

ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS Scholarships for Performing Arts

The times we live in are marked by uncertainty. Political instability, economic challenges, and the rapidly developing digital world make the familiar appear fragile and enhance the feeling that we live in a time of change and face an unpredictable future. All of this makes the ability to cope with uncertainty an essential creative resource. In this sense, the independent performing arts stand out for their willingness to experiment, to embrace diverse perspectives, and to explore complex social topics. The performing arts bring people together and present reality as fluid and subject to our design. The ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS thus finds it appropriate to continue its scholarship program for the performing arts in 2025 and to encourage and foster projects, conceptual work, artistic research, and investigations which creatively address the topic of 'uncertainty' and which develop new aesthetic forms of expression in a dialogue with the unknown. How can artistic practices not only reflect uncertainties but also open up new perspectives? What narrative styles, stage forms, and experiments result from a confrontation with the uncertain? The scholarship funding aims to stimulate reflection, artistic exploration, and courageous visions of the future.

Target Group

The scholarships are geared toward professional artists – and artist collectives – in all disciplines who live and work in Hamburg or Northern Germany (Bremen, Niedersachsen, Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) and whose resumes evidence high-quality work. Applicants should have completed artistic training and/or have an established history of professional artistic activities in their field. In the case of collectives, the majority of the participating artists must live and work in Hamburg or Northern Germany.

Scholarship Aims

The aim of the funding is to support the personal artistic development of independent professional artists and collectives working in the performing arts. The scholarship program looks to enable in-depth explorations, intensive artistic examinations, transdisciplinary and transcultural exchange, and novel collaborative approaches in specific thematic areas. Exclusively film or dance projects are not eligible for consideration; however, interdisciplinary projects having film or dance components will be considered. In the field of performing arts, especially in the world of self-employed artists, artistic research, in-depth investigations, and conceptual projects are usually relegated to work phases falling between two project grants. With the Scholarships for performing arts, the ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS aims to fill this structural gap and enable sound artistic examination of complex topics.

Scholarship Purposes

The ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS Scholarships for performing arts give artists the opportunity to undertake concentrated work over a longer period of time in order to pursue new ideas and approaches (investigation, research, conceptual work) or artistic projects in the areas of production, presentation and education. The scholarships can be used for

preparatory and investigatory efforts as well for the continuation or finalization of an existing project. Additional funding for the realization of a project can be sought by means of a general grant application with the ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS.

Application

Scholarship applications can be submitted in German or English. Applicants should submit a detailed description of the project (including a timetable if applicable) as well as artist biographies for all project participants. Please submit all required documents exclusively via our online application portal by **April 20, 2025**. Incomplete applications or applications that reach us by other means cannot be considered. You can access the portal [here](#).

Selection Process

The scholarships will be awarded by a jury of experts. The jury consists of five members and includes artists working in the independent performing arts, directors/choreographers, dramaturgs/curators, critics, and educators. The ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS is also represented on the jury with one vote. Results will be announced no later than September 1, 2025.

Scope of Scholarship Funding

In 2025, seven scholarships of € 10,000 will be awarded. As desired by the recipient, the scholarships can be paid out in installments or as a lump sum. In addition, several networking meetings will take place, including an exchange of ideas with fellows of the ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS' related Ph.d. program on '[Uncertainty](#)'.

Verification

A report documenting the artistic work and activities undertaken during the scholarship period must be submitted by October 1, 2026. An accounting of the use of the scholarship funds is not required. Recipients are requested to make reference to the ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS Scholarships for performing arts in their publicity efforts.