

GUIDANCE NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Delfina Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to facilitating artistic exchange and developing creative practice through residencies, partnerships and public programming.

We are pleased to welcome applications from curators based in Central and West Africa for a residency in London, supported by Delfina's Network of Patrons for Africa. The selected applicant(s) will be offered a six- or twelve-week residency within Delfina's winter 2027 season (5 January to 28 March 2027).

Each year, Delfina Foundation runs four three-month residency seasons. These residency seasons are dedicated to 'open' independent research or to '[thematic](#)' collective research around a specific issue or idea. This residency will take place during our 'open' season.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

Alongside gaining time and space to develop their work, Delfina's residencies offer a programme that includes:

- Guided visits to museums, galleries, non-profits, artist-run spaces and studios, as well as trips to institutions outside London;
- Opportunities to meet and engage with artists, curators, academics and researchers through organised presentations, studio visits, events and meals;
- Professional development activities including presentations and crits, portfolio reviews, and mentoring activities to strengthen the artistic practice; and
- Collaborative exchange between residents through informal gatherings and meals.

A one-minute introduction video to Delfina Foundation can be watched [here](#).

TRAVEL AND LIVING ALLOWANCES

Support for the residency includes:

- A return economy-class flight
- Airport transfers in the UK
- Reimbursement of visa fees (if required)

- A living allowance of £40 per day
- A materials/research allowance of £70 per week
- A travel pass for London's public transport network
- A single bedroom with a desk at Delfina Foundation, a house which hosts up to 8 residents with shared facilities, including: bathrooms, laundry rooms, a kitchen, library and dining room

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Hold nationality and be based in one of the following countries in Central and West Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Togo
- Have at least five years of professional curatorial practice in a freelance, academic or institutional context
- Be able to explain how the experience of an international residency will be of benefit, not only to the individual but also to their local networks; and
- Be proficient in English (the interview will be conducted in English and applicants are expected to be able to confidently present and discuss their practice and ideas with the interviewers)

APPLICATION FORM

To apply, please complete and submit the [application form](#).

We encourage applicants to review the FAQ section below before applying.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Application deadline: Sunday, 30 August 2026, 23:59 BST

All applicants will be notified of the success of their application by late September 2026.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is considered as part of five years professional curatorial practice?

Professional curatorial practice refers to sustained

experience in developing, researching, organizing, commissioning, or producing exhibitions, public programmes, or other curatorial projects. This may include work undertaken independently, within institutions, artist-run spaces, biennials, festivals, galleries, non-profit organisations, or other cultural initiatives.

The five years do not need to be continuous, but applicants should be able to demonstrate at least five years of relevant professional curatorial experience through their CV and portfolio.

Can I have experience working outside of the region?

Yes. We welcome applicants with international experience. However, applicants must hold the nationality of, and currently be based in, a country in Central or Western Africa at the time of application. Experience gained both within and outside the region is eligible and valued.

Can only curators working in institutions apply?

No. We encourage applications from curators working across a range of contexts, including independent curators, freelancers, artist-run initiatives, collectives, community-based organisations, non-profit spaces, museums, galleries, and other cultural organisations. What matters is that you meet the eligibility criteria and can demonstrate relevant professional curatorial practice.

I am from a country I consider to be part of West or Central Africa that is not included in the list of eligible countries. Why is it not included in the list?

In order to distribute opportunities, we often consider the continent in regions: North, West, Central, East and South Africa. We appreciate that these regional groupings are not fixed or absolute; there are overlaps and some countries may be understood as belonging to more than one region depending on the framework used. For this open call, eligibility is defined by the list of countries provided, which reflects the geographic focus of this specific programme.

Can artist-curators apply?

This residency is intended for applicants whose primary professional practice is curating. We welcome applications from curators who have previously worked as artists or who maintain an artistic background. However, applicants should be able to demonstrate that their current practice and professional focus are

centred on curatorial work.

The residency is not open to applicants whose primary practice is as an artist, even if they have undertaken occasional curatorial projects.

We will assess this through your CV, portfolio, and application materials, which should demonstrate a sustained and ongoing commitment to curatorial practice.

Can duos or collectives apply?

Generally, it is difficult for us to host residencies with collectives, given the resources and space required to host them. Our accommodation comprises of eight single rooms. We recommend that collectives or duos who wish to apply put forth one member to represent them in-residence if they are prepared to work in such a way. The member put forth must lead on the application.

Can the partners, children, dependents or pets of international residents be accommodated?

Delfina Foundation is a communal residence with limited space. Over the years we have discovered that the nature of our accommodation, as well as our intensive programmes, does not suit non-participants or pets/ESAs being resident onsite. If it is essential that a selected international programme participant be accompanied for part or all of the residency they will need to organise their own accommodation during this time. If you have specific questions, please email opencall@delfinafoundation.

How can specific access support be attained?

Delfina Foundation has always welcomed applicants from all backgrounds, including D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists and others who have specific needs. We are open to discussing how our residencies can be adapted to meet the needs of the applicants that have been selected for a residency. If you have specific questions in advance of applying, regarding your access requirements with respect to the application process itself, the residency programme, and/or the Delfina House, where residents live and work, please fill out the application form or email our Director of Operations Gillean Dickie on gillean@delfinafoundation.com, with the subject line: 'Open call: access'.

I previously applied unsuccessfully to an open call at Delfina Foundation. Is it worthwhile applying again? Yes. We encourage applications from practitioners who have applied to previous calls. We always receive more strong applications to our calls than we have opportunities available, so we are always happy to consider updated or new applications from previous applicant.