

INTRODUCTION

Delfina Foundation is pleased to announce a new open call for artists from Kazakhstan.

Generously supported by SÄR Foundation, this opportunity forms part of a new series of annual residencies in London over the next five years for artists from Central Asia. Delivered through separate geographically-specific open calls, the ambition is to host artists from across the region over the span of this collaboration.

This inaugural call is focused on artists from Kazakhstan for a three-month residency in autumn 2026 (21 Sep to 11 Dec).

This residency provides artists with time, space, and critical dialogue to develop their practice within an international context, while engaging with the UK's dynamic artistic and cultural landscape. Selected residents will join a cohort of international artists, curators, and thinkers at Delfina Foundation, and will be supported through its programme of talks, visits, professional exchanges.

This new series of residencies seeks to strengthen cultural exchange between Central Asia and the UK, and to support artists to gain more European and international exposure.

Further details on application requirements and deadlines are outlined below.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

Alongside gaining time and space to develop the practice and philosophy of their work, Delfina Foundation's residency programme includes:

- Guided visits to museums, galleries, non-profits, artist-run spaces and studios, as well as trips to institutions outside of 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.

TRAVEL AND LIVING SUPPORT

The provisions for the twelve-week residency at Delfina Foundation 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 allowance of £1,200
- A travel card 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

Please note that travel insurance is not covered. Selected residents are required to obtain travel insurance at their own initiative and expense. This insurance should cover medical emergencies, as well as the protection of personal possessions from theft, accidents, and loss for the duration of the residency.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be from Kazakhstan, living in the country or its Diaspora;
- A working artist with a demonstrable, even if emergent, career;
- Demonstrate ability and willingness to work collaboratively and participate in collective residency activities;
- Be proficient in English.

For further questions, please see FAQs below.

APPLICATION FORM

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

SELECTION

Artists will be initially shortlisted based on their application materials, and an interview will help determine the recipient of the residency.

A selection panel, composed of representatives from Delfina Foundation and appointed by SÄR Foundation, will evaluate

applications and ensure a comprehensive selection process. Delfina Foundation will make the final selection.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Application deadline: 7th June 2026, 23:59 BST.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an online interview during the weeks commencing 29th June 2026.

Announcement of selected artists by 8th July 2026.

Residency: 21 September to 11 December 2026.

Delfina Foundation may adjust this schedule, and any updates will be sent to applicants or posted on our socials.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are artists based outside of Kazakhstan eligible?

Kazakh Artists based in and outside of Kazakhstan are eligible. This includes Diasporic communities around the world regardless of their citizenship.

Additionally, this open call does not prioritise any ethnic group within Kazakhstan.

Does my practice need to have a specific focus?

No.

Will there be opportunities for other Central Asian artists to apply?

Over the five-year collaboration with SÄR foundation we hope to offer opportunities for artists other countries, especially Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

Can duos or collectives apply?

It is generally difficult for Delfina Foundation 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 on-site. If it is essential that a selected international programme participant be accompanied for part or all the residency they will need to organise their own accommodation during this time at their own cost. If you have specific questions, please email opencall@delfinafoundation.com.

How can specific access support be gained?

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 highly encourage applications from practitioners who have applied to previous calls. We always receive more applications to our calls than we have opportunities available, so we are always happy to consider updated or new applications from previous applicants.