

# Come and make art in Helsinki

## Open call for Palestinian artists

Spring 2027

### Easy Read version



This is an **Easy Read** version of our open call.

An **open call** is an invitation. It asks artists to apply.

# About this document



You may need help to read this document.

You can ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold** are important.

We explain hard words when we use them.

There is also a **large print** version of this open call.



If you have questions, you can email us:

[office@hiap.fi](mailto:office@hiap.fi)

# The most important date



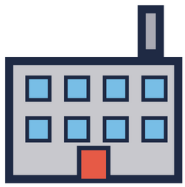
You must send us your application by **2 November 2026**.



The latest time you can send it is **3pm Finland time**.

This is 15:00 in the time zone GMT+2.

# Who we are



We are **HIAP**.

HIAP stands for Helsinki International Artist Programme.

We invite artists from other countries to come and work in Helsinki, Finland.



We are working with **Sumud**.

Sumud is a group in Finland that works for the rights of Palestinian people.



The **Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture** gives money to pay for this residency.

The ministry is part of the government of Finland.



This residency is part of the **Ukraine Solidarity Residency Programme**.

This programme started in 2022 to help artists affected by the war in Ukraine.

Since 2026 it also helps Palestinian artists.

# What is a residency?



A **residency** is when an artist stays in a new place for some time.

The artist gets time and space to think and to work on their art.

The artist is called a **resident**.

# Who can apply



You can apply if you are a **professional Palestinian artist**.

You make **contemporary art**. This means art made today.

Artists who make all kinds of art can apply.



You can apply if you:

- live in Palestine
- or are Palestinian and live in another country



A **collective** can apply. A collective is a group of artists who work together.

But a collective gets the same money and travel as one artist.



We really want to hear from:

- LGBTQIA+ people. This means lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, and asexual people
- disabled people
- people from working class families or families with little money

# When and where



The residency starts on **12 April 2027**.

It ends on **11 July 2027**.

That is **90 days**. This is about three months.



You will stay at **Cable Factory** in Helsinki.

Cable Factory is a very big building. Lots of artists and arts groups work there.

# What you get



A flat where you can **live and make art**. You do not pay for it.

The flat has:

- a small kitchen
- a bed on a raised platform
- your own bathroom

Two adults or a small family can live in the flat.



We pay for your **travel** to Helsinki and back home.

We pay for one trip.



We give you **€3600** to support your work.

This money is called a **grant**. You do not pay it back.



You can use HIAP rooms and equipment on **Suomenlinna island**, at any time of day or night.

Suomenlinna is an island near Helsinki. It is about 15 minutes by boat.



On Suomenlinna there is:

- a room to meet other residents
- a room to show your work
- a room with equipment
- a wood workshop

You can borrow some equipment. For example, projectors and speakers.



One flat is good for **pets** and **assistance animals**.

An assistance animal helps a disabled person. For example, a guide dog.



**Family members** are welcome.

# What you do at the residency



The residency gives you time and space to:

- take a break from your daily life
- research your art
- meet artists and art workers in Helsinki



You **do not have to** make new art.

You **do not have to** show your art in an **exhibition**.

An exhibition is when art is shown to the public.



If you want, you can plan an exhibition during the residency.

This exhibition could happen at HIAP in 2029 or later.

# Things you can join



A **welcome lunch** with the new residents and guests.

You can tell people about your art.



**Coffee every week** with the other residents.

Sometimes visitors come too.



**Trips** to art events in Helsinki.

Every week we send a list of events in the city.



**Open Studios** at the end of the residency.

People visit your studio. You can show the work you are doing.

It is a big celebration.



HIAP also has other events and exhibitions. You are welcome to go to them.

Find out more about the residency:

[www.hiap.fi/residency](http://www.hiap.fi/residency)

# Help with your visa



A **visa** is permission to enter a country.  
You may need a visa to come to Finland.



We will **help you** to get a visa.  
But we **cannot promise** that you will get a visa.



We have money to pay for your visa. This includes:

- the cost of applying for the visa
- travel to the visa office or **embassy**
- a place to stay near the visa office or embassy if it is far from your home

An embassy is an office of a country in another country.

# Access support



We try to make the residency to be **accessible**.

Read about access at our buildings:

[www.hiap.fi/accessibility](http://www.hiap.fi/accessibility)



We have a small amount of **money for disabled artists**. This is called an **access budget**.

It pays for things you need to take part in the residency.



When we say **disabled**, we mean anyone who says they are disabled. This includes people who:

- are deaf or Deaf
- are neurodivergent. For example, autistic people or dyslexic people
- have a long-term illness or health condition
- have mental health conditions
- have access needs. This means you need some changes or support to take part

Different people use different words for this.



You can tell us about your **access needs** in the application form.

Or you can send us an **access rider**.

An access rider is a document that lists what you need to take part.



The people who choose the artists **will not see** this information.

We will keep it private.

You do not have to tell us now. You can tell us later if we choose you.



Do you want to talk about your access needs before you apply?

Email us: [office@hiap.fi](mailto:office@hiap.fi)



This open call is **not** in sign language or audio.

If this is a problem for you, email us. We will do our best to help.

# A safe and welcoming place



HIAP wants everyone to feel **safe and included**.

Read our **Safer Spaces Policy**:

[www.hiap.fi/safer-spaces-policy](http://www.hiap.fi/safer-spaces-policy)



Staff and residents agree to follow our **Code of Conduct**.

This is a list of rules about how we treat each other.

Read our Code of Conduct:

[www.hiap.fi/code-of-conduct](http://www.hiap.fi/code-of-conduct)

# How to apply



You must apply using the **online form**:  
<https://www.hiap.fi/palestine-2027-application-form/>



We **will not** accept applications sent by email.



Please apply in **English**.



You can answer each question by:

- writing
- recording your voice (audio)
- recording a video

# What to send us



You need to send us four things.

Each written answer can be up to **250 words**.

Each audio or video answer can be up to **two minutes**.



## 1. About you

Tell us about you and your work as an artist.



## 2. Why you want to come

Tell us why you want to do this residency **now**.



## 3. Examples of your art

This is called a **portfolio**.

It can be up to 10 pages, or up to five minutes of audio or video.

Send it as a **link** to a website or file.



Your links must **not** have a password.

Anyone must be able to open them.

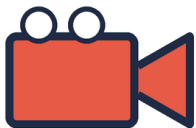
If we cannot open your links, we cannot look at your application.

# Sending audio or video



To answer a question with audio or video:

- record your answer
- put the recording on a website like Google Drive, Dropbox, YouTube or Vimeo
- copy the link into the answer box in the form



When you record:

- record each answer in one go. Do not edit it
- do not add music, filters, writing or special effects
- talk to the camera or microphone in your own voice
- say your name and the title of your idea at the start



You can use a phone or a laptop.

Some background noise is fine.

We **do not** judge how good the recording is.



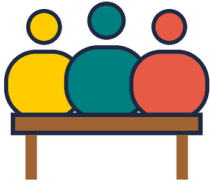
Keep to the **time limit** for each answer.



Use these file types:

- video: MP4 or MOV
- audio: MP3 or WAV

# How we choose



A group of people will read all the applications.

This group is called the **jury**.

The jury has people from HIAP and Sumud.

It also has artists and art workers who do not work for us.



The jury will meet in **November 2026**.

After that, we will contact you.



The jury will look at:

- why you want to do a residency
- how new and different your idea is
- how carefully you have thought about it
- how clearly you explain it
- what difference it could make

The artists with the **highest scores** will be chosen.



We get a lot of applications. We **cannot** tell each person why they were or were not chosen.

But we will send everyone a short report about what the jury talked about.

# Remember



Send your application by **2 November 2026**,  
**3pm Finland time:**

<https://www.hiap.fi/palestine-2027-application-form/>



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