Open call: Learning Materials International Artist in Residence 2027

Large print version

Deadline

Monday 26 October 2026 at 15:00 (GMT+2)

For international artists and arts practitioners (based outside of Finland) only.

This open call is also available in Easy Read.

Residency periods

For a period of 90 days within the following seasons:

- **Spring 2027:** 12 April to 11 July 2027
- **Autumn 2027:** 16 August to 14 November 2027

Hosted at HIAP Suomenlinna (see more information below).

Residency conditions

- Travel to and from the artist's home (one return trip). Slow travel is encouraged where it is feasible for the artist, and support is available for making travel arrangements.
- Working grant of €1350 per month (€4050 in total) via Kone Foundation
- Material budget of up to €750
- Access budget of up to €1000 (see further details under "Accessibility")
- Accommodation and workspace provided (see further details under "About the residencies")

About Learning Materials

Learning Materials is a collaborative project by Bioart Society, HIAP Helsinki International Artist Programme, Koynẽ Program and TUO TUO, together with partners FIBRA, LABVA, Scottish Sculpture Workshop, and SWAMP: Art Material Swap and Waste Management Point. The project is supported by Kone Foundation.

The project partners invite applications for residencies focused on socially engaged, process-orientated and material-driven practices.

Learning Materials is a multi-year partner project committed to rethinking and remaking our relationship with materials. In an era shaped by petrochemical dependence, extractive economies, technological determinism, and escalating ecological crises, the project asks how we might work with materials differently: by attending to their legacies, agencies and entanglements.

Through residencies, collaborative research, skill-sharing and knowledge exchange, Learning Materials explores how artists, cultural organisations and communities can build capacity and networks for learning from and with materials in ways that are just, sustainable and grounded in diverse knowledge systems.

The residencies focus on research and experimentation, with no designated output. Residents will work alongside the Learning Materials Fellows and will have access to the support, expertise, networks and facilities of each partner.

Applicants will need to demonstrate expertise in material and socially engaged practices (as opposed to artists looking to learn or experiment for the first time).

About the partners

The partners represent some of Finland's leading organisations in more sustainable material practices, residencies and artist support. We work at the intersection of art, science and society and play a critical role in the transition towards socio-ecologically conscious art and design practices. What unites us is a commitment to experimentation and the advancement of artists' and communities' understanding of their relationship to the planet and one another.

Each partner brings to the project a diversity of expertise and resources, including a vast web of local, national and international networks.

Bioart Society

Bioart Society is an association working at the intersection of art, science and society. Bioart Society supports artistic and transdisciplinary work through workshops, residencies,

long-term collaborative projects and public dialogue on how biosciences and biotechnology shape the social, political and ethical dimensions of life. In the project they co-curate and deliver the Making Public thread with Koynẽ, which involves a learning programme and intensive and hybrid workshops with the partners.

HIAP Helsinki International Artist Programme

HIAP will lead on the residency programme and its coordination. HIAP has been delivering residencies for international artists since 1998. In the last decade, HIAP has led a series of collaborative projects investigating ecological thinking and sustainable practices, including the **Post Fossil Transition project** and **Frontiers in Retreat**. Both can be found on the HIAP website (www.hiap.fi).

TUO TUO

TUO TUO will direct visual communications and open-access publishing outputs. Located in a former schoolhouse in Joutsa's Pynnölä-Uimaniemi village, TUO TUO (established 2020) is an artist-led project space, residency and publishing platform: a collaborative organism blurring

the binary between city and countryside by offering artists perennial access to a rural context.

Koynẽ Program

Koynẽ Program is an international art and research platform developed by the Helsinki-based association Arcaica ry, working across art, biological processes and technology. Koynẽ supports artistic and transdisciplinary research through residencies, exhibitions, workshops, material experimentation and collaborative projects, with a particular focus on biomaterials, residual resources and their relationships with digital and other technological practices. Within Learning Materials, Koynẽ co-delivers the Making Public thread with Bioart Society.

About the residencies

Located on a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Suomenlinna is a 15 minute ferry ride from Helsinki city centre. HIAP hosts up to 12 artists at the same time.

The artists will be provided with a residency apartment and a separate shared working space.

The residency apartments (approximately 30 square metres) are furnished living spaces with a kitchenette, desk space and bathroom, accommodating up to two adults.

The workspace is located in HIAP's main building, within the workshop facilities, which include wood work and carpentry.

All residents have 24/7 access to HIAP community facilities such as the Community Room, Project Space, Equipment Room and Wood Workshop. Some equipment (for example projectors and sound systems) is available to borrow.

More information about the residency programme and the facilities is available on the **HIAP residency web page** (www.hiap.fi/residency).

Residents can take part in activities organised by HIAP during their residency period. These activities include:

- Welcome lunch with all newly arrived residents and local guests, with an opportunity to present your practice.
- Weekly afternoon coffees in HIAP's Community Room to check in with fellow residents and hear from visitors to HIAP's premises.

- Trips and visits to openings and events taking place in Helsinki: the HIAP Residency Team will gather and share weekly roundups of events happening in the city.
- Open Studios with an opportunity to share works in progress: this is one of HIAP's most popular events. It takes place at the end of the residency season and provides an opportunity to celebrate.

HIAP also hosts and organises events and exhibitions in its own premises, and in collaboration with local partners, which residents are warmly welcome to.

Accessibility

Accessibility information for HIAP's residency site is available on the **HIAP accessibility web page** (www.hiap.fi/accessibility).

If you would like any further information about accessibility, or would like to discuss your access requirements in advance of making an application, please use the **contact form on the HIAP website** (www.hiap.fi/contact-us-form).

A separate access budget of up to €1000 for disabled artists is available for the residency. We use an inclusive definition

of disability, guided by the **social model of disability** (on the Unlimited website, weareunlimited.org.uk).

By using the term “disabled”, we mean those who identify as disabled, D/deaf, neurodivergent, chronically ill, experience mental health conditions, have long-term health conditions, barriers due to impairment or have access needs. We understand that different people use different terms to describe their experiences.

Within the form there is a dedicated section where you can include information about your access requirements. You can also choose to upload an Access Rider separately. This will not be included in the jury process and will be treated in strict confidence. You do not have to declare your access requirements in advance of making the application, and there will be further opportunity to share this following selection.

Information about this open call is available in large print and Easy Read. It is not available in international sign language or audio format. If this is a barrier for you, please use the **contact form on the HIAP website**

(www.hiap.fi/contact-us-form) and we will do our best to support you.

You can make your application in written, audio or video format. Please see further details under “How to apply”.

Visa support

Whilst HIAP cannot guarantee that visas will be granted, we are here to support you in the process of securing a visa where that is required.

A budget is available to cover the costs of securing the visa, including application fees and travel and accommodation costs for visits to the relevant visa office or embassy.

Inclusion and diversity

The project partners are committed to fostering a safe and inclusive environment. All residents agree to abide by the following policies and guidelines:

- HIAP’s **Safer Spaces Policy** is available on the HIAP website:
  www.hiap.fi/safer-spaces-policy

- HIAP staff, partners and residents agree to abide by the **Code of Conduct**, which is available on the HIAP website:
  www.hiap.fi/code-of-conduct

People from the global majority (see note 1), who are LGBTQIA+, disabled (see note 2) and/or from working class or low socioeconomic backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply.

Note 1: global majority is a collective term for people of Indigenous, African, Asian or Latin American descent.

Note 2: this includes but is not limited to those who identify as disabled people, D/deaf, neurodivergent, chronically ill, as people who experience mental health conditions or have long-term health conditions, barriers due to impairment or access needs.

Who can apply

This call is for international artists and arts practitioners living and working outside of Finland.

If you are applying as a collective, please note there are no extra residency fees available or additional travel budget.

The Kone Foundation working grant of €1350 per month can be paid to one individual only.

Please read **Kone Foundation's funding practicalities** (on the Kone Foundation website, koneensaatio.fi/en) for more information about the working grants, taxation, social security and insurances.

Artists and arts practitioners from all disciplines are welcome to apply. Whilst experimentation is encouraged, you must be able to demonstrate long-term commitment to the Learning Materials themes within your practice beyond the scope of this residency programme.

There is one pet friendly / support and service animal friendly residency apartment at HIAP.

Family members are welcome.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted via the **online application form**:
www.hiap.fi/learning-materials-international-residency-application-form-2027

Applications sent by email will not be considered.

You can apply in written, video or audio format (see the guidance on audio and video submissions below).

Required materials for the application

- Brief outline of your professional background and biography (up to 250 words or two minutes)
- Motivation statement, including how your work responds to the Learning Materials themes (up to 250 words or two minutes)
- Work plan (up to 250 words or two minutes)
- Portfolio or examples of previous work (maximum 10 pages or five minutes). Provided as an external link. Please make sure there is no password or restriction on access, otherwise your application will not be assessed.

The application language is English.

Audio and video submission guidelines

You can answer any question in the application form using audio or video instead of writing a response. To do this, record your answer, upload it to a file sharing or video

platform (for example Google Drive, Dropbox, YouTube or Vimeo) and paste the link into that question's answer field in the form.

Please make sure the links provided have no password or sharing restrictions, otherwise your application will not be assessed.

Please follow these guidelines when submitting audio or video responses:

- Record in a single, continuous take for each answer: no editing, cutting, or splicing clips together.
- No added music, filters, text overlays, or special effects.
- Speak directly to the camera or microphone, in your own voice.
- Find a reasonably quiet space. Background noise is fine; professional sound is not required.
- A smartphone or laptop recording is completely acceptable. We are not assessing production quality.
- Stay within the time limit for each answer (two minutes, or five minutes for your portfolio).

- State your name and the title of your proposal at the start.
- Submit in a common file format (MP4 or MOV for video, MP3 or WAV for audio).

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Selection criteria

The selections will be made by a jury consisting of representatives from the partner organisations. The jury will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- **Motivation:** does the applicant make a strong argument as to why they want to undertake the residency?
- **Relevance:** would the residency have a potentially meaningful impact on the local art scene?
- **Topicality:** does the focus of the proposal resonate well with the Learning Materials themes?

- **Diversity:** does the applicant consider diversity within their practice, and/or how would they contribute to the programme in terms of practice and lived experience?

Quality of applications will be assessed across multiple areas including relevancy, originality and distinctiveness, rigour, presentation, vision and impactfulness.

The final selection will be made based on the highest scoring applicants against the above criteria, and balance across the Learning Materials residency programme.

Due to the volume of applications, individual feedback cannot be provided. However, we will endeavour to summarise the key jury discussion points and share them with all who applied.

A note on the use of AI in applications

As a principle, the use of AI in the development of applications is not an issue, and we recognise how important AI is as an access and inclusion tool. Unfortunately, we have found in recent open calls that AI is being used to generate the content of the applications (as opposed to supporting the writing and editing process), and

this has often resulted in proposals with a lack of voice and authenticity.

We reference this not to demonise the use of AI in application processes, but to encourage applicants who are using AI to consider how they can maintain their own unique voice within their proposals and avoid weakening their individuality.

Decision making and timeline

A panel of representatives from each partner organisation will make the selection. The jury will meet on 12 November 2026, after which you will hear from us on next steps.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview with the panel, due to take place online on 9 December 2026. If you cannot make this date, please let us know in your application.

Apply

Apply using the **online application form**: www.hiap.fi/learning-materials-international-residency-application-form-2027

Contact

Please use the **contact form on the HIAP website** (www.hiap.fi/contact-us-form).

Website: **www.hiap.fi/residency**