

ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS Scholarships for Performing Arts

FUTURE: Performing Futures in Uncertain Times

In the present world, our outlook for the future often reflects uncertainty, pessimism, and resignation. This is unsurprising given that we live in a time of polycrisis: from wars and refugee migrations to climate change, economic challenges, and a growing loss of trust in democratic systems. In such an era, particularly the performing arts create opportunities to imagine new visions of the future. They broaden our horizons, open up new avenues for thought and action, and create space for designs, experiments, and alternative ideas about what is to come. In this way, the future can be understood as something that can be shaped. Against this background, the ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS is continuing its **Scholarships for the Performing Arts** in 2026 and is providing support to projects, conceptions, artistic inquiry, and research that creatively address the theme of “Future: Performing Futures in Uncertain Times” and that thereby develop new aesthetic forms of expression in dialogue with the unknown.

Target Group

The scholarships are geared toward professional artists and artist collectives of 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 is intended to promote artistic research as well as education and training and is meant 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 as 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. All required documents should be submitted exclusively via our online application portal by April 26, 2026. 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, 2026.

Scope of Scholarship Funding

In 2026, 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 from the ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS' related Ph.D. scholarship program '[Uncertainty](#)'.

Verification

A report documenting the artistic work and activities undertaken during the scholarship period must be submitted by October 1, 2027. An accounting of the use of the scholarship funds is not required. Recipients are requested to make reference to the ZEIT STIFTUNG BUCERIUS Scholarship for Performing Arts in their publicity efforts.