



Assistant grant

The following information is to be read by both parties before the assistant submits their application to the Swedish Arts Grants Committee.

What is an assistant grant?

The purpose of the assistant grant is to support the development of artists through collaboration with a more experienced colleague. The grant amounts to SEK 100,000 for those assisting an artist based in Sweden and SEK 150,000 for those based abroad. The grant covers a period of at least 5 months and up to a maximum of 10 months. The assistant will receive valuable practical knowledge, support, and guidance from the artist as well as access to their artistic and professional network.

Conditions

The assistant is the one who applies for the grant. The grant is intended to cover subsistence and living expenses for the assistant. The assistant is not expected to work more than 50 percent of their time as an assistant; the remaining time can be used for their own artistic work. The grant is tax-free and not considered as employment income, meaning it is not equivalent to a salary.

Applicants can only submit one application per year for an assistant grant.

Assistant period

The earliest start date for your period as an assistant is November 1, 2026, since decisions on applications are made during October. The period must begin no later than one year from the date the decision is announced.

The period must be at least 5 months and at most 10 consecutive months. The assistant's total working time during this period is expected to amount to 50% of full-time employment. It is up to the applicant to decide how they wish to organize the work with the assisted artist.

Choice of artist to assist

As the applicant, you are responsible for choosing which artist you want to assist. The choice is open, but you must clearly explain why you have chosen this particular artist and how the collaboration may benefit your artistic development. If applying to assist a group, a lead artist must be designated as supervisor.

The assessment focuses on you as the applying artist. The Visual Artists' Fund evaluates the quality of your artistic practice based on submitted work samples and reference materials. Financial need is also taken into consideration, which means applicants who have recently received other grants or stipends may not be prioritized. It is also important how the proposed tasks are regarded to contribute to your continued development as an artist.



What to agree on before the collaboration

It is important that the assistant and the assisted artist discuss what they both expect from a future working relationship. Write an agreement together which you both sign before the grant period begins.

In the application, the assistant should explain their choice of artist and describe their expectations. The artist being assisted must provide a written statement to the assistant describing the planned work the assistant will be involved in. The following questions can be used to help formulate the responses included in the application.

As the assistant, consider these questions:

1. Is there something specific I want to learn or develop during my time as an assistant?
2. What kind of work would I want to do?
3. What sort of feedback do I want to receive on my own artistic practice, if any?
4. Do I need any specific adjustments during the time with the artist: for example, changes in working hours, accommodation, participation in possible trips that the assisted artist has planned, or other.

As the assisted artist, consider these questions:

1. What kind of mentor do I want to be?
2. What can I offer in terms of knowledge, resources, or networks?
3. What kind of working environment do I want to create with the assistant?
4. Which tasks can be done by the assistant in my studio? What are my upcoming projects/exhibitions?
5. Will I be available during the entire period for the assistant?
6. What opportunities do I have to follow up on and evaluate the collaboration during the period?

Discuss these questions together:

1. How should the collaboration be organized (structure, tasks, timeline)?
2. Are there any professional or personal plans in the near future that may affect the collaboration period?
3. What kind of work environment do we need for the collaboration to function?
4. How do I react during a conflict? Do I have any reactions that may be good for the other person to be aware of in an eventual disagreement?
5. How do I prefer to communicate? Via SMS, e-mail or telephone? How do we both view availability and communication outside agreed working hours, such as e-mail and SMS, for example during weekends and evenings?
6. Do we want to set aside time to follow up on and evaluate the collaboration during the assistantship period? If so, how often and for how long?