ANAT | SYNAPSE 2026

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND

When art merges with science and technology, old ideas, knowledge, philosophies and paradigms are transformed; and new ones are born. This cross-disciplinary, creative collision is at the heart of everything ANAT does, most notably in our flagship residency program, ANAT Synapse.

Since its genesis in 2004, ANAT Synapse has enabled research collaborations between more than 100 artists and researchers. We have facilitated crossovers between numerous artistic and scientific disciplines over the years - between sound design and ecology, new media and data science, poetry and astrophysics, and many, many others. All genres of practice and fields of study are welcome.

We invite you to apply to become part of this expanding community of cross-disciplinary collaborators in the 2026 round.

PURPOSE

ANAT Synapse is a residency program that involves **Australian research organisations** hosting **artists in residence** to undertake a period of creative research and practice.

The program brings artists and researchers together in partnerships that generate new knowledge, ideas and processes beneficial beyond both fields. A distinguishing feature of the residencies is their **creative research focus,** with

applicants supported in **collaborative experimentation** rather than **anticipating or producing specific outcomes**.

ANAT Synapse residencies lead to profound artistic and professional development for the participants, while also building a sustainable support base for interdisciplinary creative collaboration in Australia.

RESIDENCY FORMAT

The residency will be undertaken over 16 weeks full-time (or the equivalent part-time), between February and October.

The successful artist will liaise directly with the host researcher to determine the most appropriate times and dates to work in situ at the host's facility. It is envisaged that the residency term may include a combination of onsite and offsite periods, including online meetings, phone calls, or research undertaken by the artist within their own studio.

The program is suited to artists with a self-disciplined and focused creative working process as investigations alongside the research partner will be largely self-guided.

The successful artist will receive a total artist fee of $18,706 ex GST, plus 12% superannuation, paid in regular installments across the term of the residency. ANAT will also contribute up to $3,500 toward other project expenses, if required. The host will provide the artist-in-residence in-kind access to staff expertise, space, equipment and resources, as agreed prior via the application.

BENEFITS

Benefits to the Artist
- Time to explore and develop concepts at the very inception of idea/s
- Meaningful engagement and collaboration with experts in a research field relevant to the artist's practice, contributing to a rigorous artistic process
- Access to the host organisation's equipment, resources and experienced staff
- Focussed promotion by storytelling via ANAT's national and international network, including publicity opportunities, social media posts and stories, a feature on the invitation-only Google Arts & Culture platform, and an online creative research journal, which serves as a live document of the residency and as a cultural artefact that will be archived and accessible/shareable for years to come
- Partaking in an 'ANAT Micro Talk', an online talk that reaches national and international audiences

- Become part of **ANAT's Alumni**, a network of artists, scientists and technologists, a lifelong community of remarkable, diverse and engaged professionals

Benefits to the Host

- Meaningful engagement and collaboration with an artist whose area of research is relevant to the host organisation's focus, contributing to rigorous exploration. Former hosts consistently report that the experience has led to profound insight, sparking unexpected areas of inquiry for them, as artists' methods and approach are open and investigation lines limitless.
- Promotional opportunities shared with ANAT's national and international network, including publicity, social media posts and stories, and a feature on the invitation-only Google Arts & Culture platform. The artist will contribute to an online creative research journal, which serves as a live document of the residency and as a cultural artefact that will be archived and accessible/shareable for years to come.
- Partaking in an 'ANAT Micro Talk', an online talk that reaches national and international audiences
- Become part of **ANAT's Alumni**, a network of more than 100 artists, scientists and technologists. A lifelong community of remarkable, diverse and engaged professionals.

WHO CAN APPLY?

ANAT welcomes submissions from Australian artists who work in any genre with conceptual aims that intersect and deeply engage with science and/or technology. While we don't have annual themes, we prefer to host artists and research partners from different artistic, scientific and/or technological disciplines each year. You can view the work of past program recipients here:

ANAT Synapse Residencies
2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | OLDER

To ensure suitability between the artist and host organisation, **a joint application must be submitted, led by the artist**. It is the responsibility of the artist to identify the nature of the proposed research collaboration and establish a dialogue with their intended host prior to application.

As an inclusive arts organisation, ANAT enables artistic perspectives that reflect contemporary Australia. We especially encourage First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, d/Deaf and/or hearing impaired persons and people with disability to apply. Through our programs, we seek to reduce barriers by actively working toward inclusive best practices.

Proposed residencies where First Nations knowledge systems, artists or communities are involved or mentioned must include letters of support from the First Nations peoples involved or when relevant stem directly from the First Nations communities. Residencies must also adhere to the [Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#), as set out by Creative Australia.

ANAT requires that all participants in the program adhere to best practice [protocols](#), as set out by Creative Australia.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible:

- Artists who are Australian citizens or permanent residents, and are based in Australia at the time of the residency
- Research partner organisations based in Australia
- Artists whose focus will be to creatively research an idea by collaborating with a research partner within the science and/or technology fields
- Australian organisations who are able and willing to host an artist-in-residence for 16 weeks full-time (or part-time equivalent)
- Past ANAT Synapse recipients are eligible to apply if their previous projects were more than 10 years ago from the 2026 round

Ineligible:

- Artist groups (artist fees as part of the residency cover one artist only)
- Artists who are not Australian citizens/permanent residents
- Artists who are based outside of Australia
- Research partner organisations based outside Australia
- Artists who have not engaged with their intended host prior to application
- Artists who have clear outcomes in mind from the onset (for example, artwork they wish to produce)
- Tertiary students, including PhD candidates, if the proposed residency in any way contributes to the achievement of an academic qualification
- Proposed residencies that form a part of the applicants' paid work (employment/contract)
- Proposed residencies where First Nations knowledge systems, artists or communities are involved or mentioned and do not include letters of support from those First Nations peoples and/or do not comply with the [Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#), as set out by Creative Australia
- Host with more than one submission per round (separate applications from the same host researcher/department with a different artist partner in the same round will not be accepted)
- Artists who have been a recipient of an ANAT Synapse residency within the past 10 years of the 2026 round

ASSESSMENT

The selection panel consists of experienced independent art + science + technology practitioners and ANAT staff.

Selection Criteria

- Originality and innovation of the proposed project
- Artistic merit and depth of research intent
- Demonstrated willingness by all parties to work collaboratively
- Anticipated benefits to both the artist and the host organisation
- Viability of the project in relation to the scope of the residency budget and the project's achievability
- Relevance to broader community and audience reach/engagement (storytelling potential)

ARTIST DELIVERABLES

The successful recipient will:
- provide indicative images, bio, headshot and short project description for an initial announcement to ANAT's network and associated media, to be included on the ANAT website, social media and the ANAT Digest monthly electronic newsletter
- meet with the ANAT team (online or in person): meet & greet; residency progress and feedback & farewell
- contribute to an online creative research journal to share their residency experience with their own and ANAT's network
- provide content at regular intervals for ANAT social media posts:
    - sound, imagery, drawings, video, writing, diagrams, as applicable to the residency/their practice etc. each accompanied by short copy;
- Partake in the 2026 ANAT Micro Talk (online lunchtime talk)
- Complete a survey at the end of the residency period

KEY DATES

Call open:	**Thu 31 July 2025**
Deadline for applications:	**3 pm (ACDT), Wed 29 October 2025**
Notification of outcome:	**December 2025**
Residency period:	**Between February and October 2026**

HOW TO APPLY

The program is highly competitive. We encourage you to read these guidelines carefully. We also recommend you read the FAQs before applying (see page 7). If you have any questions that aren't covered in these documents, or would like further clarification about applying, please contact us at the details below.

To apply, complete the online application form [HERE](#) by 3 pm ACDT, Wednesday 29 October 2025.

A one-page budget template can be **downloaded [here](#)** (choose 'file' > 'download').

About the online application form:
The online form has a 'save for later' function. Although this is the case, ANAT recommends using a working document saved to your own computer prior to submitting the application online. We also recommend keeping a copy of your final application for your own records, prior to submitting.

Accessibility:
The online application form has features that conform to the WCAG 2.1 AA (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) standards set by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

As an alternative, applicants can request a Word document version of the application form to complete, if required. Upon request, ANAT will consider other alternative application formats. Please contact us directly to discuss further. Wherever possible, the online form is our preferred submission method.

Please reach out to us if you encounter any issues when using the form. Our contact details are listed below.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

You can find answers to commonly asked questions HERE. If you can't find what you're looking for, please contact ANAT on the details below.

CONTACT

Telephone: **08 8231 9037**

Email: **apply@anat.org.au**