

The Hessische Kulturstiftung Travel and Residency Grants

Funding guidelines for the grant programme's 18th cycle: 2027–2028

1. Purpose of the grant

- 1.1 Every two years, the foundation awards travel and residency grants for visual artists of all ages in connection with a specific artistic project on whose content the artist has complete freedom of decision. Artist duos can also receive this support.
- 1.2 The travel grants are for destinations of the grant recipient's choice in Germany and abroad and for durations of 3 to a maximum of 12 months. The recipient may travel to several destinations in several countries within the framework of the grant. The trip does not have to be taken all at once but can be divided into travel phases spread out over the entire grant year.
- 1.3 For the residency grants, the foundation places working and living studios in London (12 months), New York City (12 months), Paris (12 months), and Istanbul (6 months) at the grant recipients' disposal. It moreover enables its grant recipients to reside at the Goethe-Institut Villa Kamogawa in Kyoto for a residency phase (3 months) followed by an individual travel and work phase in Japan (additional 3 months).
- 1.4 Provided it has been arranged with the foundation in advance, grant recipients may be accompanied by minor children and, where necessary, a caregiver for the minor(s). At the Goethe-Institut Villa Kamogawa, only minors who have not yet reached the age of mandatory school attendance are permitted. Accompaniment by a caregiver for the grant recipient themselves is permitted in medically justified cases (proof required). All accompanying persons must be named in the application. Within the framework of the residency grants, accompanying persons such as partners or spouses must also be registered in advance.
- 1.5 The grants for the 18th grant cycle are endowed with the following amounts:

Travel grants:	25,000 euros
Residency in New York City, London, Paris:	25,000 euros
Residency in Istanbul:	12,500 euros
Residency in Kyoto with subsequent travel and work phase in Japan:	15,000 euros
- 1.5.1 In the case of artist duos or grant recipients accompanied by minor children and/or caregivers, the grant amount can be increased (see 1.4):

Travel grants:	Increase by 6,000 euros to 31,000 euros
Residency in New York City, London, Paris:	Increase by 6,000 euros to 31,000 euros
Residency in Istanbul:	Increase by 3,000 euros to 15,500 euros
Residency in Kyoto + travel and work phase in Japan:	Increase by 4,000 euros to 19,000 euros

- 1.5.2 No increase in the grant amount is awarded in the case of accompaniment by persons such as partners or spouses.
- 1.5.3 For the production of new works created within the framework of the grant and/or their presentation in exhibitions in publications, the foundation places an additional 7,700 euros at the grant recipient's disposal. The grant recipient may make use of this allowance for up to three years after the end of the grant period.
- 1.6 The grants are spread out over the years 2027 and 2028 as follows:

2027/28:

5 travel grants (min. 3 to max. 12 months)

2027:

1 residency in New York City

1 residency in Paris

2 residencies in Istanbul

1 residency in Kyoto with subsequent freely plannable travel and work phase

2028:

1 residency in New York City

1 residency in Paris

1 residency in London

1 residency in Kyoto with subsequent freely plannable travel and work phase

2. Application prerequisites

2.1 Visual artists who

- a) were born in Hesse or
- b) have lived in Hesse (primary residence) since no later than 1 January 2025 or
- c) have completed a degree at an art academy or a comparable study programme in Hesse

are eligible for grants.

2.2 The following persons are not eligible to apply:

- a) persons who have been awarded a Hessische Kulturstiftung travel or residency grant in the past (does not apply to State of Hesse work, project, or gap grants)
- b) persons pursuing a course of study or vocational training—that is, persons who have not yet completed their course of study or vocational training—at the time of submitting their application. Artists pursuing a doctorate may apply
- c) persons who are related to one of the jury members, who are employed by the Hessische Kulturstiftung, or who are related to an employee of the Hessische Kulturstiftung.

2.3 Filmmakers may not apply for a Hessische Kulturstiftung travel or residency grant. Please inquire with the Hessen Film & Medien GmbH, Frankfurt am Main.

- 2.4 Proficiency in English or French is required. Persons applying for a residency grant in Istanbul or Kyoto should complete a language course in Turkish or Japanese before the start of the grant period.

3. Application procedure

- 3.1 Per grant cycle, an applicant may submit only one application for a travel or residency grant. The desired travel destination(s) or residency location must be indicated in the application.
- 3.2 Applications can be submitted solely by uploading them on the Hessische Kulturstiftung online application portal (bewerberportal.hkst.de). Applications submitted by mail, e-mail, or telefax will not be accepted.
- 3.3 One prerequisite for the grant award is the submission of a complete application by the deadline: 11:59 pm (Central European Time) on 15 October 2026.
- 3.4 Applications arriving after the deadline or not available in assessable form by the deadline will not be accepted for review. Informal applications will not be reviewed.
- 3.5 Only application materials meeting the specified prerequisites and submitted in digital form will be reviewed.
- 3.6 Applications may be submitted in German or English.
- 3.7 The following information / documents must be submitted:
- a) information on applicant / in the case of an artist duo, information on the person submitting the application only
(name, address, contact information)
 - b) information on the applicant's artistic career / in the case of an artist duo, information on the artistic collaboration
(short CV, solo and group exhibitions, awards and grants received)
 - c) project proposal (max. 3 pages, max. 6,000 keystrokes)
 - d) digital illustration material / videos (max. 10 MB)
 - e) information on two persons within your professional sphere who can answer questions about your artistic development
 - f) mandatory documents: ID (identification card or passport) and proof of one of the three alternative application prerequisites (see 2.1)
 - g) other possible attachments: portfolio, letters of recommendation, publications, etc. (max. 10 MB per PDF file)
- 3.8 When submitting an application, each applicant must declare whether the travel grant or residency grant will be used for an artist duo or for an applicant accompanied by minor children and/or caregivers (see 1.4). Please note that applications for accompanying persons cannot be submitted retroactively. For residency grants, accompanying persons such as partners or spouses must also be registered in advance.

4. General provisions

- 4.1 In principle, the grant is compatible with other forms of funding. The only exception is funding that covers the same period and serves the same purpose—that is, the project outlined in the application.
- 4.2 Retroactive funding is not permitted.
- 4.3 There is no legal entitlement to the award of a grant.
- 4.4 Upon acceptance of a grant, attendance of a joint meeting of all grant recipients with the Hessische Kulturstiftung team is mandatory. The date and location of the meeting will be announced in writing well in advance; travel expenses can be covered on a pro-rata basis.
- 4.5 Before commencing the grant, grant recipients are responsible for reviewing the entry and residence requirements of the respective host country. Grant recipients must independently apply for and obtain the necessary visas, residence permits, and other official permits. The foundation can subsidize visa costs exceeding 200 euros.
- 4.6 During the grant period, grant recipients are personally responsible for ensuring they have adequate health insurance coverage and, where applicable, social security coverage.
- 4.7 For all residency grants, the living and working spaces are provided free of charge. Grant recipients are responsible for any ancillary costs incurred during their stay unless these are expressly covered by the Hessische Kulturstiftung or the respective partner organization. Grant recipients are required to maintain valid personal liability insurance for the duration of their stay (proof of insurance required). The Hessische Kulturstiftung will retain a security deposit at the start of the grant, which will be refunded at the end of the grant period provided the premises are left in good condition.

5. Selection procedure

- 5.1 In the first selection round, five jurors select the applicants for the short list. In the second round, altogether 14 of the applicants on the short list are chosen as grant recipients by means of random selection.
- 5.2 The Hessische Kulturstiftung will prospectively arrive at its funding decisions on all applications in November 2026.
- 5.3 The funding decisions will be announced in December 2026.