



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.

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.

Assisting an artist abroad

Working as an assistant to an artist based in another country can be an enriching experience — but it may also require additional preparation. Make sure to consider practical matters such as accommodation, travel insurance, and visa requirements.

Visas

If you are travelling to a country that requires a visa, it is your responsibility to find out what is needed and submit your application in good time. Requirements and processing times vary greatly between countries, so be sure to check which documents are required and how long the process may take. The Swedish Arts Grants Committee cannot assist with visa applications or offer advice, but we can provide a certificate confirming the purpose of your stay, if needed.



Healthcare and Health

Research what rules apply to access healthcare. Within the EU/EEA, you should bring the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Outside the EU, you may need to show proof of insurance or pay for healthcare.

For more detailed information and guidance, please visit the Artist Guide's section on working and living outside Sweden: [Working and living outside Sweden](#)

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, 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?

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?