



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2025

RESIDENCY FOR SOUND ARTISTS AT EXPERIMENTAL SOUND STUDIO IN CHICAGO

The Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain in Washington, D.C. (the Office), with the support and participation of the Experimental Sound Studio in Chicago (ESS Chicago), has reached an agreement aimed at promoting the internationalization of Spanish culture, its creators, and its industries.

In 2025, this agreement includes an open call for sound artists residing and working in Spain, who may apply for an in-person residency lasting between 10 and 12 days in October 2025 (preceded by teleworking sessions in September, to be agreed upon with the host institution) at the Experimental Sound Studio in Chicago.

1. Purpose of the Agreement

This agreement aims to facilitate the creation of collaborative networks, promote the mobility of national creators abroad, encourage creative production through artist and cultural professional residencies in all fields, and strengthen ties between cultural institutions in the United States and Spain.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants must be natural persons with legal capacity who reside or primarily operate and create in Spain, with a proven professional career as musicians.

- The call is open to sound artists who:
- Have a collaborative spirit and work in sound art.
- Are over 18 years old.
- Hold a Spanish passport.
- Have English proficiency at a minimum B2.3 level.

3. Residency Objectives

The program, in collaboration with Experimental Sound Studio in Chicago, seeks to promote the work of Spanish sound artists in the United States, with the potential opportunity to connect and collaborate with U.S. professionals and foster the exchange of practices and experiences in the field of sound art between both countries.

To achieve this, the selected sound artist will have several preliminary sessions to collaborate virtually with a potential U.S. sound artist, as well as a 10- to 12-day period for in-person work at Experimental Sound Studio in Chicago. ESS offers a professional recording facility equipped



with a wide range of acoustic and electronic instruments, along with multichannel production capabilities, providing the artist with an ideal environment to explore, experiment, and develop new work. Priority will be given to artists with a specific vision for how they might utilize their time in the recording studio to advance their creative practice.

This residency aims to provide the resident with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the national and local sound art scene through direct contact with creators and professionals in the sector, with the goal of generating new sound materials and promoting Spanish artistic creation in the U.S. Experimental Sound Studio (ess.org) has previously collaborated on projects with the Cultural Office and has experience working with Spanish composers and musicians in the development of their projects.

4. Financial Help

The call provides a travel fund covering the following expenses for the selected artist:

- A stipend for round-trip airfare from their city of residence in Spain to Chicago.
- A fee/honorarium of \$2,000.
- Accommodation in a single room at facilities affiliated with Experimental Sound Studio (arranged by ESS Chicago).
- A stipend (amount to be determined based on duration) for the stay in Chicago.
- \$150 for medical insurance during the residency.
- Any other expenses not specified above must be covered and managed by the selected resident.

These expenses will be reimbursed upon the artist's arrival in the United States upon presentation of receipts. This requires an advance payment by the artist for flights and per diem expenses for the first days, which will be reimbursed upon submission of the mentioned invoice. The travel funds will be calculated based on the final dates agreed upon between both institutions and the artist. It will be a fixed amount, meaning any additional or exceeding costs must be covered by the selected artist.

The selected artist must adhere to the internal rules for using Experimental Sound Studio's facilities, including schedules, safety protocols, material usage, available spaces, etc.

5. Required Documentation and Application Deadline

To be considered, applicants must submit the following documents in English only:

- A motivation letter, considering that this is a collaborative project with another sound artist and ESS.



- A résumé, including biographical details, education, experience as a sound artist (with links to relevant sound pieces or musical projects), awards, recognitions, and previous grants or support received.
- A press dossier (optional).

In addition to the required application materials, selected applicants will be asked to provide:

- A copy of their Spanish passport.
- A declaration confirming they are not subject to any disqualification from contracting as per Article 71 of Spanish Law 9/2017 of November 8, which transposes EU Directives 2014/23/EU into Spanish law.

Proof of medical insurance covering potential contingencies during the residency before starting the program.

Proposals must be submitted in PDF format via email to contact@spainculture.us, with the subject line “Residency ESS Chicago 2025,” accompanied by video files. For files larger than 3MB, applicants should use WeTransfer.com or a similar platform, ensuring that all documents are correctly labeled.

Application deadline: Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 11:59 PM EDT (New York). Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

6. Evaluation of Applications

A Selection Committee, convened by the Office and Experimental Sound Studio, will conduct the final selection. Its decision is final and cannot be appealed.

The Committee reserves the right to declare the call void if it deems that none of the submitted works meet the necessary criteria. The final decision will be communicated through the Cultural Office’s website and directly to the selected artist.

7. Terms and Conditions

7.1. Intellectual Property

Applicants must ensure the originality and authorship of their submitted projects and guarantee that they legitimately hold all intellectual property rights. They shall indemnify the organizers against any claims, damages, or liabilities arising from any infringement of these rights. The selected artist explicitly authorizes the organizers to use their name as deemed appropriate within the scope of this call.

7.2. Image Rights

Applicants acknowledge that they may appear in images (photographs, videos, etc.) taken during the residency for informational or promotional purposes and authorize such use.



7.3. Acceptance of Terms

By submitting an application, applicants accept these terms and conditions.

7.4. Publicity of Work Created During the Residency

The selected artist agrees to acknowledge that part of the development of their project took place during the residency organized by the Cultural Office and ESS Chicago in any subsequent dissemination or publication of the work.

For further details, please contact contact@spainculture.us with the subject line: "Residency ESS Chicago 2025."

Washington, D.C., April 25, 2025