

GUIDANCE NOTES

Delfina Foundation is pleased to announce an international open call for its upcoming winter 2025 residency season (6 January - 30 March) under its recurring thematic programme [science technology society](#).

On this occasion, Delfina Foundation welcomes applications from artists, curators, researchers, technologists, activists, writers, and thinkers who seek to explore how emergent technologies effect our understanding of mental wellbeing, and who are interested in probing the potential for intersecting art, science, and technology to reimagine mental health support, justice, and pride.

ABOUT THE RESIDENCY THEME

We live in a time in which mental suffering appears to be both increasingly profound and ever proliferating. It is common to hear arguments about how the development of digital technologies has exacerbated our mental health crisis – as they drastically shape our sense of self, social relationships, as well as living and labouring conditions. Those same technological advances, however, are often held up as offering solutions, including through opening up new possibilities of forging connections, building support systems, and addressing marginalised needs. UK writer Micha Frazer-Carroll contends that while some new tools might help people fulfil the social construct of ‘mental health’, they cannot address the root causes of the suffering, harm, or oppression. Meanwhile, within the fields of art and activism, there is a growing interest in engaging with disability justice discourses, crip theory, anti-racist thinking, and queer theory to rethink mental justice and Mad politics.

Against this fast-evolving socio-political, technological, and discursive backdrop, the winter 2025 residency season at Delfina Foundation invites practitioners to depart from the following questions: how could we re-examine the conceptualisation of ‘mental health’ today? What new mental landscapes could we envision? What forms of radical Mad knowledge and structures of care could we produce?

DELFINA FOUNDATION'S THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

Delfina Foundation's residency programme is structured around the four seasons of the year. Within this, occasional twelve-

week seasons bring together groups of practitioners under a specific theme to collectively engage in a shared area of interest. Current recurring themes include: *Performance as Process*, *Collecting as Practice*, *The Politics of Food*, and *science_technology_society*. The ambition of the thematic seasons is to create a focused environment that fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and exchange among practitioners from around the world who can offer different approaches and insights. These ongoing programmes build on each other, creating an ever-evolving hub for incubating ideas and connecting an international network of practitioners.

Delfina Foundation's winter residency season 2025 (6 January to 30 March) sees the third iteration of its theme [*science technology society*](#).

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

Delfina residencies support peer-to-peer conversations between participants through programmed activities together, as well as providing an encouraging environment for informal exchange to take place.

In addition, Delfina can propose and facilitate workshops, meetings, and connections for residents with relevant practitioners and professionals – including artists, curators, academics, researchers, funders. and institutions.

Moreover, the internal residency activities are complemented with an external public programme of events – including talks, workshops, screenings, and panel discussions – brought together in dialogue with residents who may wish to contribute.

ABOUT DELFINA FOUNDATION

Founded in 2007, Delfina Foundation hosts artists and creative practitioners from around the world in its home in central London: providing essential space and support for experimentation, research, and development; facilitating vital networks and dialogue across the art world and society; presenting new artists, art, and ideas to local and global audiences; and nurturing long-standing global communities of artists and creative practitioners.

ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to practitioners from around the world as well as across the UK. This season will support a minimum of eight practitioners, whose practices have already

engaged with aspects of art, science, technology, and mental wellbeing, and who make strong proposals for how they will use this opportunity to explore ideas within the stated theme.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

The selected international applicants will be offered a fully-funded twelve-week residency, including:

- A return economy-class flight
- Airport transfers in the UK
- Reimbursement of visa fees (if required)
- Per diems of £35 per day
- A materials budget of £800
- 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.

Please note that travel insurance is not covered. Selected residents are required to obtain travel insurance at their own initiative and expense, and to send a copy of the insurance documents to Delfina Foundation in advance of travelling to the residency.

UK APPLICANTS

Applicants based in the UK will be considered for non-residential participation in the programme and will be paid a fixed fee of £3000 for their involvement, plus reimbursements for pre-agreed travel costs required for their participation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

The deadline for applications is 23:59 BST Sunday 19 May 2024. Received applications will be reviewed by members of the Delfina team and invited relevant experts. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to an online interview in June. Applicants who have not made the shortlist will be notified at this time. All interviewees will be notified as to the success of their application by early July.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I apply in order to develop a project that is already in progress?

Yes. We are happy for the programme to support and help move forward ideas in progress if we see where the residency can add value to this.

Your project could be at an early stage of research or could be underway and close to the production/presentation stage. We are happy to receive proposals where collaborations are already formed between artists, researchers, technologists, or institutions or those who might use the residency to research and meet potential collaborators.

What kind of outcomes are you expecting?

In terms of the programme, we want to create a support system for new ideas to take shape at a pace that is comfortable for all parties involved. Final outcomes are not a requisite for participation in the programme.

What level of applicants are you accepting?

This programme is open to professionals in the arts, science, mental health, technology, or closely related fields with proven experience. We will judge candidates based on their track record and previous, completed projects.

What level of English is required of residents?

Applicants are required to be proficient in English in order to be best placed to benefit from the type of residency programme at Delfina Foundation. Interviews for the residency will be conducted in English, and candidates need to be able to effectively discuss their ideas and research.

I have previously applied to an open call. Is it worthwhile applying again?

We encourage applications from practitioners who have applied to previous calls, be that a country-based open call or a previous thematic programme open call. 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.

Can duos or collectives apply?

Generally, it is difficult for us to host residencies with international collectives, given the resources and space required to host them. Our accommodation comprises of eight single rooms. We recommend that international 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. If you are UK-based duo or collective, we encourage you to apply and if you are shortlisted, we will discuss with you during the interview process ways in which we could adapt the opportunity to facilitate your participation.

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 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 email our Director of Operations Gillean Dickie on gillean@delfinafoundation.com, with the subject line: 'Open call: Access'.