

Courants du monde programme for foreign cultural professionals

RESIDENCE CULTURE/PARCOURS DE COLLECTIONS – 2027

Immersive long-term residency

Guidelines and commitments for applicants and the French cultural network 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 programme “Résidence culture” and “Parcours de collection”

This immersion programme **enables the integration of foreign professionals into public operators' administrative and scientific teams** (central administration, regional directorates of cultural affairs, public establishments) and, more broadly, of any non-profit cultural operator.

The objective is to enable foreign professionals to carry out a concrete cooperation project, deepen a specific skill, and acquire detailed knowledge of a French institution and its practices. This is not a training program.

Within this program, specific residencies are offered to initiate and develop joint studies on the provenance research of certain objects and collections held in France (*Parcours de collection*).

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 4 partners

➤ The target audiences abroad

The programme is **aimed at experienced professionals with responsibilities in foreign cultural institutions** (administrators of cultural structures, department managers, cultural project managers, cultural managers of local authorities, and managers responsible for the development and management of cultural policies), who wish to develop **a concrete professional project with a host institution in France, allowing for the reciprocal exchange of knowledge and expertise.**

The program is aimed at established professionals in the cultural sector from all geographical regions, who contribute to the management of cultural projects in their home country. Regarding provenance research (Parcours de collection), priority may be given to applicants from the African continent."

Priority is given to French-speaking professionals, but this programme is open to non-French-speaking professionals if they can be accommodated in good conditions within the structure concerned, by English-speaking or other language staff.

The following professions are not eligible for this program:

- Artists, in the context of their artistic practice;
- Students ;
- Professors and researchers (except for *Parcours de collection*, where this status is permitted provided that the purpose of the residency is non-academic, such as thesis research);
- Staff from the French cultural network abroad (cultural services of embassies, Alliances Françaises, Instituts Français) who are eligible for other schemes offered by the Institut Français."

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).

The professional will also schedule a meeting with the French diplomatic post in their home country to present the outcomes and assess its impact (in professional terms, for their local region, and in relation to France

➤ The host structures in France

All the fields covered by the ministry are concerned: heritage, architecture, cultural and creative sectors (cinema, books, audio-visual, fashion, design and crafts), artistic creation (plastic and visual arts, performing arts), scientific culture, cultural and administrative management, cultural policies.

Commitments:

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

As the Ministry of Culture does not pay for the accommodation of foreign professionals, the host organisation 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 organisation in France will be asked to state the usefulness of this internship 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* offer the *Résidence Culture* programme, in conjunction with the Ministry's general directorates, the operators, and other eligible structures, and with diplomatic posts. It uses a service provider (Alambret communication) for the logistical implementation of the programme.

Each participant receives a monthly stipend of 1,500 euros¹. to cover accommodation, travel, and meal expenses during their stay. The program also provides the candidates with insurance coverage for the duration of their immersion in France.

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.

¹ As far as the payment of the scholarship is concerned, there are several modalities are foreseen: Bank account in the country of origin: a bank transfer will be made every month // Interns who do not have a bank account, in an internship in the Paris region: a prepaid card linked to an account where the scholarship will be transferred each month. This card will allow cash withdrawals from ATMs // Trainees who do not have a bank account: a prepaid card.

➤ The French cultural network abroad

French cultural services issue calls for applications to identify professionals who may be hosted in France under the scheme. 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 home organisation is unable to do so, the travel costs may be covered by the posts concerned (to be discussed ahead).

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

A meeting of the Ministry of Culture's programmes alumni could also be organised annually by the posts to federate this network and maintain the exchanges initiated through these programmes 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 across professional networks, on its website and through the services of the cultural network abroad during the second half of each year in order to collect applications for the following year.

➤ Candidacy 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 internship and contacted it to check the feasibility of their application and develop the internship 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.

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. The diplomatic post also ranks the applications in order of preference.

- The French cultural network 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.

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 network abroad.

For 2027 applications, the deadline for receipt of complete applications is 15 October 2026

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.

➤ Selection of candidates

Applications are assessed against the following criteria:

- the quality of the professional approach underlying the application and motivation
- structuring effect of the stay for the home institution and the professional environment of the applicant
- prospects for the development of institutional cooperation between the home and host institutions, as well as between the countries represented

The Ministry will inform the institutions and the candidates of the results at the end of the year. The stays will take place during 2027 according to the dates agreed between the professional and the host structure. Residencies must not extend into 2028.

➤ The organisation of the residency

Before the arrival in France

Cancellation

The cancellation of a stay 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.

Visa

The successful candidates must find out, as soon as they have been accepted onto the programme, 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

Hosting can last from one to three months. The stay 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 organisations 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.

Monthly stipend

Each participant receives a monthly stipend of €1,500 to cover accommodation, travel, and meal expenses during their stay. The program also provides the participants with insurance coverage for the duration of their immersion in France.

The stipend 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 participant 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 monthly stipend may sometimes require a delay in processing.

Annex 1: Indicative and non-exhaustive list of French structures likely to host professionals²

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)

Directorate-General for cultural democracy, education and research

General-Secretariate

Regional directorates for cultural affairs (DRAC)

Audio-visual, books, and writing

National centre for cinema and the moving image (CNC)

National Audio-visual 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 Choreographic 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

² 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

Heritage

The city for Architecture and Monumental art (CAPA)

Centre for National Monuments (CMN)

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

Transversal

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.