Federal Ministry
Housing, Arts, Culture,
Media and Sport
Republic of Austria

Deadline for applications: November 9th, 2026

CALL for APPLICATIONS
FOCUS INTERNATIONAL SOUTH AFRICA 2027

The program FOCUS INTERNATIONAL South Africa 2027 of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport at MuseumsQuartier Vienna supports 6 cultural workers/artists from the Republic of South Africa to participate in internships for 2 months each at a major art institution/art project in Vienna.

The program offers an opportunity for young cultural workers (max. 40 years old) from the Republic of South Africa to collect personal work experience at leading art initiatives in Austria. Apart from the internship, which is the central part of the program, the residents will receive personal mentoring as well as additional support from the team of MuseumsQuartier.

We offer each residency participant

- 2 months internship in an art institution or at an art project in Vienna
- studio flat in the historic building of MuseumsQuartier Vienna
- monthly scholarship of EUR 1.400 (for two months a total of EUR 2.800)
- Coverage of flight costs and booking of flights to Vienna and back (max. EUR 1.000)

Your tasks

Active participation in the 2 months internship at one of the participating cultural institutions in Vienna (details according to the individual program of each residency, see below).

Insurance

Please take care of your health and travel insurance during your stay in Austria.

Deadline for applications

November 9th, 2026, 23:55 CET

The application must include the following documents:

- complete digital application form, including the following information:
  - full contact information
  - letter of intent explaining why you are applying, what you expect from the program and what you would like to focus on during the residence (max. 5000 characters)
  - brief informative curriculum vitae (max. 1 page)
  - optional: recommendation letter by a senior person in the profession
- applications are accepted in English language
- all documents must be sent as **1 PDF,** max. 10 MB

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General obligatory requirements

- completed university degree or completed specialized education
- at least three years of work experience in the desired field of work
- high level of proficiency in English or German is required in order to enable participants to engage in a creative dialogue in an international context

Please send the filled-out application form (1 PDF, max. 10 MB) **until November 9th 2026, 23:55 CET** exclusively electronically to the following e-mail address: focus-southafrica@bmwkms.gv.at.

The internship is awarded on recommendation from an independent jury.

Time Line

- October 12th, 2026: Start of applications
- November 9th, 2026, 23:55 CET: Deadline for applications
- Until November 30th, 2026: Selection of the scholarship holders
- January-June 2027: two months scholarships

Applicants are obliged to hand in a **written report** after completion of the residency to the following e-mail address: focus-southafrica@bmwkms.gv.at

Institutions

The following institutions/projects offer an internship/coached work experience for one cultural worker from South Africa:

- **Tricky Women/TrickyRealities**: January-February 2027
- **mica – music austria**: January-February 2027
- **WIENWOCHE**: March-April 2027
- **MuseumsQuartier Wien**: March-April 2027
- **FOTO ARSENAL WIEN**: May-June 2027
- **Independent Space Index**: May-June 2027

The call for applications and the application form can be viewed at:

- focusinternational.at/south_africa
- bmwkms.gv.at/focus-international-south_africa

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Tricky Women/TrickyRealities

TIME SLOT: January-February 2027
trickywomen.at

TRICKY WOMEN/TRICKY REALITIES focuses on animated films made by women and/or genderqueer artists and therefore fills a unique position within the international festival landscape. Since 2001 TRICKY WOMEN/TRICKY REALITIES takes place every year in March in Vienna around the date of the International Women's Day.

Besides the competition the festival shows themed programs and retrospectives to present an exciting overview of the animated cinematic art of female/genderqueer artists from around the world and Austrian filmmakers as well. Historical curiosities and contemporary productions are part of TRICKY WOMEN/TRICKY REALITIES' programming.

From gender equality to digitalization, from human rights to the working world to social, economic and ecological questions – for twenty-four years, Tricky Women/Tricky Realities has been exploring social and political issues from a feminist and artistic perspective and offering new ways of highlighting social inequalities.

Interest/experience in the field of animated films and cinema, interest in/engagement with topics such as diversity and intersectional feminist discourses, as well as the intersections of art and socio-political topics. Interest in queer and/or BPoC perspectives is welcome.

The office is located in the MuseumsQuartier.

mica – music austria

TIME SLOT: January-February 2027
musicaustria.at

mica - music austria / Austrian Music Export strives for a diverse and socially representative team structure. Therefore, mica encourages people to apply regardless of their cultural or social background, religious beliefs, ideologies, disabilities, or sexual identity.

Your working fields:

- Assisting in the planning and implementation of projects of Austrian Music Export, such as cooperations with showcase festivals or music trade fairs, organisation of trade missions or songwriting camps
- Supporting the export team with administrative tasks such as database maintenance or travel bookings
- Supporting the PR team by editing curatorial and other texts related to these activities for newsletters, website and social media

Your profile:

- You are studying for or already have an academic degree in music business or another cultural field, or have equivalent practical experience.
- Have an in-depth knowledge of the international music ecosystem
- You have first-hand professional experience in the music scene

- You have excellent communication skills, self-confidence and the ability to think and work in a team in English. German language skills are a plus, but not required, as some internal meetings will be conducted in German
- Sensitive to diversity, inclusion and anti-discrimination issues
- You are proficient in the use of MS Office

We offer:

- A workplace with interesting and varied tasks at an international music institution
- Working with a motivated team

WIENWOCHE

TIME SLOT: March-April 2027
wienwoche.org

WIENWOCHE is a Viennese festival that experiments with merging creative practices and activism in different scales and formats and from different sides of art and social movements. Since its beginning in 2012, WIENWOCHE has taken place in September every year. WIENWOCHE sees cultural work as engagement in social, political and cultural debates, with the aim of advancing them and making them visible. WIENWOCHE intends to push the boundaries of cultural and artistic practices and make them accessible for all social groups living in Vienna. We welcome applicants that are interested in PR and project communication/curatorial assistance.

Your tasks:

- Open Call Project Coordination and Archiving
- Kick-off meeting organization and correspondence
- Support for external exhibition collaboration
- social media support
- supporting the press section
- Website support
- Fluent English required

MuseumsQuartier Wien

TIME SLOT: March-April 2027
mqw.at

The MuseumsQuartier is one of the world's largest cultural areas and offers around 5 million visitors a dense program of art and culture every year. It is a place of cultural diversity, experimentation, action and communication.

MQ E+B programs curates a diverse artistic program with installations, sculpture projects and events in the outdoor spaces as well as exhibitions and presentations in the exhibition spaces - the MQ Freiraum, the MQ Salon, the MQ Art Box and the MQ Schauräume.

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Internship in the Department of Art & Sustainability at MuseumsQuartier Wien

Areas of responsibility:

- Assisting in the organization/implementation of cultural events/exhibition projects
- Assistance in the coordination of the artist-in-residence program / artist support
- Assisting with the coordination and design of publications and printed materials
- Assisting with the conception and development of cultural projects
- Coordination of meetings, taking minutes
- General administrative tasks (data archiving, filing)
- Research activities
- Workload: around 20 hours per week

Requirements profile:

- Completed university degree or completed specialized education in culturally related fields (art history, theatre studies, film and media studies, German studies, cultural management, cultural studies or a comparable field)
- A strong interest in contemporary art and culture
- Excellent English language skills (oral and written), other languages an advantage
- Knowledge of social media
- Writing skills
- Excellent IT skills (MS Office)
- Good communication skills
- Creativity, initiative and organizational skills
- Strong service orientation, hands-on mentality
- Ability to work in a team with a high level of commitment
- Willingness to work evening events

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

TIME SLOT: May-June 2027
fotoarsenalwien.at

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN is a newly opened (March 2025) exhibition center in Vienna dedicated to photography and lens-based media, showcasing national and international artists through temporary exhibitions and an educational program. Located in the Arsenal district, it is funded by the City of Vienna and serves as a cultural hub for exploring both historical and contemporary aspects of photography. In cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport, Foto Arsenal is looking for a Fellow from the beginning of May until the end of June 2027 to support the exhibition office in the area of communication, production and curatorial research.

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN is looking for a person to join the team to support in various aspects such as project communication, curatorial assistance, and production support for events and exhibitions.

Your responsibilities may include:

- Supporting the Production Department in the planning and realization of exhibition projects, with a special focus on the festival's main exhibition.

- Assisting in the coordination of openings and the program during the opening days, which includes panel discussions, performances, concerts, and talks by international and national artists and speakers.
- Artist communication and care, including liaising with participating artists.
- Supporting the Communications team in both online and offline outreach activities, such as social media, newsletters, and print materials.
- Helping to maintain and update project websites, especially in the lead-up to events.
- Curatorial assistance in the preparation and organization of the exhibition program

Your profile:

- You have an academic degree in curatorial studies, cultural studies, art history, or another field in the humanities, or have equivalent practical experience
- You possess deep knowledge of current discourses in contemporary photography and extensive familiarity with the international arts scene
- You are sensitive to diversity, inclusion, and anti-discrimination concerns
- You have outstanding communication skills, confidence, and are able to think and work in a team in English. German language skills are a plus, but not necessary, as some internal meetings will be held in German
- You are proficient in the use of MS Office

Foto Arsenal strives for a diverse and socially representative team structure. We accordingly encourage individuals regardless of cultural or social background, religious belief, worldview, disability status, or sexual identity to apply.

Independent Space Index

TIME SLOT: May-June 2027
Independent Space Index: independentspaceindex.at
Festival of independent art spaces in Vienna 2026: 2026.independentspaceindex.at

Independent Space Index is a comprehensive directory of independent spaces for contemporary art in Vienna, as well as a networking channel between the listed spaces. The network was founded in 2017 with the aim of strengthening solidarity among like-minded cultural initiatives, increasing the visibility of independent artistic production by archiving its locales and facilitating their discovery, and highlighting their contribution to the Viennese art scene. Independent Space Index organizes the yearly festival of independent spaces in Vienna. This public event has been the largest joint endeavor of independent spaces in Vienna since its first edition in 2018.

The grant holder will assist the festival team in the days leading up to the festival primarily with public communications, participant communications, and will assist with social media. There will be a number of chances to get to meet, engage with, and learn more about Vienna's independent spaces.

The grantee will produce a field report documenting their experience of the festival to become a permanent part of our archive

English language skills are important for this role.