

Call for Applications: Artistic Research Residency and Grant for a Project Related to the Archives of International Organisations in Geneva

Introduction

The Embassy of Foreign Artists residency programme is partnering with the Centre for Digital Humanities and Multilateralism at the Geneva Graduate Institute to offer a three-month artist residency to conduct archival research in the heart of international organisations based in Geneva, Switzerland.

1. Project

The archives of international organisations in Geneva form part of humanity's collective memory. While these fragments constitute a formal record comprising reports, official correspondence, international agreements, speeches, and documentary images of a select few, they nonetheless contain the narratives of millions of human stories. Multilateral histories can also be discerned through handwritten notes, draft reports, unofficial maps, artworks, informal sound recordings, and absences.

Seen through the eyes of artists and researchers, this residency aims to transform this material and give it a new dimension. Applicants are invited to propose projects that develop novel perspectives on topics such as: (un)told human stories; intergovernmental decision making processes; multilateral successes and failures; and reimagined visions for the future of international cooperation.

Applications must relate to projects that use the archives of Geneva-based international intergovernmental or non-governmental organisations as their primary resource (such as UN Archives Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross Archives, etc.). Projects may, however, have links with other organisations based in Geneva and elsewhere.

2. Partners

Embassy of Foreign Artists

The Embassy of Foreign Artists (EOFA) is a cultural organisation founded in 2012 that develops artistic research programmes linked to scientific and academic fields, with a strong focus on socially engaged practices. It forges strong links with other Geneva-based organisations such as Campus Biotech and the Geneva Graduate Institute. EOFA offers personalised support for each project and is part of a network of cultural organisations to promote the visibility of projects developed by guest artists.

The organisation continues a long tradition that has made Switzerland and Geneva a haven for persecuted intellectuals and artists since the religious wars that ravaged Europe between the 16th and 18th centuries. In this spirit, EOFA contributes significantly to Geneva's cultural diversity by welcoming around a hundred artists each year, most invited by other cultural organisations—including many of Geneva's festivals and cultural institutions.

EOFA's spaces are warm and conducive to encounters between artists, allowing residents to form bonds that transcend mere professional relationships or the sharing of space and to foster genuine appreciation for each other's projects. Hospitality becomes a powerful relational act in which the roles of host and guest merge, intertwine, and sometimes reverse, creating a shared space valuing the presence of each resident.

<https://www.eofa.ch/>

Centre for Digital Humanities and Multilateralism, Geneva Graduate Institute

The Centre for Digital Humanities and Multilateralism (CDHM) stands as a pioneering initiative, leveraging Geneva's extensive multilateral history with new research tools and methodologies. It cultivates an inter-

disciplinary team to establish a global hub for applying digital humanities to diplomacy, multilateralism, and international relations. This endeavour aims to illuminate the intellectual and archival legacy of International Geneva's ecosystem, which includes the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID), international intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, and beyond.

CDHM's core mission is the valorisation of archives central to the history of diplomacy and multilateralism in Geneva. Having supported the digitization of extensive collections of the UN Library & Archives Geneva, the Institute library, and related archives — including those of international organisations (IOs) and academic institutions from the Global South — CDHM is concurrently developing a virtual Portal of Multilateralism. This portal will optimise access to digitised archives through cutting-edge research tools, such as data visualisation, fostering renewed legal, sociopolitical, historical, and interdisciplinary approaches to multilateralism.

CDHM also collaborates with artists and researchers in the field of digital humanities to study and reimagine the world of multilateral diplomacy. To date, it has developed a stream of activities engaging the arts, including exploratory collaborations with artists working on visualizations of diplomatic history, contributions to digital exhibitions of intergovernmental archives, and public talks linking artistic methods with global policy discourse. As part of this collaboration with EOFA, CDHM will include the artist resident in its research network, offer guidance for accessing research materials and expertise in Geneva, and explore opportunities for research exchange with the Geneva Graduate Institute.

<https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/cdhm>

3. Timetable

15th of September 2026: Deadline for applications

10th of October 2026: Announcement of successful candidates on EOFA website

The exact start date of the residency in 2027 is subject to an agreement between the artist's preferred date and the EOFA's availability.

4. Practical details

Duration of the residency: 3 months (to be selected according to the proposed sessions).

Location: EOFA's house and archives of international organisations

Support: The artist will receive

- accommodation in a private room with access to the areas shared with other residents.
- a residency stipend of CHF 1400 per month.
- communication and artistic support provided by EOFA.
- establishing links with the relevant contacts within the archives of international organisations.

5. Application requirements

Candidates must fulfill the following criteria:

- Be a professional artists coming from following artistic fields: performing arts, visual arts and applied arts, that is active in either fine arts, music, literature, comics, cinema, dance, theatre, design, video, etc.
- Must have a wide range of creations, publications and performances at a professional level.
- Not be currently registered in a basic artistic training course.
- Be over 28 at the time of application.
- Speak French or English.
- Accept and agree to pay costs related to their travel and possible artistic production.

You can apply as a duo or a group, but the stipend amount remains the same. Each person must complete the online form individually while the application pack PDF must be submitted only once by one person, stating the names of the other individuals and/or the collective.

6. Submission

Document 1: Duly completed online at <https://www.eofa.ch/en/apply/>

Document 2: Your application pack in one single PDF file to be sent via email to application@eofa.ch containing:

- A cover letter explaining your artistic approach and its connection to the call for applications.
- As detailed a description as possible of the project to be developed during the residency.
- A portfolio of recent work
- An up-to-date CV