

Learning Materials

12 month fellowship for artists in Finland 2027 to 2028

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 contact us using the form on our website:

www.hiap.fi/contact-us-form

The most important date



You must send us your application by **Monday 26 October 2026.**



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

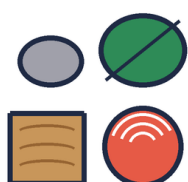
This is 15:00 in the time zone GMT+2.

What is a fellowship?



A **fellowship** is a paid role for an artist for a set amount of time.

The artist is called a **fellow**.



As a fellow, you will do your own **research** into materials.

You will also help to shape the Learning Materials project.



The fellowship lasts for **12 months**.

It starts on **12 April 2027**.

It ends on **9 April 2028**.

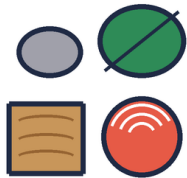
Who can apply



This open call is only for artists who are **based in Finland**.

Artists who make all kinds of art can apply.

For example, bioart, food, sculpture, performance, sound, new media, writing and art made with communities.



You must already have **experience** of working with materials and working with people and communities.

This fellowship is **not** for artists who want to try this for the first time.

You must show that these ideas are an important part of your art over a long time.



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

But there is no extra money for a collective.

The grant can only be paid to **one person**.



We really want to hear from:

- people from the **global majority**. This means people with Indigenous, African, Asian or Latin American family backgrounds
- 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

What is Learning Materials?



Learning Materials is a project that lasts for several years.

It is about how we use **materials**.

Materials are the things we make things from. For example, wood, clay, or cloth.



Many materials today are made from oil. Getting materials can harm the planet.

The project asks how we can work with materials in a better way.

A way that is **fair** and **good for the planet**.



The fellows help the project to look at materials **in Finland**.

Materials also travel between countries. So fellows will also talk with artists from other countries.



The project is paid for by **Kone Foundation**.

A foundation is an organisation that gives money to support things like art and research.

Who is running the project

helsinki.
international.
artist.
programme.

HIAP runs the residencies.

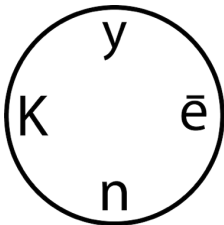
HIAP stands for Helsinki International Artist Programme.

HIAP has invited artists from other countries to Helsinki since 1998.

S ● BIOART
L U SOCIETY

Bioart Society is a group that works with art and science.

It runs workshops and events about how science changes our lives.



Koynē Program is an art and research group in Helsinki.

It works with natural materials, leftover materials and technology.

TUO TUO
LJJO LJJO

TUO TUO is an art space in an old school in the countryside in Finland.

It will make the pictures, designs and books for the project.



Other partners are **FIBRA, LABVA, Scottish Sculpture Workshop** and **SWAMP**.

What you get



€1350 every month for 12 months. This is **€16 200** in total.

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

Kone Foundation pays the grant.



This is a **50% working grant**.

This means it pays for about **half** of your working time.



Up to **€1000** for disabled artists. This is called an **access budget**.



A large flat on **Suomenlinna** where you can **live and work**. It is called an **Atelier**.

You work downstairs.

You live upstairs. There is a bed, a small kitchen and a bathroom.



Family members are welcome.

Up to four people can live in the Atelier.



You can bring an **assistance animal**. An assistance animal helps a disabled person. For example, a guide dog.

You **cannot** bring a pet.

Where you will be



You will stay at **HIAP Suomenlinna**.

Suomenlinna is an island near Helsinki. It takes 15 minutes by ferry to get there.

The island is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. This means it is a place that is protected.



You can use HIAP rooms at any time of day or night:

- 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.

What you will do



You will work on your **own research** into materials.



You will join the project's **Steering Group**.

This is a group that makes decisions about the project. It meets two times in the year.



You will **support the international artists** who come to HIAP for three months.

You will visit each of them in their studio at least one time.



You will give **ideas and advice** about the project's events. For example, workshops, visits, talks and reading groups.

You do not have to organise the events.

You will show your work at **at least one** public event.



You will take part in the **Learning Intensive**.
This is a week of learning together.

It is from **2 to 8 August 2027**.

You will show your work during this week.



You will give something for **at least one** of the project's publications.

A publication can be printed, online or audio.



You will help us to find people, groups and places in Finland that support artists to work with materials in a responsible way.

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



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

Find out more: www.hiap.fi/residency

Access support



We want the fellowship to be **accessible**.

Read about access at HIAP:

www.hiap.fi/accessibility



Disabled artists can get up to **€1000** to support them. This is called an **access budget**.

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



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

- are deaf or Deaf
- are neurodivergent. This means your brain works in a different way. 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 fellows **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?

Contact us: www.hiap.fi/contact-us-form



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

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

A safe and welcoming place



We want everyone to feel **safe and included**.

Read our **Safer Spaces Policy**:

www.hiap.fi/safer-spaces-policy



Everyone agrees 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

How to apply



You must apply using the **online application form**:

www.hiap.fi/learning-materials-fellowship-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 be a fellow

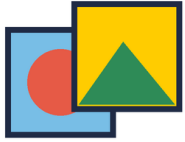
Tell us why you want to do this fellowship.

Tell us how your work connects to the ideas of **Learning Materials**.



3. Your plan

Tell us what you want to do during the fellowship.



4. 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.

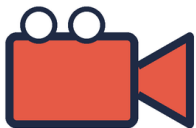
If we cannot open your links, we cannot look at your application.

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.



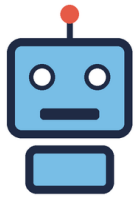
Keep to the **time limit** written in the application form.



Use these file types:

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

Using AI



AI means computer tools like ChatGPT that can write text.

You **can** use AI to help you apply. For example, to check your spelling or help you write.

AI can be an important tool for access.



But please do not let AI write your ideas for you.

We want to hear **your own voice** and **your own ideas**.

How we choose



A group of people will read all the applications.

This group is called the **jury**.

The jury has people from each partner organisation.



The jury will look at:

- why you want to do a residency
- how your idea fits with the Learning Materials themes
- 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 also want a good **mix** of artists in the programme.



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

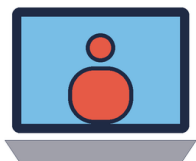
But we will send everyone a short report about what the jury talked about.

What happens next



The jury will meet on **10 November 2026**.

After that, we will contact you.



We may ask some artists to an **interview** with the jury.

The interview will be **online** on **7 December 2026**.



Can you not come to an interview on 7 December?

Please tell us in your application.

Remember



Send your application by **Monday 26 October 2026, 3pm Finland time.**



Apply using the online application form:

www.hiap.fi/learning-materials-fellowship-application-form



If you have questions, contact us:

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Find out more on our website:

www.hiap.fi/residency