

HIAP - HELSINKI INTERNATIONAL ARTIST PROGRAMME RESIDENCY

1. ATELIER APARTMENT – ACCOMMODATION

The atelier apartment is an approximately 80 metre-squared furnished space divided into a working space downstairs, with high ceilings and large windows facing north-east, and a separate, loft-style living space upstairs with private bathroom, kitchenette and a balcony facing south-west.

A laundry room is available for the use of the guests and is accessible 24 hours.



Amenities

Provided

- Kitchen utensils (basic dishes and cooking utensils, including coffee maker, stove, oven, kettle and toaster)
- Bed linen, two sets of sheets and towels/person

Internet

The atelier apartment has a wireless internet connection.

Families and guests

Family members and guests are welcome in all HIAP's locations. The size of the atelier apartment can accommodate a family of two adults with up to two small children. The set up of the apartment cannot accommodate artists living together outside of a family situation. Please note that pets are not allowed in the rooms. You are welcome to have overnight visitors in your studio. For security reasons (in case of fire and other emergencies), please inform the HIAP team about all overnight visitors in your room and all times when you will be absent from the room for periods longer than one night. For additional bedding please contact the HIAP team.

Sauna

HIAP has two one-hour slots reserved every week for all HIAP residents in two different Sauna Buildings in Suomenlinna. There are slots for women and men only, and a mixed slot. Tips about sauna dress code: naked, but no one forces you if you feel wearing towel is more comfortable. There are also several public saunas in the city, for example Kulttuurisauna ('Cultural Sauna') is highly recommended: <http://kulttuurisauna.fi> and you can find a selection of other saunas in the city here: <https://www.myhelsinki.fi/see-and-do/activities/the-best-public-saunas-in-helsinki>

Accessibility

It is possible to access the ground floor of the HIAP atelier apartments, office, Gallery Augusta & Project Space by wheelchair but HIAP recommend wheelchair users be accompanied by a person assisting because the entrance doors are not step-free.

The living area of the two-storey atelier apartments is accessible only via staircase (approx. 19 steps) and is not accessible by wheelchair. The toilets are not spacious enough to meet accessibility standards. Despite this, HIAP are happy to help you plan your residency. Please contact HIAP to discuss your access needs and receive additional information.

A map indicating more accessible routes on the Suomenlinna island can be found [here](#). Please note that no signposts designate the accessible route in the terrain.

Find more information about accessibility on Suomenlinna [here](#). If you prefer to follow a more accessible route towards the HIAP atelier apartments upon your arrival, please let HIAP know.

Maintenance and cleaning

Please contact the HIAP team if any items are broken, need replacing, or for any other issues related to the condition of the atelier apartment. The atelier apartment is cleaned by HIAP before your arrival and upon your departure. Between the HIAP cleaning days, please keep the atelier apartment clean and tidy yourself. Cleaning tools such as a mop and a vacuum cleaner can be found in the laundry room. Please return after use.

Example images of an atelier apartment



2. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HIAP

In addition to artists' atelier apartments, the HIAP complex houses four apartments for international and local curators, writers, and researchers, mainly from the visual arts, but also from other disciplines. Every year up to 40 artists and arts professionals residing in Finland and abroad are offered a working period at HIAP.

The HIAP team help the residents with their research as well as practical everyday matters. Residents have access to facilities and equipment and the option to take part in the HIAP Open Studios event. This normally takes place towards the end of each residency season and is an opportunity to present work-in-progress to arts professionals and the general public.

3. LOCAL AREA

General information

Suomenlinna Island is a UNESCO world heritage location, with unique natural marine surroundings, military history, and contemporary culture. The island is a 15 minute ferry ride from Helsinki city centre, and ferries operate daily from early morning until 2 am.

There is a grocery store and several restaurants and cafes in Suomenlinna. However, only some of the cafes and restaurants operate throughout the year.

Residents are advised to pack good walking shoes for Suomenlinna due to the cobblestoned paths.

The Suomenlinna district is made up of eight islands, which are home to 900 permanent residents, and the area has become one of Helsinki's most popular tourist destinations, given its picturesque scenery, historic fortresses, museums and cultural programs.

The history of Suomenlinna dates back to 1748, when the construction works for the military fortress began under the Swedish commander Augustin Ehrensvärd. Dramatic

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periods in Suomenlinna's history include the Finnish War of 1808-9, when Finland was brought under Russian rule (having previously been ruled by Sweden), the Crimean war of 1855, when the French/English navy bombarded the island causing heavy casualties, and the Finnish Civil War of 1918, which led to tens of thousands of prisoners of war being held on the island.

Suomenlinna's website: <https://www.suomenlinna.fi/en/>

Helsinki, being the capital of Finland, is a culturally active city with a lively music and theatre scene and several cafés and bars. There are many and varied cultural festivals and events in the city throughout the year in addition to the galleries, museums and other art organisations that offer cultural activities on a more permanent basis. Helsinki and its surrounding cities feature some interesting architectural gems, including modernist buildings by Alvar Aalto and the original Finnish branch of Art Nouveau/Jugend-style.

Public transport

The public and regional transportation in Helsinki city runs under the logo HSL (www.hsl.fi) and includes buses, trams, local trains, metro and the Suomenlinna ferry. There are lots of different ticket options available, starting from single tickets to a yearly ticket that is valid for all forms of transportation.

For Public Transportation you can borrow an Electronic Multi-user Travel Card from HIAP. You can buy credit for the Travel Card from any R-KIOSKI (kiosk), a self-service ticket machine located in metro stations and tram stops as well as at the Suomenlinna Ferry terminal.

Ask for instructions from the HIAP team for how to use the card or download the HSL app through which you can also purchase tickets. [Via the HSL app you can buy single, day or season tickets wherever and whenever you want and conveniently pay with your debit/credit card.](#) The HSL app is available on the app store for free. Download from AppStore, GooglePlay or AppGallery.

See explanation of the ticket system online at: hsl.fi/en/tickets-and-fares

Local customs

Easter, Christmas and New Year's Eve are major events in Finland, as in Australia. Some additional events/holidays are Labor Day (1 May) and Midsummer (23 June), when Finnish people get out in the streets and parks to celebrate publicly. Labor Day celebrations can get a little wild in parts of the city. Midsummer is often very quiet in the city, as Finns like to celebrate it in the countryside in their summer houses. Another special event in Helsinki is Night of the Arts (end of August) when there are celebrations throughout the city and hundreds of different kinds of cultural events take place.

Weather

In winter (December-February) temperatures are usually from 0 to -20 degrees Celsius, however the most extreme temperatures are rare in these times of climate change. In January and February, the days are short and it generally snows – sunglasses are needed during the daytime when the sky is clear. The sea freezes in January/February and Sunday walks on the ice in front of Kaivopuisto Park are popular with Helsinki locals.

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Warm clothing is a necessity, but it is good to have lighter options for the warmer days. It is never really cold or damp indoors in Finland, as all buildings feature central heating and double or triple glazing. Anyone used to the indoor temperatures of a typical house in London, for example, will find Helsinki buildings a pleasant surprise.

Spring starts from March/April and lasts until the beginning of June. In Helsinki the temperatures can be slightly deceitful in the spring: the sun might shine brightly, but the sea keeps the air slightly colder than it is inland. It is good to have a range of clothing at hand; warm clothing for the colder days, and t-shirts for the warmer weather. After Spring Equinox (late March) the days start to be longer than the nights.

Summer is extremely light and the nights are short. Around midsummer the night is so short that it never really gets dark at all. Temperatures can vary from warm to hot and occasionally slightly chilly. Late summer might bring showers as well.

Autumn is very colourful, when the leaves turn yellow, then red, before falling to the ground for the winter. Bright autumn days are wonderful, when the air is crisp and the sky is clear, and the ground is coloured by leaves. Late autumn brings rain (similar to London weather) and also darkness, especially by November, when the days get shorter before the snow arrives.

For more information about Finnish weather go to: <http://www.fmi.fi/en/>

4. PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

2025

1 January	Wednesday	New Year's Day
6 January	Monday	Epiphany
18 April	Friday	Good Friday
21 April	Monday	Easter Monday
1 May	Thursday	May Day
29 May	Thursday	Ascension Day
21 June	Saturday	Midsummer
1 November	Saturday	All Saints' Day
6 December	Saturday	Independence Day
25 December	Thursday	Christmas Day
26 December	Friday	Boxing Day

5. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Creative Australia leases the work/live atelier apartment and covers the costs of rent and outgoings, such as heating and electricity. HIAP manages and administers the atelier apartment, which includes purchasing necessary items, organising repairs and arranging for bills, such as electricity and municipal council tax to be paid.

Artists are responsible for supplying their own food and personal requirements during the period of the residency, as well as any costs associated with the production of artwork.

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6. INSURANCE

Artists are responsible for organising and paying for their own travel insurance for their residency, including health insurance that is required by their country of residence. Proof of cover should be provided to Creative Australia prior to commencing the residency.

Please note that neither Creative Australia nor HIAP will be held responsible for loss, damage or accidents occurring within or relative to the residential atelier apartment. Artists are responsible for any damage caused to the building or inventory (beyond normal wear and tear) and must report this to HIAP immediately.

7. OVERSEAS TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

You make your own travel arrangements, at your own expense, after notification of your successful application and payment of your grant.

The residency can only occur within the time period nominated by Creative Australia in your agreement.

8. VISA REQUIREMENTS

Creative Australia does not advise or provide information on visas. For up-to-date entry visa requirements, you must check with the appropriate embassy or consulate and arrange your visa requirements well in advance of your departure date.

All Australian travellers are strongly encouraged to check the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs website www.smartraveller.gov.au prior to travel.

9. GENERAL INFORMATION

Please see City of Helsinki's website Visit Helsinki for tips and more information about what to see in Helsinki: <https://www.myhelsinki.fi/en>

10. ARTS INFORMATION

Please note that HIAP will provide you with a more extensive list of art spaces on arrival and residents can also check the HIAP Calendar for upcoming events.

Museums:

Amos Rex: <https://amosrex.fi/en/>

Ateneum: <https://ateneum.fi/?lang=en>

EMMA - Espoo Museum of Modern Art: <http://emmamuseum.fi/en>

Helsinki Art Museum: <https://www.hamhelsinki.fi/en/>

Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma: <https://kiasma.fi/en/>

The Design Museum: <http://www.designmuseum.fi/en/>

The National Museum of Finland: <https://www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/>

Galleries and exhibition spaces:

Forum Box: <https://forumbox.fi/en/>

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Galerie Anhava: <http://www.anhava.com/>
Helsinki Contemporary: <https://helsinkicontemporary.com/>
Hippolyte: <http://hippolyte.fi/en/>
Kohta: <http://www.kohta.fi/>
Kunsthalle Helsinki: <http://taidehalli.fi/en/>
Kuva/Tila: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/locations/kuva-tila/>
Pro Artibus Foundation (Sinne exhibition space): <https://proartibus.fi/en/>

Other venues and events:

Frame Contemporary Art Finland: <https://frame-finland.fi/en/>
Helsinki Design Week: <http://www.helsinki.designweek.com/>
Helsinki Festival: <http://www.helsinginjuhlat.fi/en/>
Helsinki Lit: <https://helsinki-lit.fi/en/>
IHME: <https://ihmehelsinki.fi/en/>
Mad House Helsinki: <http://madhousehelsinki.fi/>
PUBLICS: <http://publics.fi/>
The Aalto House: <https://www.alvaraalto.fi/en/location/the-aalto-house/>
Oodi Helsinki Central Library: <https://oodihelsinki.fi/en/>
Zodiak - Center for New Dance: <http://www.zodiak.fi/en>

11. PARTICIPATION

Creative Australia works in partnership with residency providers to ensure that residents maximise their residency experience by engaging with the international arts community.

We encourage residents to maintain contact with their hosts throughout their residency and to participate in the social and networking activities offered as part of the residency program.

While you may conduct short trips away from the residency, it is expected that you are not absent for an extended period of time (exceeding two weeks at a time).

12. CONSIDERATION

While you are on your residency, you'll be sharing facilities with a diversity of artists from around the world. We expect that you approach your fellow residents with respect, tolerance and consideration of their different backgrounds, cultures and orientations.

Please keep in mind that your atelier apartment will be passed on to another of your peers. Your consideration in leaving the space reasonably clean and tidy is appreciated. Please report any missing or damaged facilities to the residency provider and/or Creative Australia contact.