

The Mori Contemporary Art Foundation (MoriCAF)

Curator Residency Program 2026 Application Guidelines

1. Summary

The Mori Contemporary Art Foundation (MoriCAF) offers a residency program for curators with an interest in Japanese contemporary art. The program selects distinguished curators from outside Japan and provides opportunities for them to conduct research and interact with artists, researchers, museums, exhibitions and festivals, galleries, and alternative spaces in Japan, and so contribute to the international dissemination of Japanese contemporary art. Selected curators are provided with financial support to undertake research as well as assistance with coordinating their projects. Prior to the end of the residency, participants are expected to present the results of their research.

2. Eligibility

- Residing outside Japan
- Five or more years of curatorial experience
- Fluency in English or Japanese
- Able to live and work independently
- No age or nationality restrictions
- No engagement in commercial activities during the residency
- Active involvement in publicity
- Continual stay at the accommodation provided by MoriCAF during the residency
- Participants are required to obtain adequate travel and medical insurance for the duration of their stay.

Not eligible:

- Applications from collectives of two or more persons
- Applicants who wish to stay for less than two weeks

Number of Residents: 3 to 4

3. Provisions

- Accommodation (single room with kitchen facilities)
- Round-trip air fare (economy class, from closest airport to either Narita or Haneda; other travel-related expenses not included)
- Research project fees (JPY 200,000 flat rate for domestic travel and accommodation, etc.)
- No repayment required

4. Residency Period

Two weeks to three months between February 2026 and March 2027 (applicants may submit a choice of up to two periods). Periods and residency lengths are decided in consultation with applicants.

5. Application Method

Please download the application form from the Foundation's [website](#), complete it with the required information, and submit it to the Secretariat. For further details, please refer to the manual available on the Foundation's website.

6. Necessary Documents

1. Application form (in English)

- Applicants should provide information about the theme of their project and the research they wish to conduct in Japan (within 500 words).

2. Letter of recommendation (signed, English or Japanese, A4, PDF)

3. Two referees (contact details for professionals and specialists to respond to inquiries from MoriCAF about the applicant) *Please provide this information in the designated section of the form.

7. Application Deadline

September 10, 2025 (Wednesday), 6:00 p.m. (Japan Standard Time)

8. Selection Schedule

- Early October 2025: Applicant selection by International Jury

- Mid-October 2025: Applicants individually notified of selection results

- Late October 2025: Results published online

Some applicants may be contacted for an interview via online with the MoriCAF office before the final decision.

MoriCAF is unable to respond to inquiries about the selection process or results.

9. Accommodation and Facilities

- Location: "MORI LIVING" serviced apartment (within Tokyo's 23 wards)

<https://www.moriliving.com/en/sa/index.html>

- One-bedroom, furnished, with breakfast included

- Facilities include kitchen, toilet, bathroom, refrigerator, air conditioning, tableware, bedding, etc.

- 24-hour internet (Wi-Fi) access

10. Final Report

Participants are required to present the results of the residency and provide a written report to MoriCAF at the end of the program.

11. Handling of Personal Information

Personal information will be used solely for communication regarding this program and will not be used or shared for any other purpose.

12. Inquiries

Mori Contemporary Art Foundation (MoriCAF)

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