

OPEN CALL FOR THE YEAR 2026

RESEARCH GRANT FOR CURATORS, ART CRITICS, AND CULTURAL MEDIATORS IN ALL DISCIPLINES



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Atelier Mondial, International Arts Exchange Program Basel - Mulhouse - Freiburg, offers artists, curators, art critics and cultural mediators in all disciplines (architecture, dance, art, theatre... etc.) from the Basel region (CH), the canton of Solothurn (CH), the city of Freiburg including the region of South Baden (DE) and Alsace (FR) the opportunity to spend several months abroad on a free research grant as part of the annual call for applications. This scholarship is therefore explicitly aimed at mediators who would like to gain new input for their mediation work through research.

Atelier Mondial has been organising scholarships for visual arts, fashion & textiles, literature and dance/performing arts in collaboration with various partners for several years. The same conditions apply for these scholarships as for the call for applications in the field of visual arts and for the scholarship for curators, art critics and cultural mediators. The open calls in the fields of visual arts, fashion & textiles, literature and dance/performing arts are published in separate texts. It is not possible to apply for different disciplines at the same time.

SPONSORSHIP

The project is supported by the Christoph Merian Foundation (project management), the Cantons of Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, and Solothurn, the city of Freiburg im Breisgau, and the Alsace region.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Atelier Mondial project management is the responsibility of the Christoph Merian Foundation. It coordinates the organisation and administration of the exchange programme at home and abroad and represents the Atelier Mondial sponsorship externally.

FUNDING OBJECTIVE AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The open call is aimed at professional curators, art critics, and cultural mediators in all disciplines who live or work in the cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft, Solothurn, Alsace, or South Baden.

The aim of the grant is to give curators, art critics, and cultural mediators time to research and produce new projects, to enable intercultural experiences, and to establish an international network. In return, Atelier Mondial receives artists from their partner cities and hosts them in its seven studios on the Dreispitz in Basel, in Freiburg im Breisgau, and in Mulhouse. The artists from the partner countries are usually selected by the partner institution.

The encounter with a new culture, networking with the local art scene and, above all, the involvement of people in an (artistic-cultural) process should make a significant and lasting contribution to the development of the mediating activity. This requires communicative openness and initiative on the part of the participants. Depending on the location, participants should be able to communicate in English, French or Spanish; a basic knowledge of the host countries is necessary and should be evident in the letter of motivation for the destinations in the application.

JURY CRITERIA

Criteria relevant to the jury process are the professionalism of the submitted portfolio, the quality of the letter of motivation (reference of the project to the chosen destination and the reflection of one's own cultural mediation point of view) as well as the relevance of the scholarship for the career in the field of mediation at the current time.

FINANCE

Confirmation for a studio abroad comes with a fixed contribution for travel and living expenses depending on the partner location. Any additional costs incurred during the stay abroad (personal expenses, fixed costs at the home location, etc.) are generally the responsibility of the participants. For the travel grant a lump sum of CHF 15'000 is provided. The Christoph Merian Foundation, the Cantons of Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, and Solothurn, the City of Freiburg im Breisgau and the Région la Ville de Mulhouse or the DRAC Grand-Est cannot grant any further contributions in addition to this amount. If a stay abroad must be terminated for various reasons, the grant holder is obliged to reimburse the grant on a pro rata temporis basis to Atelier Mondial.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

At the end of the stay abroad, the scholarship holders must submit a report evaluating the stay (approx. four A4 pages) to Atelier Mondial.

LIABILITY

Participation in the Atelier Mondial programme is at the artists' own risk. Atelier Mondial accepts no liability whatsoever.

SELECTION PROCESS

In each discipline, a separate, independent jury reviews all the portfolios and makes the final decision on the distribution of the grants and the contribution to living expenses. The juries reserve the right to invite artists for a personal interview for the final decision. *The jurying of all disciplines will take place at the end of August 2025. All applicants will be informed of the decisions in writing by Atelier Mondial by mid-September 2025 at the latest.*

The selection for the research grant for curators, art critics and cultural mediators in all disciplines is made by the specialist jury for cultural mediation.

In 2025, the expert jury for the research grant for cultural mediation in all disciplines will be composed as follows for 2026

- Sandra Hughes, commissioner for cultural and cultural education projects for Canton Basel-Stadt
- Sanja Lukanović, curator and art educator, Canton of Baselland
- Tilo Richter, project manager department of culture of the Christoph Merian Foundation

Alexandra Stäheli, director of Atelier Mondial, is represented on all juries in an advisory function.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Please note that only *online applications* via the website www.ateliermondial.com can be considered. Please read the following conditions of participation carefully, *no documents can be submitted at a later point*. Incorrect documents that do not meet the full criteria listed below cannot be submitted to the jury.

1. Eligibility is limited to professional artists, curators, art critics, and culture mediators in all disciplines who reside or work in the following areas, regardless of age or nationality:

- Basel region
- Canton Basel-Landschaft
- Canton Solothurn
- Freiburg im Breisgau
- South Baden region (postal code 79...)
- Alsace region

2. Applicants must provide proof of their current residence or place of work in one of the respective regions by means of an attached document *dated no later than 2025*.

ATTENTION: Rental contracts, ID cards, foreigner's ID or permit, and passports are not valid! Only the following documents are considered as proof:

Proof of residence:

- Switzerland:
Residency certificate from the Resident's Registration Office (Einwohnerkontrollamt) (dated 2025), health insurance bill (dated 2025), gas, electricity, water bill (dated 2025)
- Germany:
Registration certificate (dated 2025), gas, electricity, water bill from the energy supplier (dated 2025)
- France:
Certificat de Domicile (2025), gas, electricity, water bill from the energy supplier (dated 2025)

Proof of work of place:

- Employment contract or confirmation from the employer
- Self-employed persons: Letter of confirmation of self-employment AHV (Old Age and Survivors Insurance) or latest AHV contribution statement from 2025
- Confirmation of enrolment at the HGK, university, or equivalent study or training programmes
- Rental contract for studio

3. Students must have completed their studies (BA or MA) at the start of the grant.
4. Artists who have been awarded a studio or travel grant by Atelier Mondial for the year 2025 are not eligible to participate.
5. It is not possible to apply for different disciplines at the same time (Visual Arts, Fashion & Textiles, Culture Mediation, Literature, and Dance/Performing Arts).
6. Applicants must provide proof of participation in all previous exchange and residency programmes.
7. Applicants agree to provide three high-resolution photographs including captions for promotional purposes if they are awarded a grant.

8. Pandemic regulation: Applicants who are awarded a scholarship agree to sign an agreement regarding the handling of the scholarship in the context of a pandemic or similar emergency situation.

RESEARCH GRANT FOR CURATORS, ART CRITICS, AND ART MEDIATORS IN ALL DISCIPLINES

Atelier Mondial is offering a research grant for curators, art critics, and cultural mediators in all disciplines for the year 2026. They can apply for an open research grant of CHF 15'000. The location and duration of the stay in 2026 can be chosen freely; it is also possible to divide the amount into several short stays or to travel to the same place several times (for example, first to research and then to realise a project, etc.). Atelier Mondial would like to make curatorial projects or cultural mediation projects possible that could not otherwise come about without a grant. Atelier Mondial does not guarantee on-site support.

Depending on the project, the research grant is also suitable for families.

APPLICATION PROCESS RESEARCH GRANT

The application is submitted by filling out an *online form including the upload of a PDF file* with the required documents and a record of the curatorial work.

Please read the terms and conditions of participation and have all documents ready for your online registration.

Fill in the online form, upload a PDF file (max. 10 MB) with the following content:

- Insight into previous activities (Professional biography; description of own approach in the field of cultural mediation) Letter of motivation (Reference to the destination; description of the process in which the participants are involved)
- Confirmation of residence or place of work (see Conditions of Participation, p. 5, point 2)
- List of potential partners and existing local contacts
- General idea for a research project
- Outline of a possible result/evaluation
- Rough budget
- Record of the work in the field of cultural mediation, curation, critic etc.

Candidates with a permanent position at an institution can apply for the grant on the condition that they are substituted by someone when they receive the grant. The employer's agreement must be received in writing by Atelier Mondial within one month of acceptance.

The letter of motivation should provide a good and vivid insight into the planned project, the purpose of the travel, as well as a possible evaluation of the research.

Online-Registration:

<https://ateliermondial.com/en/bewerbungsformular>

Application deadline: 16 June 2025