

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.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is an international foundation promoting the development of individuals and organisations through art, science, education, and charity, for a more equitable and sustainable society. The UK Branch supports transnational exchange between the UK and Portugal to strengthen arts and civil society ecosystems.

In partnership with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch), Delfina Foundation welcomes applications from contemporary visual artists from Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe for a residency in London. This residency will take place from 28 June to 17 September 2027 during Delfina Foundation's summer residency season.

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' summer 2027 season.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

Alongside gaining time and space to develop their work, all seasons of Delfina Foundation 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 SUPPORT

A twelve-week fully-funded residency at Delfina Foundation, including:

- 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 budget of £1200
- 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 be:

- Born in Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde or São Tomé and Príncipe (please note, individuals currently based in the UK are not eligible to apply);
- Seeking an opportunity to develop their practice through research;
- Able to explain how the experience of an international residency may benefit their career development and local networks;
- 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](#).

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Application deadline: Sunday 4 October 2026, 23:59 BST

All applicants will be notified of the success of their application by mid-November 2026.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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.

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.com.

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 gilleean@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 applicants.

*Please see Applicant Eligibility for the list of eligible countries supported through this partnership.