Technical Development Research Residency (TDR) 2027, Application Guidelines

Technical Development Research Residencies are awarded each year to four artists based in Ireland wishing to explore new directions in their practice through experimental engagement with different materials, processes, and ideas using the technical facilities of the Centre.

The award is offered for practical research without the pressure of having to produce an exhibition, or specific project outcome during or at the end of the research period, although artists are requested to provide a short report of work developed during this formative stage.

Having said this, those artists who complete a TDR are invited back the following year for a group exhibition of work that has emerged out of the initial research stage. Artists are not obliged to participate in the group show however and may still conduct a TDR research residency without doing an exhibition the following year. The aim of the TDR research residency and exhibition

- Enhance and advance the artist's practice through experimental engagement with a range of materials, techniques, and processes chosen by the applicant (mandatory)

- Test new work and ideas, which emerge from this engagement, within a group exhibition held the following year, (discretionary and to be decided only after a TDR research residency is completed)

Residency Supports

The initial residency research period is for 4 weeks and includes an artist's fee of €2,000 and comes with residential accommodation including a private and heated studio, broadband internet; general energy use and the use of all technical facilities specified by the applicant. Energy for the kilns, foundry, forge or intensive energy use is metered and charged additionally.

Those who decide to go on for the group exhibition in the summer of 2028 will receive an additional fee of 1500, free accommodation and access to facilities and technical support. This part of the project during 2027 will consist of two separate stages

- a fabrication stage in the technical areas developing new work for exhibition and for a max period of two weeks.
- an exhibition installation phase where artists will be primarily based in the gallery but still have access to the technical areas, also for max period of two weeks.

Technical Support

Artists awarded an LSC Residency, either (ER, TDR, LEER, or CE) are provided with free general or Specialist Technical Support from staff for up to 20 hours per month, involving:

- training, advice and H&S support in the use of space, tools and equipment.
- support to explore a material processes or assistance to the artist in developing new artwork. Please note that during TDR research our main emphasis is on the exploration and development of material processes and not necessarily the finished piece.

Specialist Technical Support may also be accessed through our list of freelance Technical Support providers. Residency artists using freelance technicians will pay 20 per hour up to 4 hours and 50 per hour after this. See Technical Support Framework https://www.leitrimsculpturecentre.ie/facilities/technical-support

Residency Proposals

There is no application form and submissions are in the form of a Residency Project Proposal that should outline the areas of technical or material involvement and describe the creative approach, methodology or process/es to be explored.

Residency Proposals should include the following:

- A Project Proposal (Max 500 words).
- Up to 6 images jpegs of previous work with captions explaining material, size, date etc.
- An Artists Statement and Bio no more than ½ page each
- A full CV

- A suggested timeline for the project.

Selection Criteria

- Quality of previous work 25%
- Relevance of project proposal to this residency scheme 20%
- Innovation within approaches to the materials, ideas and processes. 30%
- The capacity of the proposed project to support the artist develop new work and ideas in the advancement of their practice 25%

The most preferable way to send proposals is by email as one pdf document no larger than 20MB.

Send to:

apply@leitrimsculpturecentre.ie

Please put in the subject line of the e.mail – 'TDR Residency and Your Name'

- Application Deadline — Midnight Sunday 15 November 2026
- Notification by — Tuesday 08 December 2026
- Residencies will take place from — March – November during 2027

LSC acknowledge the financial support of the Arts Council in making these residencies possible. All residencies are subject to agreed and continuing levels of funding to be confirmed in early 2027.