

Artist's residency

2022 call for applications

Sorbonne University is launching an artist-in-residence programme in the field of digital arts, that may last for up to 3 years.

The call for applications is open to French-speaking professional, emerging or developing artists working on digital creations.

The artist's residency addresses the challenges of innovation for Sorbonne University:

- Increasing the links between research and creation.
- Experimenting with new practices in research and in education programmes.
- Renewing mediation practices through the relationship between art and science.
- Promoting synergies between human sciences, science and engineering and medicine, through the Institutes and Initiatives in particular.

Artist applicants must submit:

- An initial proposal arguing the case for the applicant's enrolment in a university residency in their artistic discipline.
- A portfolio.
- A digital-art project:
 - displaying an understanding of the challenges facing Sorbonne University.
 - involving a large number of researchers and students from different faculties.
 - incorporating the approach to creating a work.
- A set of needs arising for the project, along with an estimated budget.
- A timetable for completion of the project.

Sorbonne University will provide the successful candidate with support tailored according to their needs/projects:

- Assistance with integration into the scientific community.
- Provision of accommodation in central Paris.
- Provision of an office at one of the university's sites.
- Provision of technical and human resources.
- Task management.
- Financial assistance, which may where applicable take the form of a bursary, a commission, or remuneration for specific activities.
- Promotion of an artist's work, including showcasing the creation/work within SU and its international network of partners

Submission of applications:

- Deadline for submitting applications: **15 April 2022**
- [Link for submitting applications](#)

Contacts:

[Artist's residency contact](#)

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Department of Science, Culture and Society Relations: [Véronique Atger](#)

[Useful link](#)

I. Introduction to the programme

A university that combines knowledge generation with creation

From business creation to artistic creation, via the creation of many different forms of objects and instruments, the university is a vector for the transformation of ideas, concepts and knowledge into inspiration for creations and into resources for making them a reality.

The artists' residency project run by Sorbonne University is founded on its ambition to give full rein to the potential for artistic creation offered by a multifaceted knowledge generation environment. It aims to throw the spotlight on creation as the outcome of interaction between science and art and of dialogue between the university and the city.

Sorbonne University is characterised by its plurality: disciplinary plurality taking in the humanities, sciences, engineering and medicine; geographical plurality with its numerous sites within Paris as well as across the region; temporal and heritage plurality, from the Sorbonne's historic site to the Jussieu campus, and the plurality of its educational, research, hosting, dialogue and partnership work at local, national and international level.

This diversity is a valuable asset that gives Sorbonne University exceptional potential to reach and attract not only students and researchers but also creators.

Multidisciplinary Institutes and initiatives that embody the university's multifaceted character and openness to society

The [Sorbonne University Alliance's multidisciplinary](#) Institutes and Initiatives epitomise the interaction of knowledge and experience between researchers from different backgrounds.

The Institutes and initiatives set out to tackle complex scientific issues in connection with major social challenges and to address these issues through dialogue between different disciplines, the renewal of approaches to research and education, and relationships and interactions with people from outside the academic world.

Within the artists' residency programme, the Institutes and Initiatives thus constitute privileged points of entry into the scientific community.

Promoting digital arts at the heart of a multidisciplinary scientific and artistic approach

Digital arts are an area in which the boundaries between art and science are being redrawn and groundbreaking opportunities are emerging to bring the two disciplines together, providing a platform for research and creation to interact. The technological developments underlying the digital arts are encouraging artists to connect with the world of scientific research by creating synergies, which play a fundamental role in the success of many projects and provide artists with additional production opportunities and locations for presenting their works.

The digital arts incorporate developments in traditional artistic practices (music, performing arts, fine arts, etc.) into emerging new fields that have arisen from combinations resulting from technological developments such as bio-art, robotic art and augmented reality, not to mention the booming field of videogames.

They display a multifaceted creativity rooted within society and have grown alongside developments in computer technology, standing out by the ways in which they are received. The world of science and the world of digital arts are both centred on the notion of free culture, which can be compared with the principle of open science. Based on the development of free software, the principles of free licences have been applied in the fields of art, science and education. The communities involved share a set of values centred on free art, open science, open-source architecture, collaborative design and free and open Internet.

Emerging artists heading up a project that delivers mutual benefits for artists, the university and the city

By choosing to focus on digital arts, Sorbonne University is setting out to attract professional artists who can put their previous experiences and ideas into developing an innovative creation project that can blossom within a multidisciplinary university environment. The residencies are intended specifically, collaboratively and contractually to address the aim of assisting emerging artists in developing their work and their artistic research, by building bridges with the creativity and innovation led by Sorbonne University researchers. In order to help ensure that the development, collaboration and creation process is as smooth as possible, Sorbonne University is looking to prioritise long-term residencies of up to 3 years. The 3-year duration has been chosen so that it is possible to associate a doctoral student's research work with the artist's work.

An expanded scope that now includes partners from the Sorbonne University Alliance and the [4EU+ Alliance](#)

The scope of the artists' residency programme will include that of members of the Sorbonne University Alliance in the hope of expanding and diversifying the artist's creative environment and contributing to the life of the Alliance community.

The 4EU+ European Alliance provides additional opportunities for interaction and expression regarding both the creation and its presentation.

II. Challenges for Sorbonne University regarding the residency

The residency programme is aiming to host artists for a duration sufficiently long to conceive of and produce an artistic creation. This duration also reflects the artists' involvement in collective activities within the university in order to address the fundamental challenges underlying this programme: research challenges, educational challenges and mediation challenges.

Research challenges: to strengthen and develop the links between research and creation.

Although Sorbonne University is unquestionably a research-intensive university, it still attaches relatively little weight or even value to creativity in its research work. The artist in residence will work alongside complex scientific communities encompassing a wide range of disciplines and cross-disciplinary areas. It is hoped that the scientists themselves will view the artists' creative practices as an opportunity for observation, critical analysis, taking stock, resourcing and inspiration.

This relationship will result, for example, in meetings and seminars aimed at establishing an extensive dialogue on the cognitive impact of artistic creation on research and epistemological discussions within research teams, in order to question them about research practices and their views of the social and ethical implications of their work.

The seminars will be open to the entire university community and will be a platform for building openness, integration and relationships within this community.

Educational challenges: to experiment with new practices in education programmes

Bringing education and research together is a real challenge when it comes to educating students. It is a question of instilling the sense of initiative, critical analysis and creativity engendered by research, alongside the knowledge imparted. Bringing together scientific and artistic practices should enrich this approach.

As part of the residency, this fusion may result in workshops showcasing artistic creation that complement education programmes for students and doctoral researchers and which are put together with the scientists overseeing them. The end goal is to use the residency as a platform for experimenting with and assessing new practices in existing courses and for putting together new courses.

Mediation challenges: renewing mediation practices through the relationship between art and science

Mediating academic knowledge to a public that is unfamiliar with the world of science is becoming one of the responsibilities of research professors. This mediation work is part of the teaching work (students and doctoral students) and of the practices employed during initiatives and events aimed at the general public.

It is important to renew mediation methods in order to expand the target audience and make science more attractive. The residency should play a role in experimenting with new types of mediation emerging from the interplay of artists and scientists inspiring and talking to each other. The artistic creation may also cause areas of transformation, or even breaks, in the expression of the scientific process that are as beneficial for the researchers as for the public.

In the context of the residency, mediation actors and trainers at Sorbonne University will be given the opportunity to discuss the artistic creation.

Initiatives developed directly from the artist's work will occasionally be offered to the public within and outside the university.

III. Project selection process

The projects will be examined by an ad hoc committee made up of research professors from Sorbonne University and external members from the University's partner cultural institutions.

- Call for applications published: **15 February 2022**
- Deadline for submitting applications: **15 April**
- Shortlist of 3 to 5 applicants drawn up by the committee based on the applications submitted
- Applicants notified of the shortlist: **May**
- Shortlisted applicants put into touch with Sorbonne University Institutes and Initiatives: **May–June**
- Shortlisted candidates interviewed: **early July**
- Result of the final selection: **late July**
- Start of the residency: **October 2022**

Project selection criteria

- Quality of the art project, its key points and the proposed collaborative programme with the Sorbonne University teams
- Relevance of the residency project within the overall project of Sorbonne University.

- Potential value of the project in the context of the wide variety of educational projects, cultural initiatives and public dialogues.
- Adequacy of the material conditions for implementation of the residency given the logistical capacity and security conditions of Sorbonne University.

IV. Residency agreement

The residency programme is based on a reciprocal commitment between the artist and Sorbonne University, which will be covered by an agreement. The agreement sets out the purpose, duration and terms and conditions of the collaboration between the scientific and teaching teams. It also sets out the commitments of Sorbonne University concerning the provision of logistical, technical and human resources, support for the artist during their immersion in university life and promotion of the artist's work in the context of the residency. Where applicable, the agreement provides for an accommodation option, the management of tasks inherent to the project and the terms and conditions of remuneration for collective activities and even the creations.

The agreement also sets out the respective rights over the work created during its term. Finally, it provides that a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the residency must be undertaken at different stages of the residency.