Planetary Transitions: Potsdam Artist Residency
Frequently Asked Questions

Please note: This FAQ will be updated regularly depending on the questions we receive.

Last updated: 27 October 2026.

List of contents

Who is eligible to apply? 2
What would the stipend amount to? 2
Will my travel costs be covered by the programme? 2
Is health insurance covered? 2
Is any other insurance covered? 3
What facilities are provided during my work? 3
What relocation support is provided? 3
Do I have to live in the suggested accommodation? 3
Will my application materials be forwarded to parties other than the partners? 3
Who will the external jury members be? 3
Will the names of the external jury members be communicated? 3
Should I contact the partners and/or researchers at the RIFS to discuss my idea? 4
Is a remote fellowship possible? 4
Can I take a break during the fellowship, i.e. complete it over several stays? 4
What obligations will I have during my time as an artist fellow? 4
What is the working language at RIFS? 4
English is not my first or second language. Can I still apply? 4
I will be coming with my family. Is there anyone I can contact for more information? 5
What support is provided with respect to planning travel to Germany? 5
Can the fellowship be extended? 5
Can we apply as a collective? 5
Is there anything else I should know? 5

Who is eligible to apply?

Artists who fulfil the following criteria:

- Individuals who do not have German citizenship and who live outside of Germany.
- Individuals who do not have German citizenship and who will reside in Germany for a maximum of 18 months prior to starting the fellowship (e.g., an applicant wishing to commence a fellowship on 1 September 2024 may not have taken up residency in Germany before May 2023).
- Dual citizenship holders (German and other nationality) who have lived outside Germany for at least the past six years.

Individuals who "only" hold German citizenship are ineligible.

What would the stipend amount to?

The stipend would be € 2,500 per month. The stipend is tax-free in Germany.

However, please check whether you have to pay taxes in your home country. Often, this is not the case. However, we cannot provide any professional tax advice regarding your specific circumstances.

Will my travel costs be covered by the programme?

The DAAD will pay a travel cost allowance (lump sum) for travel from your current country of residence to Germany and back. This allowance will be paid after you arrive in Germany. In case you are a single parent, the travel costs for your child will also be covered (lump sum).

Is health insurance covered?

No, you must cover this cost from your stipend. You must have valid health insurance in order to participate in the programme and obtain a German visa.

Past fellows have used the following services, for example:

- https://ihc-company.eu/home/
- https://www.mawista.com/en/
- https://www.educare24.com/

These providers offer different packages and options. Please check for yourself, what is most appropriate for your situation.

Please note that this is not a recommendation. Other insurance companies may provide services better tailored to your personal situation.

Is any other insurance covered?

No.

What facilities are provided during my work?

The RIFS will provide an office space and programme partners will leverage their networks to connect you with other artists and cultural institutions in Potsdam and Berlin.

Please mention in your application what type of facilities you are likely to require.

We would be delighted to organise a public event at the end of your fellowship to showcase your work.

What relocation support is provided?

In addition to covering travel costs (see above), the programme partners will provide housing support of up to € 5,000 in total and, if available, suggest accommodations close to Potsdam city centre.

Do I have to live in the suggested accommodation?

No, you are welcome to find alternative accommodation.

However, the € 5,000 housing support only applies for housing in Potsdam. If you e.g. prefer housing in Berlin, the support would not apply.

Will my application materials be forwarded to parties other than the partners?

Applications will be reviewed by representatives of the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Programme, the City of Potsdam and RIFS, as well as independent external jury members.

Who will the external jury members be?

At least two independent external jury members from academia and the arts will participate in the selection process.

Will the names of the external jury members be communicated?

Yes, after the selection process, together with information on the successful applicant.

Should I contact the partners and/or researchers at the RIFS to discuss my idea?

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the work of the RIFS. Please check the RIFS website. If you are uncertain, feel free to contact researchers at the institute. They may also be able to provide inspiration for your application and work.

Please note, however, that the final decision will be made by a jury consisting of representatives from the partner organisations as well as external jurors.

Is a remote fellowship possible?

No.

Can I take a break during the fellowship, i.e. complete it over several stays?

No.

What obligations will I have during my time as an artist fellow?

We would invite you to present your work at one of the events in the RIFS series (e.g. the Tuesday Talks), or at public events organised jointly with the partner organisation.

You will also be invited to participate in the bi-weekly Fellow Meetings, where you will meet the other RIFS Fellows, including other artists.

We also expect you to engage with other people at the RIFS and beyond, such as cultural institutions in Potsdam and beyond.

We are happy to discuss mutual expectations and possibilities in more in detail with the selected candidates.

What is the working language at RIFS?

English.

English is not my first or second language. Can I still apply?

Yes. However, you will need conversational skills.

Also, all application documents must be submitted in English.

I will be coming with my family. Is there anyone I can contact for more information?

Yes, we welcome applications from families, including single parents with young children.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need support.

What support is provided with respect to planning travel to Germany?

We are happy to advise on travel planning and provide administrative support to help fellows and their families secure visas and residency permits, and to meet other requirements.

Can the fellowship be extended?

The fellowship lasts for a minimum of four months and a maximum of six months. It is not possible to extend beyond six months.

Can we apply as a collective?

Yes, but our budget is limited to a monthly stipend of € 2,500 for six months and to a total of € 5,000 for housing support.

Please note that the minimum stay is four months. It is not possible to have two artist fellows for four months each.

Is there anything else I should know?

For further information, please contact the Head of the RIFS Fellow Programme at achim.maas@rifs-potsdam.de.

You are also welcome to check our general FAQ, which are available at https://www.rifs-potsdam.de/en/institute/fellow-programme/faq. This provides more detailed information on topics such as Potsdam and Berlin, housing, and other frequently asked questions.