of your completed application form.
- You will also receive an automatic confirmation of receipt via email.
- After the selection process has been completed, applicants will be notified of the funding recommendation.

### **Submission/application deadline**

The online application must be fully submitted by 2pm (CET) on 14 October 2025.

Submission is no longer possible after 2pm, and any submissions that have been started will be automatically cancelled. We recommend starting the application in good time and preparing all the necessary documents in advance. You can find further information on online applications in our frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#)).

### **Compliance with EU regulations**

If the grant can be considered state aid, the funding is being awarded on the basis of Chapter I and Article 53 of Chapter III of the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (General Block Exemption Regulation) (EU OJ L 187/1, 26.6.2014) as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1315 of 23 June 2023 (EU OJ L 167, 30.6.2023) or on the basis of Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December

2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (EU OJ L, 2023/2831, 15.12.2023).

Companies or sectors are excluded from funding in the cases of Article 1 Para. 2, 3 and 5 GBER.

Companies that have not complied with a recovery injunction based on a previous Commission decision on the inadmissibility of an instance of state aid and its incompatibility with the internal market by the same Member State will not be granted individual aid.

Companies in difficulty are excluded from funding in accordance with Article 1 Para. 4 Letter c GBER. Companies in difficulty are companies to which at least one of the circumstances according to Article 2 No. 18 letters a-e GBER applies.

It should be noted that information about each individual aid of over EUR 100.000 is usually published in the European Commission's State aid transparency database or on a comprehensive national or regional aid website within six months of the date of granting of the aid. Reference is also made to the reporting obligation in accordance with Article 11 GBER.

### **Contact**

Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion

Sigrid Hilmer can be reached by telephone on 030 90228 745 or via [email](#).

The programme website can be found [here](#).

The Information Sheet in German language is legally binding. The Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion is not liable for mistranslations.