

Call for Applications – 2021 Residencies

Our Call for Applications for our 2021 Principal Residency Program opens on March 1, 2020. Applicants can apply for three-month or six-month residencies, which need to take place between January and November 2021.

At the time of application, applicants must specify the desired length of their stay. Please note that La Becque has scheduled three breaks periods of a month each between residency periods for 2021, in order to keep on improving the support we provide to selected residency projects. The number of residencies available is therefore reduced in comparison to previous years, and further increases the competitiveness of the selection process.

Application deadline is March 31, 2020.

Please review our Application Criteria and Application Guidelines (below) as well as our FAQ before applying. Should any questions be left open, please contact applications@labecque.ch

Principal Residency Program

La Becque ambitions to host and to foster the creativity of artists of all backgrounds and disciplines. Residents benefit from an exceptional location and infrastructure, as well as networks conducive to accomplishing the project they have been selected for.

Our Principal Residency Program participants are selected globally by a transdisciplinary jury of experts. The program is oriented towards confirmed artists as well as up-and-coming practitioners with a high development potential.

The residency program dedicates particular attention to projects exploring the interplay of the notions of nature, the environment, and technology – which are more than ever intertwined and at the core of contemporary preoccupations.

The following statement could constitute a valuable starting point for a reflexion on these notions and their entanglement:

Nature, as both subject and object has been repeatedly rejected and reclaimed by artists over the last half century. With the dislocation of disciplinary boundaries in visual culture, art that is engaged with nature has also forged connections with a new range of scientific, historical and philosophical ideas. Developing technologies make our interventions into natural systems both increasingly refined and profound. Advances in biological and telecommunication technology continually modify the way we present ourselves. So too are artistic representations of nature (human and otherwise) being transformed. (Jeffrey Kastner, 2012)

A crucial nexus is perhaps how these notions of exploration, investigation and (self-)representation involving technology cross with the ways art explores modes of living and creating a bridge for the probably unsustainable divide between nature and culture. “Decolonizing nature” (TJ Demos, 2016) entails transcending human-centered exceptionalism, and the fields proposing innovative methods of post-anthropocentric social, political, scientific, technological and economic analysis are numerous. Art is at the forefront of shaping this “non-unified cosmopolitical concern”, and it provides a crucial platform for creative speculative practice, philosophical enquiry, and conceptual experimentation within our relationship to nature. Therefore, a non-exhaustive list of areas to be explored through an artistic or a critical writing residency at La Becque could comprise: analysing what actors, institutions and technological infrastructures make up the “Anthropocene”; questioning, or opposing, that same notion of a contemporary anthropocenic period; examining the vectors of natural exploration and extraction, and the limits between benign and intrusive exploration; examining modes through which artists translate natural data into (image-, sound, text-based or otherwise) works contributing to the understanding of our natural environment and perhaps even broaden the notion of “interspecies communication”; examining whether, and to what extent, technological infrastructure has become part or is shaping our natural environment; how ever more craftily produced virtual reality environments reshape the notion of what constitutes our environment, of what is “natural” and of what is “programmed/coded/designed”; or exploring how and why, in our technological and digital age, more ancient notions of science and para-science, religion and para-religion, technologies and para-technologies, are gaining new traction.

In addition to its Principal Residency Program, La Becque launched several Partner Residency Programs, which are all described on our website. These Partner Programs are the object of distinct calls, application criteria, and rules. Applicants to these programs will also be evaluated by distinct juries.

All information contained herein applies solely to our Principal Residency Program.

What We Offer

La Becque’s Principal Residency Program provides the opportunity for artists to live and work on our unique site in La Tour-de-Peilz for periods of **three months** or **six months**.

Artists-in-residence are provided with a **live-work apartment** for the time of their stay. The apartments are specifically designed for their artist-in-residence use.

Each apartment is 80sqm in size, with a fully equipped kitchen, own washer and dryer, separate bedroom and bathroom and a flexible main live-work space of approx. 40sqm, plus a terrace facing Lake Geneva.

Depending on the needs outlined by their residency project, residents will be granted exclusive or shared use of **additional studio space**. Our studios are 30sqm in size with 3.70m ceiling height and offer ample natural daylight.

Residents will receive a **monthly stipend** (CHF 1'500) to offset the costs of day-to-day living and the cost of materials.

Travel costs are generally not covered. Depending on financial necessities outlined by the candidate, additional funds may be made available to facilitate travel.

La Becque will provide assistance when and where possible, but Residents are responsible for obtaining their own visas or other necessary travel and residency documents.

Residents must also make sure they have valid insurance to cover medical assistance and accidents during their stay in Switzerland.

Once they are on site, residents will benefit from **comprehensive administrative care**. They will also benefit from **coaching/networking** services provided by La Becque's own team, to insure residents can make the most of the vast networks made available to them.

Application Criteria

Please review these [Application Criteria](#), our [Application Guidelines](#) as well as our [FAQ](#) before applying. Should any questions be left open, please contact applications@labecque.ch

Candidate profiles

Our Principal Residency Program welcomes applications from Swiss and international professional artists working in a wide range of disciplines, including:

- **architecture**
- **critical writing**
- **design (product design, graphic design, design research)**
- **film**
- **media arts**
- **music and sound art**
- **performing arts**
- **photography**
- **visual arts**

Curators, critics and theorists active in research fields connected to cultural practices are also encouraged to apply.

Emerging as well as established artists are welcome to apply – but applicants must be professional in their field and strive for excellence in it.

Applicants must show proof of specialized training or an equivalent track record, recognition among their peers, and a history of publicly showing their work.

Applicants should not be enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs at the date of application. Doctoral students who have finished all coursework may apply.

Applicants must be at least 23 years of age.

Applicants must provide at least one Referent via a short reference letter statement and Referent contacts.

Languages

Languages generally spoken at La Becque are English and French.

A good command of English is a requisite in order to function well with our staff as well as with other residents during one's stay.

French is a plus as it will help residents understand and navigate their immediate environment, but it is not a requisite criterion.

Your Project and La Becque

In their residency project outline (see Application Guidelines), candidates must show an explicit and structured interest in the guiding themes developed in the Principal Residency Program, namely the notions of nature and technology and their interplay.

In their residency project outline, applicants must also clearly state why their project will specifically benefit from being developed at La Becque, what they expect to draw from our location and our networks, and what specific part of the project will particularly benefit from the residency.

In short: why does the applicant's project necessitate or justify a stay at La Becque?

In addition, applicants must specify their work space needs – especially if they are applying as a couple or collective.

Timing

In the year there are submitting an application, candidates can only apply for residencies to be held during the next calendar year (e.g. applications submitted in 2020 are only for residencies to be conducted in 2021, and so on).

At the time of application, applicants must specify the desired length of their stay.

Applicants interested in a three-month residency must name a preferred 3-month period as well as a second-choice period among these same 3-month blocks, which are: January-March 2021 / May-July 2021 / September-November 2021.

Applicants interested in a six-month residency can name a preference for either a block of six successive months (from January to June 2021, or from May to October 2021), or name a preference for a combination of two three-month blocks which must then be January-March 2021 and September-November 2021.

Please note that La Becque has scheduled three breaks periods of a month each between residency periods for 2021, in order to keep on improving the support we provide to selected residency projects. The number of residencies available is therefore reduced in comparison to previous years, and further increases the competitiveness of the selection process. This is particularly true of six-month residencies, of which only a few will be granted - please take this into consideration when choosing the preferred residency length you apply.

La Becque cannot guarantee that the preferred stay period can be granted to all applicants. It reserves the right to propose another period of stay to selected applicants, and to make several proposals to them until a satisfying period of stay is found for all selected applicants.

Candidates must apply within the given time frame, i.e. a once-per-year, month-long application window.

In 2020 the call is open between March 1 and March 31, 2020.

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2020 at midnight CEST (Central European Summer Time).

Whether their application is successful or not, **candidates may not apply two years in a row for the Principal Residency Program.**

All applicants, even previous Residents, must submit a complete application including recent work samples when applying or reapplying for the program.

Application Guidelines

Please review these [Application Guidelines](#), our [Application Criteria](#) as well as our [FAQ](#) before applying. Should any questions be left open, please contact applications@labecque.ch

Application materials

Applicants will be asked to complete and upload the following documentation within the online application (find the form on www.labecque.ch)

– **Principal Residency Program Application Form**

– **One .pdf document including, in this order (max. 30MB):**

1. **Pitch of your project proposal** (max. 700 characters)
2. **Short biography** including a brief description of the applicant's practice (max 1000 characters)
3. **Project proposal** (max 2 pages) highlighting:
 - The specifics of the work the applicant intends to accomplish at La Becque
 - The reasons why the project will benefit from being worked at La Becque specifically
 - The networks and environments the applicant intends to leverage on behalf of the project
 - How the project fits into the applicant's practice
4. Full **curriculum vitae** (max 4 pages)
5. One **reference letter** from a professional in the applicant's field. The letter should outline why the applicant should be selected and how they might benefit from a residency at La Becque, as well as the Referent's address and contact information.
6. **Digital portfolio** presenting 3 work samples:
 - All submitted work samples should have been completed within the past five years, unless otherwise noted.
 - Any work done with a collaborator must be noted as such, and roles with respect to the work must be clearly explicated

Work sample specifics are described on the next page.

Specific work sample requirements

Performing arts (dance, performance, theater)

– Digital portfolio should include at least two videos or video clips of the applicant’s work, or links to these materials (include password if password-protected), and written documentation about the work.

Design and Architecture

– Digital portfolio should include at least 10 images of work completed within the past five years, with an explanation of significant features, and a writing sample where appropriate.

Film

– Digital portfolio should include links to two 5-minute excerpts of the work (include password if password-protected) for feature-length work, and up to three 5-minute excerpts of the work (include password if password-protected) for short films.

Critical writing

– Digital portfolio should include a 15-page minimum and 25-page maximum writing sample, as well as links to published work by the applicant.

Music, music composition and sound art

– Digital portfolio should include audio samples of three representative works, or links to these works (include password if password-protected). Scores and live performance documentation may also be provided where appropriate.

Visual arts, photography and interdisciplinary arts (including media arts)

– Digital portfolio should include documentation of at least two different projects. Projects can be documented via images; scripts, work plans or storyboards; audio files; videos; video documentation of time-based elements in the work; and for medium-specific digital art, documentation should include work samples that allow jury members to get a sufficient grasp of the work without specific (viewing, other) hardware.

Please submit your application by filling the form available on www.labecque.ch/residencies

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