



APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2027

Enabling artists to work deeply within scientific and technological research contexts through experimental, process-driven inquiry.

About ANAT Synapse

About

The ANAT Synapse residency program brings artists and researchers of science and technology together in partnerships that generate new knowledge, ideas and processes beneficial beyond both fields.

Since its genesis in 2004, ANAT Synapse has enabled research collaborations with hundreds of artists and researchers. We have facilitated connections between numerous artistic and scientific disciplines over the years from sound art and ecology, new media and data science to poetry and astrophysics, and many others. All genres of practice and fields of research are welcome.

Purpose

The program involves artists working in collaboration with and hosted by Australian research organisations in a period of creative research and practice.

A distinguishing feature of the residencies is their creative research focus, with artists encouraged and 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.

Accessibility

Please contact our friendly staff with any access needs in relation to your project or the application process. We will provide support and accept different formats for your submission wherever possible. Further information and our contact details can be found on pages 6 & 7 of these guidelines.

The Residency

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

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

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 in person and online meetings, phone calls, emails or research undertaken by the artist within their own studio.

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 budget.

Benefits

Benefits to the Artist

- Dedicated time to explore themes and develop concepts at the very inception of ideas, without the need for an outcome
- 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
- Contribution to an online creative research journal - a live document of the residency with tracked engagement - a cultural artefact that is archived and shareable long-term

Benefits to the Host

- Meaningful engagement with an artist whose work is relevant to the organisation's research focus, contributing to rigorous exploration

- Former hosts consistently describe the experience as transformative - artists' open methods and boundless lines of inquiry spark unexpected questions and open new areas of thinking

Shared benefits

- Wider access to new audiences and networks via opportunities shared across ANAT's national and international networks
- Participation 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 life-long 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. The intended host organisation must be based in Australia.

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 organisation they would like to work with and discuss their proposed research collaboration with their host prior to application.

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

[2026](#) | [2025](#) | [2024](#) | [2023](#) | [2022](#) | [2021](#) | [2020](#) | [2019](#) | [2018](#) | [2017](#) | [2016](#) | [OLDER](#)

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 these people and/or communities. Residencies must 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, based in Australia at the time of the residency
- Artists whose focus will be to creatively research an idea in collaboration with a research partner in the science and/or technology fields
- Research partner organisations based in Australia that are able and willing to host an artist-in-residence for 16 weeks full-time (or part-time equivalent)

Ineligible

- Artist groups (the artist fee covers one artist only)
- Artists who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents
- Artists or host organisations based outside of Australia
- Artists who have not engaged with their intended host organisation prior to submitting an application
- Artists with clear, predetermined outcomes in mind (e.g. creation of artwork for exhibition or work already conceptualised for a project)
- Tertiary students, including PhD candidates, where the residency may contribute toward an academic qualification
- Proposed residencies that form part of the artist's paid employment or contract work
- Proposed residencies involving First Nations knowledge systems, artists or communities that do not include letters of support from these people or groups, or do not comply with the Creative Australia [protocols](#)
- Host organisations submitting more than one application per round (separate applications from the same host researcher or department with different artist partners will not be accepted)
- Artist recipients of an ANAT Synapse residency within the past 10 years of this round
- Artist recipients of other major ANAT programs within the past 5 years
- Artists submitting the same project proposal for a third time or more

Assessment

Applications are assessed by an independent panel of experienced art, science and technology practitioners alongside 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 within the scope of the residency budget and the proposal's achievability
- Relevance to broader community and potential for audience engagement (storytelling potential)

Artist Deliverables

The successful recipient will:

- provide indicative images, bio, headshot and short project description for the initial announcement across ANAT's networks, website, social media and ANAT Digest monthly newsletter
- meet with the ANAT team (online or in person) at three points: a meet & greet, a mid-residency check-in, and a farewell/project wrap up
- contribute regularly to an online creative research journal documenting the residency (this may include images, sound, video, writing, drawings, diagrams - as relevant to your practice), with accompanying short copy for ANAT social media
- Participate in the 2027 ANAT Micro Talk (online lunchtime talk)
- Complete a questionnaire at the end of the residency period

Key Dates

Call open: Thu 16 July 2026

Deadline: 3 pm (ACDT), Wed 14 October 2026

Notification: Late Nov 2026

Residency: Between Feb - Oct 2027

How To Apply

The program is highly competitive. We encourage you to read the [FAQs](#) and these guidelines carefully before applying. If you have questions not covered in either document, contact us directly at the details below.

To apply, complete the online application form [HERE](#).

You'll be asked to provide the following via the online form:

- Yours and your host's details, including bios/CV's
- Residency title, proposed dates and proposal description
- How each partner expects to benefit from the residency
- Descriptions of the artist's practice and the host organisation, including relevant experience collaborating across art and science/technology (if any)
- A residency budget (a template can be downloaded [here](#): choose 'file' > 'download'). A sample budget is depicted below
- One document with support material (max. 6 pages, PDF or Word, up to 10 mb) that includes images and other materials that best demonstrates your residency proposal. It could include:
 - up to 5 still images
 - Up to 3 video or audio URL links, up to 3 mins in length (if longer, tell us the most relevant timestamps, i.e. "listen/watch between 00:23 and 03:23)
 - Up to 3 other relevant URL links: please provide specific links (not URLs to a general website).
 - Other materials deemed relevant (e.g. writing examples etc.)
- Up to two letters of support from relevant parties, including the host (optional)
- Letter of support from First Nations people/group if your proposal includes First Nations consultation or knowledge systems
- AI Use Acknowledgement: ANAT recognises that AI tools are increasingly part of creative and administrative practice. If you intend to use AI in preparing any part of this application, please note which tool/s and how they were used. This disclosure is required but non-assessable.

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

ANAT is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia and the South Australian Government through CreateSA.

APPENDIX - SAMPLE BUDGET

APPLICATION BUDGET :: ANAT SYNAPSE 2027

INCOME	
<i>Cash:</i>	
Total of Synapse Residency grant	\$ 23,345
<i>In-kind:</i>	
HOST ORGANISATION	
- Venue resources	\$ 2,300
- Staff resources	\$ 25,000
- Public liability insurance (if able to incl. in organisation policy)	\$ 350
ARTIST:	
- Artist's equipment (e.g., computing, camera, video)	\$ 5,000
- Other: residency materials, etc	\$ 200
- Public liability insurance (if host not able to incl. in their policy)	\$ 0
ANAT:	
- Staff resources	\$ 30,000
- Blog set-up & maintenance	\$ 500
- Marketing, publicity and social media	\$ 5,000
Total In-kind:	\$ 68,350
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 91,695

EXPENDITURE	
<i>Cash</i>	
ARTIST:	
- Artist fees (paid in monthly installments)	\$ 18,706
- Superannuation (12% of artist fee)	\$ 2,245
- Project materials, travel costs etc ^ (list details):	\$ 1,394
Project materials	\$ 1,000
Travel expenses to host organisation	
Total Cash (Synapse residency grant total)	\$ 23,345
<i>In-kind</i>	
Total In-kind:	\$ 68,350
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 91,695

^ Up to \$3,500. Amounts above this can be listed in the artist's in-kind contributions. ANAT is unable to contribute toward costs associated with travel & other expenses outside Australia.