

2024 Critical Path Responsive Residency

Frequently Asked Questions & Selection Criteria

Responsive Residencies are part of Critical Path mission to support research and development opportunities for choreographers to explore new ideas and approaches to dance making.

What are we looking for?

Critical Path Responsive Residencies support practice-based, self-directed, blue-sky research that extends the field of choreography and takes your own practice few steps further. We are looking for research projects that focus on explorations of new ideas without a pre-determined product outcome. We encourage practice-led research which is based on risk-taking and play involved in exploring ideas. Research is a creative journey and a process of discovery where part of the joy is not being sure where or when you will arrive.

Who can apply?

Critical Path Responsive Residencies are open to NSW connected independent choreographers and dance artists across all cultural practices and at any stage of their professional career. Defining choreography is an ongoing task and while some of the most exciting choreographic practice is being undertaken by those with dance training and an experience of the dance sector, it is clear to us that it is not limited to the work of dancers and the dance world. This residency program is therefore open to all those who identify themselves as choreographers no matter their practice. We imagine that the research we support could be that of a visual artist, a filmmaker, a scenographer, a dramaturg, an architect or drawing from a different discipline – anthropology, philosophy, ecology, etc. What is important is that choreography is at the heart of your practice.

What do you mean by NSW connected?

This means you have a permanent address in NSW and work at least three months of each year in NSW. You should have a track record of working in NSW or be able to demonstrate the intention to continue working in NSW in the foreseeable future.

Can we apply as a partnership or collective (rather than an individual)?

Yes, you can apply as a partnership or a collective. However, you cannot apply as an incorporated company, as these residencies are designed to support independent artists. If your research is affiliated with an educational institution, please highlight how it relates to your creative practice outside your academic program.

What is in a winning proposal?

Your proposal should explore ideas and materials that are inspiring you now! So, what's in a proposal?

- To start with, summarise your research question (i.e. what you will be investigating) and explain how your research question connects to your practice to date, and in what way does it take your current practice few steps further. You may also like to consider how this research connects to the wider socio-political concerns – why and to whom it matters.
- Outline what steps you will take in answering/exploring your research question. In other words, what will be your methodology. Describing your methodology should form a large part of your proposal. Some of the questions to answer here could be, but are not limited to: What distinct steps will you take to explore your research question?; Who are your collaborators, what is the role of each, why they are needed for the project and how will their involvement contribute to answering your question?; What will be your timeline?; What other resources will you need?; How will you use your budget?; Etc.
- You may also find it helpful to situate your research within the broader field of choreography through examples of other research or artists' practices (across disciplines) that are relevant to yours, explaining in what ways they are relevant.
- Outline how you wish to document/evaluate your research, and the tools you may need to achieve this. Here, we ask you to consider the trace your research will leave. In other words, this process of documentation is both a form of reflection and of archiving, and it can take a form of photos, videos, essay, poem, etc.

We encourage you to be ambitious! But realistic. Take risks and use this as an opportunity to leave the safe shore of your so-far practice, while also embedding this research into the practice you have an expertise in. Convey the achievability of the creative journey you intend to take.

Do I need to write the proposal in academic language?

Plain English is best! Practice-based research is not the same as academic research. There is no requirement to write in an academic language or to have formal academic qualifications. Critical Path encourages proposals from choreographers who simply have ideas they want to understand better. Your proposal can be written in paragraphs and/or dot points; general advice

is: simplicity and clarity. We encourage you to get someone else read over your proposal before you submit it. This person can give you feedback on whether your idea/s come across with ease, whether any essential information has been left out, etc.

How do I know my proposal is a research project and not creative development?

There is discovery, risk-taking, play, new explorations in both research and creative development. So, what is the difference between the two? It is definitely a grey area, but if you are beginning a specific new work, or you have a presentation date set, or you have a clear picture of the end result and you are just working out how to make it happen, this constitutes creative development rather than research. Critical Path's mandate is to support research, not creative development. This can be characterised by a sense of not knowing where or when you are going to arrive, by being free to stop and reflect on the way, by being open to influences from new knowledge, and by being completely free to change your mind and to disagree with previous assumptions. A research project may result in identifying something that doesn't work; successful research projects can often involve failure.

Will I need to provide Letters of Support?

We don't require Letters of Support. First time applicants are, however, required to list two referees. This requirement is specifically there to allow access to choreographers at early stages of their career. If you are unsure if you have produced work of a standard to call yourself a professional choreographer, please seek advice from a choreographer you believe could speak to your credentials.

Does my research need to happen in Sydney? Do I need to use the Drill Hall? Do you have a partnership in place with regional organisations that could offer in-kind space?

The research doesn't have to happen in Sydney or at the Drill. However, we don't have any regional partnerships locked-in for this program. If successful, we could look into negotiating with a partner you may have identified for your residency, however we can't guarantee this will be achieved. We encourage you to consider this when applying. We also ask you to clearly indicate the reason why you will not be using the Drill Hall.

I and my collaborators are from regional NSW and we would like to come to Sydney and use the Drill Hall. Will you provide additional allowance for our travel and accommodation costs?

Our budget is currently set at \$10,000 AUD per project and we are not able to offer additional allowance. Therefore, we advise you to include any cost involved in your coming to Sydney in your budget.

Can I use less than 3 weeks at the Drill Hall?

Yes, you are welcome to use less than 3 weeks at the Drill Hall if this approach is optimal for your research methodology.

Is there a limit to the number of collaborators per residency?

You are welcome to work with as many collaborators as you wish, or as your project requires. However, be mindful that a large group of collaborators may limit your research time in order to fit within the budget.

Do all my collaborators need to be NSW connected?

You are welcome to work with collaborators from other states; however if you plan to work with them in person be mindful that part of your budget will be spent on travel and accommodation. Consider whether this is the best use of your resources.

What fee structure should I use when forming my budget?

For the fee structure, we encourage you to refer to MEAA: <https://www.meaa.org/resources/#live-performance/92>

Two useful documents are:

- Equity Minimums 2023
- PCA update (summary) June 2023

One of my key collaborators charges GST. Is this something I need to include into my budget or is it added on from Critical Path's funding GST?

You should include the GST in your budget unless you yourself can claim the GST back (meaning, you are also GST registered).

How should I communicate my research?

Sharing is the process of communicating and asking questions, or receiving feedback on your research, and of articulating what you have learned. It is not a performance and it is not an academic paper; there are no rules on what a sharing should be. Past participants have found that sharing is a useful element of their research; they have found it helpful to find ways to let people into their journey and what they have discovered. The act of discussing your journey and discoveries with whomever you choose and showing how your ideas have changed over the time of your research, can create useful stimulation for further ideas as well as enriching the understanding of the dance community.

When is it best to share?

Participants sometimes find that directly at the end of a research period, it is too soon to share. You may prefer to digest and align all the threads you have explored. You may need to watch the hours of video documentation made in the research before formulating any conclusions. You may be excited to find you have really discovered something, and you want the world plus all its producers and presenters to know, now! You define and set the context for your sharing. Discuss your ideas with Critical Path's producer and director, decide who to invite, and when. Alternatively you may prefer to write an article or make a video. Do whatever you think will be the most useful way to invite others into your process and for your research to leave a trace.

Can I apply in any format?

You can apply in the format you find best suited to describe your proposed research project. You can submit the main proposal in written, video, or audio format. Please fill in the contact and demographic info and other relevant fields on the form provided.

What is a good support material?

Good support material is a succinct yet comprehensive overview of who you are as an artist and what you care about. It communicates not only your skill and expertise, but also where your interests lie. This material should be relevant to your proposal – perhaps a documentation of previous work that connects to your research or that can demonstrate your intended approach to your research. Keep in mind that less is more in this case – the panel will read through numerous applications so support material that quickly and effectively conveys who you are and what you can do is the best.

When is the deadline for applications?

Applications close midnight, Monday 16 October 2023.

When will I know if my proposal was successful?

Selected artists will be notified by mid-November 2023, once the selection panel has completed the process.

What will be your selection criteria?

All submissions are assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevance of research to your practice and opportunity to interrogate and take further your choreographic practice
- Clarity and integrity of the research proposal, methodology and tools
- Best use of the resources and ability to deliver
- Relevance of the proposed documentation and evaluation of your proposed research process
- Relevance to Critical Path's vision to prioritise research of this time and contribute to an expanded field of dance and choreography

The selection panel will include artists/practitioners with a diversity of practice.

What are some examples of previous Responsive Residencies?

Ghena Gela: <https://criticalpath.org.au/programs/responsive-residency-11/>

Meryl Tankard: <https://criticalpath.org.au/programs/responsive-residency-12/>

Nick Power: <https://criticalpath.org.au/programs/responsive-residency-13/>

Who can I contact for more questions?

Please send your queries to Ira: producer@criticalpath.org.au