

Hiroshima Animation Season 2026

Application Guidelines for Hiroshima Artist-in-Residence

1 Outline

(1) Purpose

As a part of the academy program of Hiroshima Animation Season 2026, the main event of the Media Arts Division of the 3rd Hiroshima Festival, the Hiroshima Artist-in-Residence (hereinafter "H-AIR") is a residency program for people involved in the field of animation. The purpose of the H-AIR is to enrich the art and cultural environment in Hiroshima as well as to help build the careers of selected animation professionals (hereinafter "Invitees") by inviting them to Hiroshima City to engage in production and other activities.

(2) Outline of the project

A. Overview

H-AIR invitees will be engaged in the following activities.

(a) Production of their project

Production of new projects related to animation

(b) Cultural exchange activities with local residents

Interaction with residents of Hiroshima City and its surrounding area, especially in the areas where they will be staying, as well as with people involved in the arts and culture.

B. Period of stay

From June 8 (Monday) to August 26 (Wednesday), 2026 [80 days].

Within the first week or so after arrival, the invitees will participate in a guided tour of Hiroshima. After that, they will focus exclusively on the creative activities they applied for in advance.

The period is subject to change due to social and environmental conditions.

C. The invitees' duties

(a) Production and completion of concrete deliverables (such as scripts, storyboards, test animation, and parts of production, etc.) for the new project applied for at the time of application

(b) Writing regular reports on your stay in English or Japanese (about one report per month)

(c) Cooperating with the Hiroshima Festival (in particular, the Hiroshima Animation Season 2026)

a. Participation in programs of Hiroshima Animation Season 2026

b. Participation in the introduction programs for Hiroshima Citizens: Screening, Lecture, and Workshops, etc.

(d) Writing a final report within one month after the completion of H-AIR.

(3) Organizers and management

H-AIR is organized by the Hiroshima Festival Organizing Committee (hereinafter "the Organizing Committee") and managed by the Festival Office.

2 How to Apply

(1) Requirements

a. The applicant must be working on a new, unreleased animation project. Applicants can choose from the following two options, both of which involve presentation during the Hiroshima Animation Season 2026.

1. The applicant's new animation project (short or feature length)

2. A short film (approximately 30 seconds) based on a stay in Hiroshima.

b. Any age, gender, nationality, or background is acceptable, but the applicant must be able to communicate conversationally in either English or Japanese, as necessary for daily life.

c. Applicants must be able to manage all aspects of their project production and daily life on their own.

(2) Available Invitee Positions

3

(3) How to apply

To apply, the applicants need to fill out the online application form on the official website of Hiroshima Animation Season and include your proposal document for your new project. Any style of proposal document is acceptable, but please be sure to include the following information.

Proposal document contents:

a. Project overview

b-1. Reason why participation in H-AIR is necessary for this project (in the case of working on your own new project)

b-2. Why is a visit and stay in Hiroshima necessary for your career? (in the case of working on a short film based on a stay in Hiroshima)

d. A summary of how the applicant satisfies the "3. Selection (2) Selection criteria," written in the Application Guideline.

Your proposal should be no more than 10 pages long in PDF format, and it should be written in English or Japanese.

(4) Application period

From 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025 to 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, January 31, 2026

3 Selection

(1) Selection and notification

a. Based on the submitted documents and information, the selection committee consisting of the producers and artistic director of the Hiroshima Animation Season will conduct the preliminary selection.

b. The final selection (scheduled for mid-February 2026) will be conducted as an online interview with the participation of those who pass the preliminary selection. Applicants will be notified of the results within one week of the final selection. After the applicant agrees to the conditions, they will be officially invited.

- c. In principle, after the applicant officially agrees to be invited, they will be expected to fulfill all the requirements of the program.

(2) Selection criteria

The following criteria will be taken into consideration in the selection process.

- a. How the applicant's project will be of help to Hiroshima. (Please note that it is not mandatory to work on a project about Hiroshima.)
- b. How motivated the applicant is to become an active part of the local community and spend time with local residents as well as other people and organizations related to the art and culture in the area.
- c. How willing the applicant is to interact and mentor young artists and students in Hiroshima.
- d. How the applicant's participation in H-AIR would benefit their creative career in the future.

4 Support

H-AIR is able to support the invitee in the following ways:

(1) Transportation expenses

Round-trip transportation expenses from the applicant's city of residence to Hiroshima City (provided as tickets or a standard amount calculated by the Festival Office).

(2) Accommodation

The Festival Office will arrange the accommodation for the residency period (e.g., a Hiroshima City apartment, equipped with essential furniture and internet access)

(3) Daily allowance

2,000 yen per day will be provided.

(4) Production space

The invitee may use a studio space (shared with students) in Hijiyama Junior College, but this may change depending on the situation.

(5) Other

The invitee will get free passes to the competition programs and events related to the Hiroshima Animation Season 2026.

5 Other

(1) Precautions for the stay

- a. The applicants can submit a project with two or more people involved. However, even in this case, the organizer will only provide support for one person per project. The same applies if you wish to be accompanied by a partner.

- b. From the viewpoint of preventing the spread of COVID-19 infection, there may be restrictions and compliance requirements when entering and leaving Japan. In such cases, the invitees should follow the rules of Japan and Hiroshima City.
- c. The invitees should devote themselves to the project in Hiroshima City. Therefore, if they plan to go out of Hiroshima City for travel or other reasons during the period, they will need to apply in advance.

(2) Rights associated with the project

The organizer will not claim any rights to the projects prepared during the residency. However, it is necessary to include the credit/logo of Hiroshima Festival and Hiroshima Animation Season once the project has been completed and published.

(3) Insurance and indemnity

The invitees are responsible for purchasing their own health insurance and personal liability insurance to cover illness, injury, and damage to property during their stay.

(4) Please be aware of the following:

- a. No questions or objections will be accepted regarding the selection or the reasons for selection.
- b. Matters not specified in this guideline will be decided by the organizer.
- c. All dates and times in this guideline shall be Japan Standard Time (**JST**).
- d. By submitting a project through the online application form, applicants are deemed to have accepted these guidelines. Applicants are requested to read these guidelines carefully before applying.

(5) Contact information

Hiroshima Animation Season Festival Office
(Hiroshima Festival Organizing Committee)
Address: 4-17 Kako-machi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City, Japan
Email: info@animation.hiroshimafest.org
Website: <https://animation.hiroshimafest.org/>