

THE POLITICS OF FOOD OPEN CALL

Since 2014, Delfina Foundation's [Politics of Food](#) programme has worked with artists, activists, agronomists, artisans, bakers, butchers, chefs, economists, farmers, fermenters, foragers, historians, scientists, policy makers, nutritionists and more, delivering over 100 residencies with public programmes taking the format of meals, exhibitions, walks, talks, pickings and a pop-up cafe. Our [first book](#) dedicated to the topic was launched at the end of 2019 and is distributed by Sternberg Press.

In Autumn 2022, Delfina Foundation will launch our fifth concentrated season of residencies and public programmes focusing our investigations on the most pressing issue of our time: the climate emergency. Agriculture alone is responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 92% of global water use, 38% of earth's ice-free land, and is a major source of biodiversity loss and land degradation.¹ In our oceans, the impact of the world's fastest growing food production system - intensive aquaculture - encapsulates the complexity of future "sustainable" diets as nutritional, policy and environmental factors rub against one another. Addressing how and what we eat is critical to the survival of both human and more than human species.²

Our programme partner for *Politics of Food* in 2022 is Gaia Art Foundation, an innovative non-profit that facilitates exchange across the fields of art, ecology, science and technology. Gaia Art Foundation supports pioneering artistic practices and encourage experimentation that investigate current issues and try to find solutions to improve our ecology, our society and our collective future. Their ambition is to engender vibrant collaboration across disciplines to foster and provoke new ways of seeing, thinking and being.

For this open call, Delfina Foundation and Gaia Art Foundation are open to a variety of responses to our sub-theme, but we are

¹ As outlined in Pamela Mason and Tim Lang's *Sustainable Diets*, London: Routledge, 2017.

² As described in Puig del la Bellacasa's *Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More than Human Worlds*, Minneapolis; London: University of Minnesota Press, 2017.

particularly interested in interdisciplinary collaborations between artists/curators and researchers seeking to evolve ideas beyond this residency and traditional art spaces. In addition to creative practitioners, we are keen to receive applications from researchers, including but not limited to traditional knowledge holders, academic researchers, scientists, ecologists and gastronomes alike, who are interested in this form of collaboration. Opportunities will be available for in-person residencies and virtual engagement, as well as public programme events. This open call should therefore be considered as an expression of interest to participate in a range of ways.

Before applying, we strongly encourage applicants to look at Delfina Foundation's previous [Politics of Food](#) seasons and [our book](#), as participants will be selected based on how they are building on and complementing our existing body of work.

Application deadline: 14th June 2021, noon GMT

Q&A

Why the sharper focus on the climate emergency as a sub-theme?

Delfina Foundation acts as a think tank bringing together a range of voices and opinions to discuss some of the most pressing issues of our times. By addressing the climate emergency through the lens of food we are keen to bring together multiple voices in order to unpack some of the complex topics related to the challenges of adapting our food production, consumption, and governance structures. Participants in previous editions have engaged with environmental issues - we are now bringing the climate emergency more to the forefront of our work on this theme.

What are the expected outcomes of this residency?

Delfina Foundation is dedicated to incubating ideas, facilitating research, supporting process, and harnessing cross-collaborations. Outcomes are thus open, flexible and specific to each participant or project. We are not expecting the production of a new work, but we hope participants will contribute towards a dynamic public programme aimed at devising strategies and engaging a wide range of audiences.

I'm based in the UK. Can I apply?

Yes. Alongside Delfina Foundation's international residencies, we host UK Associates offering the opportunity to develop their practice through a bespoke programme of activities around our themes like

Politics of Food. UK Associates receive access to Delfina's space, networks, and curatorial support, as well as a bursary to develop or continue relevant projects.

How many opportunities will be available?

The overall programme will include a minimum of 10 international residents or UK associates; however, additional practitioners will be engaged in public programming. Participants will be chosen from this international open call as well as other selection processes with Delfina's network of global partners and advisors.

In addition to international residents and UK Associates, we have the ability to host visitors or short-term guests at Delfina Foundation for 1-2 weeks to bring in new perspectives from the arts and other fields or disciplines. However, we will be conscious of the environmental impact of such short trips, versus longer residencies and online engagement.

What costs are covered?

Delfina Foundation fundraises to cover basic costs through public and private support. Selected candidates for our residency programme will be provided with accommodation and international travel as well as an allowance for food/per diems (£30/per day), visas, and a materials stipend. UK Associates receive a bursary of £2,000 GBP, plus access to our space, networks, and programming, as outlined in the previous question. Public programmes, as well as any specific commissions, have a separate but limited budget.

What is the decision-making process?

Delfina Foundation, in collaboration with other artists, institutional partners, and curatorial advisors, will select participants. Delfina Foundation has a Strategic Advisory group and many of these members support our selection process. All shortlisted artists will be interviewed from mid-July 2021 onwards, with final selection taking place in August 2021.

Please also refer to our guidance on [Delfina Foundation's selection process](#).

I have applied to *Politics of Food* before, can I apply again?

Yes. Our selection process for each programme is unique to that season. We are open to re-considering previous applicants but we ask that you update your application, considering how it relates specifically to the climate emergency and why now might be the moment for you to undertake this residency.

What will be included if I opt for virtual engagement?

We are still shaping how this could work, and we believe that it is best to respond to applicants' specific needs and context, whether this is participation through online events or some sort of digital residency. We want to be conscious about our environmental impact, so for some activity, virtual engagement will be sufficient, whereas for others, we need to weigh up the costs of international residencies and in-person activities.

Is the timeline of autumn 2022 set?

Yes. During this period, our residencies and public programmes will be concentrated fully on this theme. However, we may host some practitioners or activity in the build-up to autumn 2022 - including those that need a longer time to germinate. Likewise, some activity may extend beyond this period, as Politics of Food is a recurring aspect of our Delfina Foundation's programming.

I am a researcher who has not previously engaged with artists, how will this work?

Delfina Foundation has years of experience facilitating fruitful interactions. The application process is the first stage of expressing your interest and areas for potential collaboration, which will be discussed in the interview stage. Our selection process considers individual applicants in relation to the collective group that will come together for the programme; we naturally identify links and commonalities through this process.

I work as part of a duo or collective. What are our chances of being selected as a team?

Generally, it is difficult for us to host residencies with collectives, given the resources and space required to host them. The accommodation at Delfina Foundation has single bed use and therefore, a collective of three would essentially replace three individual residents. We are not opposed to this, but applications from collectives would need to be sufficiently strong.

We often recommend that collectives or duos put forth one member to represent them in residence, if they are prepared to work in such a way, especially considering that the remaining members could be engaged virtually.

We have successfully involved UK-based collectives and duos in the programme who do not need accommodation (our most limited resource).

Can you accommodate the partners, children, dependents or pets/EMAs of international residents?

Whilst we understand the importance of creating access for practitioners with families and other needs, 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, do not usually suit non-participants or pets/ESAs being resident on-site.

If it is essential that a selected international programme participant is accompanied, then depending on the scenario, we may be able to offer support in finding off-site accommodation. Otherwise, participants will need to organise their own accommodation. If you have specific questions, please email opencall@delfinafoundation.

How can I gain specific access support?

Delfina Foundation has always welcomed applicants from all backgrounds, including from d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists and others who have specific needs. We are open to discussing how our UK associate programme and our international residencies can be adapted to ensure they are fully accessible. For international residents requiring accommodation we'd recommend getting in contact to discuss our facilities in more detail. If you have any questions in advance of applying from abroad or within the UK, please email us at opencall@delfinafoundation.

Are other organisational partners involved?

Delfina Foundation is very keen to collaborate with local and international partners around this theme, and we are in discussion with a few. We will be involving some in the selection process itself.

We are also interested to hear from potential partners who are already working in this area or keen to do so.

What level of practitioners are you accepting?

The programme is open to practitioners at all stages of their career. We would, however, encourage young and/or emerging practitioners to carefully consider the structure and theme of the residency and whether it suits where they are in the development of their own practice. Generally, our thematic programmes suit artists with some experience and a track record of working within the specific area of focus. For practitioners at the early stages of their career, there are other opportunities at Delfina Foundation that better support emerging practices.

What should I do if my work or interest area does not fit this theme?

We would discourage applicants from applying if they do not fit the criteria, especially if there is no interest in exploring the seasonal theme.

Instead, we would encourage potential applicants to wait for open calls around our next themes, which we will announce in the coming months.



OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must submit a completed application form, a CV and images of their work. The selection process will include interviews with the shortlisted applicants by zoom or Skype.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

1. Application form

- Upon completion, please save the application form as a PDF.
- Please name this file in the following format, substituting your own name: LastName_FirstName_Application.pdf

2. Documentation: either a portfolio or weblinks

Portfolio/Documentation of your work

- One PDF with all images and texts
- Images must include captions or short descriptions
- There is no maximum number of images or texts that will be accepted, but we advise applicants to only submit relevant material to reduce the size of email submissions to 4MB.
- For videos/films, please provide links in section 6 of the application form.
- In your portfolio, please feel free to include any relevant reflections on your work such as a press articles, essays, etc.
- Please name this document in the following format, substituting your own name: LastName_FirstName_Portfolio.pdf

Weblinks

- As an alternative to a portfolio, we are happy to refer to your website.
- The website must, however, have clear descriptive information about previous projects with captions and texts. If your website is not straightforward or up-to-date, please submit a portfolio instead.
- Please list all weblinks in section 6 of the application form.

3. A CV/resume

- If your CV is not part of your portfolio, please send it separately.
- Your CV should detail recent projects, exhibitions, workshops and residencies.
- Please name this document in the following format, substituting your own name: LastName_FirstName_CV.pdf

Deadline for applications: 14th June 2021, noon GMT.

Interviews: from late July 2021

Applicants will be notified of the panel's decision by the end of August 2021.

How to submit your application

- Submit your application to: opencall@delfinafoundation.com
- The subject line of your email should be: **Politics of Food 2022**
- Please send all attachments in one email.
- The total size of the attachments should be below 4MB. There are many free websites you can use to compress large PDF files.
- Do not change the formatting of the application form and do not exceed the stated word counts.
- Do not include any important information in the body of your email. It will not be recorded as part of your application.
- Do not attach anything other than the three documents outlined above.
- Only information in your application form and the requested documents will be assessed, alongside any weblinks provided by the applicant.



DELFINA FOUNDATION: ABOUT US

A one-minute introductory video to Delfina Foundation can be watched [here](#). Delfina Foundation's programmes have been particularly focused on five thematic areas:

- [*The Politics of Food*](#) - on the production, consumption and distribution of food as well as food as a medium and metaphor to expose wider social and cultural concerns.
- [*Performance as Process*](#) - on performance, from daily rituals to live art, as a way of processing the world around us.
- [*science technology society*](#) - at the intersection between art, science and technology and create solutions through interdisciplinary collaborations.
- [*Collecting as Practice*](#) - on the politics, psychology and philosophy of collecting and the role of collectors and artists in relation collections and archives.
- [*The Public Domain*](#) - on the notion of public space, both in the physical and digital sense.

More information on Delfina Foundation's previous programmes can be found [here](#).