

ARCUS Project IBARAKI 2026

ARCUS Research Summer

Short-term artist-in-residency program in summer 2026

ARCUS Research is a short-term and self-funded program that offers an uninterrupted time and contemplative environment for creative experimentation, in-depth fieldwork, and research for practitioners and professionals in art and other cultural fields, including artists, curators, researchers, university educators, or writers.

Located around an hour from Tokyo and a half hour from Tsukuba City, known for hosting one of the largest accumulations of science and technology institutes in the world, ARCUS Research allows participants to come into contact with the contemporary art scene and leading research institutions, as well as devote themselves to their creative endeavors in a calm environment. The program provides participants from around the world with valuable time and space to reflect, unwind, and nurture the creative process.

Since 1994, ARCUS Project has supported promising artists who engage in creative activities across the world, offering time, space, and a vibrant community to promote exchange through residencies and public programs. Located in a former public school in Moriya City, Ibaraki, ARCUS Project is the most comprehensive and the oldest international contemporary artist-in-residence program in Japan. By utilizing our extensive experiences and resources, ARCUS Project provides an unparalleled environment for supporting artistic experimentations and research for participants at all stages in their careers.

Duration

One-month residency: 1 or 2 participants on each duration

- May 28 – June 26, 2026
- July 2 – July 31, 2026

Two-month residency: 1 or 2 participants

- May 28 – July 31, 2026

Program Fee

One-month residency: JPY270,000 (paid by participants)

Two-month residency: JPY520,000 (paid by participants)

PROGRAM FEE [Paid by participants]

The fee includes studio space, accommodation, and basic consultation and orientation at the beginning of the residency program. As an option activity, participants are invited to the “Show

& Tell” salon to present their work and share projects with the local community at the end of the residency.

Additional support such as interpretation, translation, and coordination for research or a project is available for a fee. Please refer to the price list.

https://www.arcus-project.com/assets/dl/en/ARCUSResearch_option.pdf

The participants are required to cover transportation, meals, insurance (accident, health, liability, etc.), work expenses, and other living expenses during their stay.

FUNDING

This is a self-funded residency program. If participants apply for grants from institutions, government agencies, universities in their country/province of origin, ARCUS Project will provide the acceptance letter for grant application once you are selected for the program.

STUDIO INFORMATION

Studio size: 67.5 m² (9 m [W] × 7.5 m [D] × 3.3 m [H])

A spacious and light-filled space facing southwest, the studio was formerly a classroom of a public school (Oisawa Elementary School, 1890–1994). The studio has an internet connection and basic studio furniture, such as a desk and chairs. The participant is required to bring/prepare the specific tools, equipment, computer, and software necessary for their artistic activities. Although minimum tools (e.g., drill, screwdriver, hammer, saw, etc.) are available, studios are not equipped with professional facilities such as a workshop, studio for shooting, or editing room. Please note that ARCUS Studio also cannot provide SLR cameras, video cameras, tripods, or monitors/projectors. The studio is located on the second floor of the building and is not equipped with an elevator or ramp.

ACCOMODATIOIN INFORMATION

Apartment size: 23.7 m²

Each participant is provided with a furnished studio-style apartment equipped with basic electric appliances. One partner or family member may accompany the participant; however, the accommodation is designated for single occupancy, and no more than two adults can be housed. An additional fee of 1,500 JPY per night will be charged for the accompanying guest, along with a futon rental fee based on the length of stay.

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must:

- be a practitioner or other professional in a cultural and art-related field, including an artist, curator, researcher, or writer.
- not be enrolled at an educational institution during the program period unless a PhD program.
- have English-language ability proficient enough to communicate with staff members.

APPLICATION

The following materials should be compiled in one PDF (A4 size) in a folder named “Last name_First name” (e.g., Smith_David) and compressed into a Zip file. The PDF file must not

exceed 6 MB. Email the file to arcus@arcus-project.com with “2026 ARCUS Research Application” in the subject line.

- Application form: Please download from the link and complete.
https://www.arcus-project.com/assets/dl/en/2026_ARCUS_Research_EntryForm_EN.docx
Two references (optional): please include their name, title, institution, and email.
Short-listed candidates may be asked to provide letters from their references.
- Curriculum vitae: max. 3 pages.
- A project proposal (maximum 700 words) that describes the intended focus of your residency. Proposals may include specific projects to develop or complete (e.g., a publication, book, artwork, etc.) or to research a particular topic, in advance of writing or creating a work of art. If you exceed the 700-word limit, it will not be considered for review.
- Work samples: These should include 5 works with a caption (title, date, medium, and dimensions/duration for each work) and 100 words brief description of each work. If you wish to include video works with your application, please upload the files to a video hosting website such as YouTube and Vimeo, and then include the link(s) in your application. Applicants applying as writers who do not have visual samples may instead submit 2–3 writing samples (maximum 700 words each).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

- The screening process will be conducted by the ARCUS Project Selection Committee.
- Applicants may be required to provide additional application materials and a video interview.
- Unless otherwise noted, applicants will be notified via email of the result of their application by end of January 2026.
- Please be aware that we cannot respond to individual inquiries concerning the selection process.

DEADLINE

Monday, December 8, 2025, by 23:59:59 (JST).

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. We cannot accept applications via fax or postal mail.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND CANCELLATION POLICY

The program fee is paid in two installments via bank transfer or online transfer. Any bank's remittance charge and foreign exchange lift charge should be covered by the participants.

[1st payment]

50% of the full program fee must be paid by 60 days prior to the first day of your residency period.

[2nd payment]

The remaining 50% of the program fee must be paid by 14 days prior to the first day of your residency period.

[Cancellation Policy]

If a participant decides to cancel their participation in the program, for any reason, between the time of signing the agreement and the due date of the first payment, they will be charged a cancellation fee equivalent to 10% of the full program fee. (The agreement is signed approximately five months before the start of the program.)

[Refund Policy]

Cancellation by the participants for any reason will not be subject to refund. However, if the program is cancelled due to travel restrictions such as outbreak of a contagious disease, natural disasters, or war, a refund will be made for the amount already paid, excluding half of the cancellation fee for the accommodation and transaction fee.

VISA

The participant is responsible for obtaining visa from the Embassy of Japan or Consulate-General of Japan if the visa is required for entering Japan. The Administration Committee does not have responsibility for supporting visa but will provide an invitation letter if needed for visa application.

CONTACT

For inquiries, please use the contact form on the ARCUS Project website:

<http://www.arcus-project.com/en/contact/>

Please be aware that we cannot respond to inquiries received after the application period has finished.

ARCUS Studio

Open: Tuesday–Saturday | Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and national holidays. Closed on Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday. Any inquiries sent when ARCUS Studio is closed will be answered the next working day.

***Please note that this call is subject to change.**

Organized by:

ARCUS Project Administration Committee

(Ibaraki Prefectural Government, Moriya City, Ibaraki International Association)