



Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion
Division I A – Funding for Artists, Projects and Independent Groups

INFORMATION SHEET

FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE GRANTS 2026/2027 IN ISTANBUL, PARIS, NEW YORK UND TOKYO

The Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion awards – subject to the availability of funds – international cultural exchange grants for residencies Istanbul, New York, Paris and Tokyo.

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.

In **Istanbul** in cooperation with [DEPO/Anadolu Kültür](#)

for **Visual Artists:**

- 1 grant for 3 months – September – November 2026
- 1 grant for 3 months – March – May 2027

In **New York** in cooperation with [International Studio & Curatorial Program](#)

for **Visual Artists and Curators:**

- 1 grant for 3 months – September to November 2026

In **Paris** in cooperation with [Cité Internationale des Arts:](#)

for **Musicians/Composers:**

- 1 grant for 6 months – April – September 2026
- 1 grant for 6 months – October 2026 – March 2027

for **Artists working in the field of Visual Arts, Literature or Dance**

- 1 grant for 6 months – May – October 2026

for **Comic Artists**

- 1 grant for 6 month - November 2026 - April 2027

In **Tokyo** in cooperation with [Tokyo Arts and Space](#):

for **Visual Artists**:

- 1 grant for 3 months - September - November 2026

Funding is available for professional artists working in the respective fields who are registered with their primary residence in Berlin and have already proven themselves through their artistic work. For New York curators in the field of visual arts can also apply. Former recipients of cultural exchange grants whose stay abroad ended two years ago (October 2023 or earlier) can reapply.

Purpose of funding

The grants are intended for the artistic development of professional artists and curators (only in New York). The stay abroad is intended to enable them to acquire an understanding and knowledge of the cultural scene of the place of residence, to study developments, to make contacts, exchange ideas, gain inspiration or realise an artistic project on site. For this purpose, the partner institutions provide studios or studio flats to host international visual artists (for New York also curators).

Funding volume

The cultural administration awards the following grants to the selected artists (and curators):

- **Istanbul:** € 2,500 per month for travel and living expenses plus the use of a studio flat
- **New York:** € 3,000 per month for travel and living expenses, use of a studio at ISCP, plus € 1,000 per month accommodation allowance as the ISCP only offers a working space
- **Paris:** € 2,500 per month for travel and living expenses plus use of the studio and participation in the Cité programme
- **Tokyo:** € 3,000 for travel and living expenses plus use of the studio flat at TOKAS

The cultural administration pays the studio and programme fees directly to the partner institutions. During the stay abroad, the partner institutions will act as first point of call for visiting artists and arrange contacts to the local scene on request. The events organised

by the partner institutions (e.g. open studios, artist talks) offer visiting artists the opportunity to present their work to an international audience. The partner institutions are not liable for the luggage, personal belongings and artistic works of the visiting artists. The cultural administration therefore recommends taking out appropriate international insurance (including health insurance).

Conditions

1. Artists (for New York also curators) who have proven themselves through their work and provide evidence of this are eligible to apply.
2. Applicants must be registered with their main residence in Berlin at the time of their application and provide proof of this.
3. Applicants should have knowledge of the local language of the residency place and/or a good command of English.
4. Attendance at the residency place is compulsory during the grant period.
5. Parallel applications for several residencies are not possible.
6. 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. An application is also possible if applicants apply for funding from other institutions. In the event of an acceptance, a notification must be sent to check whether the funding can be combined.
7. Grants for comic artists at the Cité in Paris cannot be combined with a work grant from the German Literature Fund during the same period.

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

Independent expert juries will decide on shortlists out of the applications to be funded based on the artistic/curatorial quality, The composition of the juries will be published on the respective websites in due course. Please refrain from contacting the jury members personally.

Independent expert juries for 2026:

For Istanbul, New York and Tokyo: [Visual Arts Jury](#)

For Paris - Comic: [Comic Jury](#)

For Paris - Music and Visual Arts / Literature / Dance: [Cultural Exchange Jury](#)

The international partner institutions will make the final selection from the respective shortlists. Applicants are expected to receive notification of the result of the shortlist in January 2026 and of the result of the final selection in February 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 email or post.

Antragsformular und Anlagen

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.

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?

The attachment named „application form“ must be in English, all other attachments can be submitted in German OR English.

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. Application form

Please complete this form in English. It will be forwarded to the partner institution.

2. Project description - maximum 5 pages

max. 5 MB, pdf

Description of the project (topics, objectives, etc.)

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.

4. Proof of identity and residence

max. 5 MB, pdf

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.

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 ist 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](#).

For further information on international exchange grants for comic artists in Paris please contact Antje Glawe by telephone on 030 90228 676 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.