

# DELFINA FOUNDATION

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## OPEN CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ART, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Delfina Foundation (DF) is London's largest provider of international residencies, promoting artistic exchange and experimentation around common practices and ideas.

DF's residency programme is structured around the four seasons of the year. During each three-month period, we support cultural practitioners to pursue independent projects or to collectively engage in a shared thematic area. Our recurring themes include *The Politics of Food*, *Performance as Process*, *The Public Domain*, and *Collecting as Practice*.

DF is now launching a new thematic area to bring together shared interests and concerns in the fields of art, science and technology. This theme will initially underline some of DF's activities from January 2019 and build towards a concentrated programme of events, projects and exhibitions in autumn 2019, interrelated with residencies.

This open call is to invite expressions of interest from artists and thinkers who are already actively envisioning projects that cross art, science, and technology. The purpose of this open call is to select projects and practitioners that we wish to engage and support through residencies, collaborations and commissions, as well as to identify key concerns and approaches that will ultimately shape our programme over 2019 and beyond.

Delfina Foundation will complement those selected from this open call with other relevant participants and experts from various fields, depending on the project(s). The ambition is to create a focused environment to foster collaboration, incubate ideas and support the development of new projects that can make an impact on the world around us. For this reason, we prefer projects that are problem-led, whereby the programme can be used to develop solutions through cross-disciplinary, mutual exchange. We are also interested in ideas that have the capacity to go beyond exhibition spaces, science labs and publications. We want to explore different modes of production and dissemination, including those that interface with the coalface of environmental concerns to those that might have commercial viability.

Whilst the fields of art, science and technology are vast, we are purposely not narrowing the focus at this stage.\* As such, this open call is not limited only to artists. We also welcome applications from writers, researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs and other practitioners who are interested in engaging with artists to develop new creative and critical approaches.

*\*In spring 2019, DF hosts its fourth edition of The Politics of Food with residencies, events, a publication and an exhibition. For this programme we would particularly welcome applications via this open call that focus on science and technology in relation to food production, consumption or distribution.*

The selected candidate(s) will be accepted as International Fellows or UK Associates as part of the programme, which will include a period of engagement at DF to develop their ideas with bespoke support and assistance. International Fellows will be offered a residency, which normally varies from several weeks to three months; depending on the project and budget, it may include several visits to the UK over a longer period of time. UK Associates (e. g. those living and working in London) will be provided with support and assistance, as well as use of our central London space. Our engagement with UK Associates is often over a longer period than International Fellows. In both cases, DF may commission or support the realisation of a project in collaboration with partners, funders or investors.

Please see our Questions & Answers section for more details

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Candidates may be living or working anywhere in the world, including London. They must be:

- Working professionally in a relevant field with proven experience and previous, completed projects in relation to their practice;
- Seeking an opportunity to develop the practice and philosophy of their work through collaboration and ideally, around a specific project;
- Able to explain how the experience of this programme may benefit his/her career and project development; and
- Proficient in English.

The applicant can be currently employed or engaged in other institutions; however, the applicant - particularly UK Associates - must have sufficient time to dedicate to the programme, which will mostly be daytime activity.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Candidates must submit a completed application form in English, a CV and documentation of previous work. The selection process will include interviews with the shortlisted applicants.

<b>1 August 2018:</b>	Open Call launched
<b>13 September 2018:</b>	Deadline for applications
<b>1 October 2018:</b>	Skype calls with shortlisted candidates
<b>15 October 2018:</b>	Announcement of the finalist(s)
<b>13 January 2019:</b>	Launch of year-long programme, including residency periods throughout the year.
<b>Spring 2019:</b>	Special season focused on <i>The Politics of Food IV</i> which may also include the applicant(s)
<b>Autumn 2019:</b>	Concentrated programme dedicated to art, science & technology with events, exhibitions, projects and additional residencies

## **Questions & Answers**

Since Delfina Foundation is unable to respond to every question about the application process, we have put together the following Q&As, which we will update throughout the process. We encourage applicants to access this document regularly.

Last update: 1 August 2018

### **How do DF's themes work?**

The majority of DF's residency programmes are organized around seasonal themes. During each season, artists, curators, writers and other thinkers interrogate and instigate ideas around a selected theme through research, discussion and/or production.

DF supports peer-to-peer conversations between participants through a series of informal gatherings and meals, as well as targeted organisational visits and opportunities to engage with artists, academics and researchers interested in the same lines of inquiry. These internal events are complemented with an external public programme of talks, screenings, dinners and panel discussions to engage with the public-at-large.

### **How can I engage in the programme?**

This new theme of art, science and technology will underpin our activities in 2019; it will build slowly over the course of the year into a concentrated residency and public programme in autumn 2019. However, we will offer residencies to International Fellows and engage UK Associates throughout the year. While the residencies are one form of engagement, our public programme of talks and activities are another. Just as we might commission a project, we might commission a single event.

We aim to develop partnerships and involve external organisations depending on the selected projects to bring additional knowledge or resources. This may involve the creation of working groups around ideas or simply connecting participants with key individuals or institutions.

### **Can I decide on the time?**

DF divides its year into seasons so there will be dedicated slots for residencies in winter, summer and autumn 2019 for International Fellows. In spring, we will host residencies in relation to *The Politics of Food*, which you can also apply to via this open call provided your application relates to food, science and technology.

In some cases, we may engage candidates for one period of time (e. g. one residency). For others, we might break up our engagement over the course of the year, depending on the project proposal and availability of accommodation.

We aim to create a flexible model of working. Thus, we will take applicant's preferences into account but please understand that we have limited availability and curatorially, we will focus the programme at

times, and eventually on particular sub-themes within art, science and technology.

Provided UK Associates do not need accommodation, the time frame for engagement is more flexible.

**Can I apply with a project in progress?**

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

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

**What is included in the residency for International Fellows?**

All basic costs of living in London are included in residencies. International Fellows will be provided with international and local travel, UK airport transfers, visa reimbursements, a food allowance/per diems, a modest allowance to enable research/production (depending on residency/project), and accommodation in London.

Accommodation is a single bedroom at DF, which is in a shared house with seven fellow residents. The foundation's offices are also located in the same building. Shared facilities include bathrooms, laundry rooms, kitchen, and dining room.

Please note that DF is unable to host partners/spouses, children or collectives (but please see the question below to clarify the situation with collectives).

The residency programme includes group presentations and workshops, networking events, field trips, and curatorial, logistical and production assistance.

**What is included for UK Associates?**

If you live in London and apply to be a UK Associate, we will provide you with access to the collective programme as well as bespoke individual support as described above. We can also provide our space in Central London for UK Associates to meet, hold workshops and occasionally 'hotdesk'.

Additionally, UK Associates will be provided with an honorarium, up to £2,000. This support is enabling in the sense that it is intended to 'free up time' for participants to engage in the programme.

**Will you be commissioning each project?**

Our aim is to provide support and networks to incubate ideas and advance them towards fruition.

Our ambition is to commission these projects that have undergone research and development in collaboration with other partners or funders during the residency or at some future date.

We will not be able to commission every project.

**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 minimum, we want to see projects move on to the next stage; however, we prefer projects that have the potential to greatly accelerate or even launch through our programme.

In terms of the projects, we are very interested in outcomes that can go beyond typical outlets as mentioned in the introduction (e. g. exhibition spaces, research papers, etc.). We are seeking bold ideas that could make an impact on the world around us, whether this is an intervention in a community context or a new product for the commercial market.

**What level of applicants are you accepting?**

This programme is open to professionals in the arts, science, technology or closely related fields with proven experience. We will judge candidates based on their track record and previous, completed projects. Generally, we would expect most candidates to have a post-graduate degree in a related field and a strong understanding of current issues and concerns.

Young/emerging practitioners should strongly consider if this open call is suitable for them or another programme, which are posted here throughout the year: <http://delfinafoundation.com/programmes/residency-programme/open-calls-3/>.

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

We would highly discourage applicants from applying if they do not fit the criteria. We are looking for practitioners with demonstrated interest in this specific area or proven ability to apply their knowledge to other fields.

**Are applications from duos or collectives accepted?**

Generally, it is difficult for us to manage residencies with collectives, given the resources 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.

As an alternative, we would recommend that collectives choose one member to represent them in residence.

**If I have undertaken a residency at Delfina Foundation previously, can I apply again?**

We would recommend that you contact DF before re-applying. We can advise you on a case-by-case basis if it will be suitable for you. Please email [opencall@delfinafoundation.com](mailto:opencall@delfinafoundation.com).

**Can you tell me more about *The Politics of Food*?**

In the Spring 2019 (April to June), Delfina Foundation will host our fourth edition of *The Politics of Food*, which we have been developing seasonally since 2014. During this time, we have brought together over 80 artists, activists, anthropologists, agronomists, chefs, curators, scientists and writers from over 30 countries through residencies, events and exhibitions. The first season in 2014 introduced a number of general environmental, economic and social concerns that have guided the overall programme, while the second season in 2015 specifically explored the relationship between food and three sub-themes: *Sex, Diet & Disaster*. The third season *Markets & Movements* explored issues ranging from agricultural labour to sustainable communities created through agro-ecological projects. While we staged group exhibitions in 2014 and 2015, we opened a pop up cafe at Delfina Foundation in 2016 to culminate that season.

The 2019 programme will synthesise knowledge produced during the previous three seasons and focus on the effect of food systems' implicit power structures on producers, consumers and the environment.

**If you have any further questions, please direct them to [opencall@delfinafoundation.com](mailto:opencall@delfinafoundation.com)**