

Courants du monde program for foreign cultural professionals individual immersive long-term residency **RESIDENCE CULTURE and PARCOURS DE COLLECTIONS - 2026**

Guidelines and commitments for applicants and the French cultural services abroad

Courants du monde is a learning expedition for cultural sector professionals from around the world who wish to learn more about the French cultural landscape. Designed as a space for dialogue, training and discussion, the program meets three main objectives:

- promote public policy developed by the French Ministry and cultural ecosystem;
- create lasting networks for on-going exchanges between professionals from around the world;
- foster partnerships between French and foreign cultural organisations, as well as between foreign organisations.

Considerations and objectives of the program

The immersion program *Résidence Culture* enables the **integration of foreign professionals into public operators' administrative and scientific teams.**

The duration is of one to three uninterrupted months.

The objective is to allow international professionals to undertake a specific collaborative project, enhance a particular expertise, and acquire in-depth understanding of a French institution and its operational methods. It is important to note that this is not a training program.

The program includes specific residencies intended to foster and expand joint research into the **provenance** of particular objects and collections housed in France (*Parcours de collections*).

Commitments:

At the end of this immersion and depending on the projects and possibilities of each structure, reciprocity could be organised, allowing agents of the French structures that have hosted a professional to stay in the professional's country of origin for a while. This reciprocity will then be paid for by the French structure. The aim is to provide long-term support for partnerships that have already begun or to finalise a cooperation project.

The four partners

➤ Foreign professionals

This immersive program is aimed at experienced professionals with responsibilities in foreign cultural institutions working in national, regional, or local public administrations ; or other cultural organisations or institutions.

This program is for experienced cultural sector professionals from anywhere in the world who are running cultural projects in their home countries. For provenance research (*Parcours de collection*), special attention will be given to candidates from Africa. The immersion is not intended to develop purely artistic or scientific projects.

This program is open to non-French-speaking professionals if they can be welcomed in good conditions within the structure concerned, by English-speaking or other language-speaking staff.

Artists, students, teachers, researchers and persons working for the French cultural services abroad, are not eligible. The immersion is not intended to develop purely artistic or scientific projects. Only in the case of *Parcours de collections*, where faculty researchers are eligible if the purpose of their immersion is not academic (e.g., thesis research).

Commitments:

On arrival in France, the hosted professional may be asked to give an oral presentation to the host organisation on his or her home organisation, their missions there, and the purpose of their immersion in France.

At the end of the stay, the professional will produce a report (to be sent to the Ministry of Culture, the host organisation in France, and the French diplomatic post in his or her country), and will then draw up another report six months after the return, to present what he/she has learned and to measure the effects of their stay (in professional terms, for their territory and concerning the host team in France).

To arrange a meeting with the cultural cooperation and action services of the French Embassy or the Institut français in their country of residence, to provide an account of their immersion in France (review and prospects).

➤ The host structures in France

The host structures, in any cultural fields¹, can be national, regional, or local public administrations ; or other cultural organisations or institutions.

Commitments:

¹ Heritage, architecture, cinema, design, books, fashion, audiovisual, arts and craft, visual arts, performing arts, scientific culture, cultural management, policy making services

The host structure appoints a tutor to monitor the professional and proposes a program of professional meetings linked to the project.

As the Ministry of Culture does not pay for the accommodation of foreign professionals, the host structure may offer them accommodation where possible, assist them in their search if they so request, or work with them to ensure that accommodation is available on their arrival in France.

In the application file, the host structure in France will be asked to state the usefulness of this immersion and the prospects it opens in terms of international cooperation.

As far as possible, at the end of the stay, a moment of restitution on the part of the hosted person will be proposed to the agents of the host structure.

➤ The Ministry of Culture (sub-directorate for European and international affairs)

The Ministry of Culture – sub-directorate for European and international affairs, designs, finances, and implements within the *Courants du Monde* offers the *Résidence Culture* program, in conjunction with the Ministry's general directorates, the operators, and other eligible structures, and with diplomatic posts. The logistical implementation of the program is undertaken by Alambret communications.

The Ministry of Culture pays each professional a grant of 1,500 euros per month and provides a social security coverage².

Please note: international travel expenses and visa fees (if applicable) are not covered by the program. These expenses must be borne by the participants, their employer, the French embassy or local French institute, or any other sponsor.

Where necessary, the Ministry can assist with the preparation of applications, in particular for the identification of French structures likely to host or to facilitate the identification of foreign professionals suited to the cooperation projects of French structures.

During the stay, an interview at the Ministry can be organised to allow a meeting between the Ministry official responsible for the geographical area of the country of origin and/or the artistic field and the professional.

➤ The French cultural services abroad

French cultural services forward this call to identify professionals who may participate in this program

² *As far as the payment of the grant is concerned, there are several modalities as foreseen: Bank account in the country of origin: a bank transfer will be made every month // Professionals who do not have a bank account, in an immersion in the Paris region: a prepaid card linked to an account where the grant will be transferred each month. This card will allow cash withdrawals from ATMs // Professionals who do not have a bank account: a prepaid card.*

in France. In addition, for the application to be considered complete, they must have approved the applications sent by the candidates or the host structures in France and issued an opinion prior to sending the completed application.

If the professional's employer is unable to do so, the travel costs may be covered by the french services concerned (to be discussed ahead).

The French diplomatic services receive the professionals who participated in the program on their return to their country to ensure the programs's follow-up.

A meeting of the Ministry of Culture's programs alumni could also be organised annually by the services to federate this network and maintain the exchanges initiated through these programs on a long-term basis.

The procedure

➤ Dissemination of the call for applications

The Ministry of Culture will coordinate the dissemination of the call for applications in professional networks and via diplomatic services abroad during the second half of each year to collect applications for the following year.

➤ Candidature process

- Identification of institutions and candidates

Before they apply, professionals from abroad must have identified an establishment in France where they wish to carry out their immersion and contacted it to check the feasibility of their application and develop the immersion project by mutual agreement.

A complete application should include the following documents:

- your **application form**,
- a copy of your passport, or your ID Card (European citizens or citizens from visa-exempt countries)
- a photo (head),
- any documents about your employer and your level of responsibility within the organization.

Before being sent, the application file must be filled in jointly by the candidate and the host organisation in France. One or the other then submits the file to the cultural services of the French embassy in the candidate's country of work, to receive its opinion.

Several applications may be submitted by the same French structure, which must then rank the applications in order of priority, explaining the interest of the proposed applications for the structure.

- French cultural services abroad

The cultural services of the French embassies of the countries concerned will issue a detailed opinion, classified by priority, if necessary, on the applications, to shed light on the local context and the place of the project presented in the local cultural landscape. The french cultural services sent the complete applications to the french ministry of Culture. **No application will be examined unless it has been completed by all three partners: the applicant, the host structure in France, and the French cultural services abroad.**

For 2026 applications, the deadline for receipt of complete applications is 15 October 2025

Applications must be sent in electronic format to Fabienne Brütt (fabienne.brutt@culture.gouv.fr) and contact-international@culture.gouv.fr
Applications incomplete by the above date will be considered ineligible.

➤ Selections

Applications are selected according to the following criteria:

- Quality of the professional initiative underlying the application,
- Impact on the applicant's home institution,
- Prospects for developing further cooperations with French institutions.

The Ministry will let the institutions and candidates know the results by the end of the year. The actual stays will take place during 2026 and must finish by December 31st, 2026 at the latest. The exact dates will be worked out between the professional and their host institution.

➤ The organisation of the stay

Cancellation

The cancellation of the residency must be notified as soon as possible after the withdrawal is known. It is recommended that the host structures contact the professional one month before the arrival, to check if the dates agreed upon are maintained.

Residence permit (visa)

The successful candidates must find out, as soon as they have been accepted onto the program, whether they need to apply for a visa to come to France (or any other procedure depending on the country of origin) and, if necessary, take the necessary steps to obtain one well in advance so that they do not have to postpone their stay for lack of the necessary authorisations.

Length

Residency can last from one to three months. The residency cannot be divided into several sequences.

The Sub-Directorate for European and International Affairs recommends that both parties optimise the duration of the presence in France by favouring full months.

Accommodation

The Sub-Directorate for European and International Affairs does not provide accommodation for the candidate, nor does it assist in finding accommodation.

The host institutions in France are asked, according to their possibilities, to offer accommodation to the foreign professionals free of charge or for a fee, to help them find accommodation, or to inform them that they must find accommodation on their own (all paying options are to be financed by the professional from the grant allocated to them).

However, the ministry's logistics operator Alambret communication can, if necessary, assist in finding accommodation. The structures must be assured that, at the time of their arrival, the professionals have an accommodation solution.

The address in France must be communicated to the ministry and Alambret communication at least one month before the beginning of the stay.

Confirmation of arrival

For each professional, host organisations are asked to confirm their arrival to Alambret communication (sdaei@alambret.com) and the ministry (fabienne.brutt@culture.gouv.fr) at least one month before the start of the project, to take out insurance and to make arrangements for the payment of the grant.

Payment of the grant

The grant (€1,500 per month) is paid by Alambret communication upon arrival in France according to the terms agreed with the professional. The host organization is asked to accompany the professional in the process of receiving the grant.

Please note: the professional must arrive in France with sufficient funds to stay for approximately one week (money in his/her bank account or cash), as the terms of payment of the grant may sometimes require a delay in processing.

Annex : Indicative and non-exhaustive list of French institutions likely to host professionals³

Ministry of Culture

Directorate-General for heritage and architecture (DGPA)

Directorate-General for media and cultural industries (DGMIC)

Directorate-General for artistic creation (DGCA)

Directorate-General for French language and the languages of France (DGLFLF)

General-Secretariate

Regional directorates for cultural affairs (DRAC)

Audiovisual, books, and writing

National centre for cinema and the moving image (CNC)

National Audiovisual Institute (INA)

Centre national du livre (CNL)

National Library of France (BNF)

Public Information Library (BPI)

Artistic creation

Pompidou Centre (Centre national d'art et de culture Georges Pompidou)

National Centre for Visual Arts (CNAP)

National Centre for Music (Centre national de la musique)

National Centre for Dance (CND)

City of Music (Cité de la musique – Philharmonie de Paris)

Jeu de Paume

National theatres : Chaillot, Comédie française, Colline, Odéon, Strasbourg

Association of National Choregraphic Centres and National Drama centres (Association des Centres Chorégraphiques nationaux et des centres Dramatiques nationaux)

Reunion of the operas of France (Réunion des opéras de France)

French Orchestra Association (Association Française des Orchestres)

National association of National Art Schools (Association nationale des Écoles nationales d'art)

Association of National Scenes (Association des Scènes nationales)

Association of Contemporary Art Centres (Association des Centres d'Art Contemporain)

Federation of the Places for Modern Music (Fédération des Lieux de Musiques Actuelles)

National Foundation for Contemporary Art (FNAC)

PLATFORM: grouping of the regional foundations for contemporary art

Heritage

The city for Architecture and Monumental art (CAPA)

Centre for National Monuments (CMN)

³ P.M. This list is given for information only, but the central administration of the ministry, the regional directorates of cultural affairs, the public establishments and labelled networks and, more generally, any non-profit cultural operator are eligible

National Institute for Art History (INHA)
French National Institute for Cultural Heritage (INP)
French National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research (INRAP)
Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Grand Palais (RMN)

Scientific and technical culture

UniverScience

Other

Museum of Immigration History (Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration)
La Villette cultural centre and parc

Museums

Louvre Museum
Orsay Museum
Quai Branly Museum
Guimet National Museum of Asian Arts
Museum of civilisations of Europe and the Mediterranean (MuCEM)
Castle, Museum and National Grounds of Versailles ; Fontainebleau Château; Cité de la
céramique (Sèvres); Chambord National Domain; Picasso Museum; Rodin Museum; Gustave
Moreau Museum; Jean-Jacques Henner Museum.