

Turner Fund Performative Arts Internship Grant

Summer 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application Deadline: Thursday, March 19, 2026, 12:00 PM NOON ET

Application opens: Late January

Awards are announced: By early April

Internship to take place: Between June and August 2026

Please make careful note of the deadline date, time, and time zone. In order to be fair to all RISD applicants who submitted on time, we do not accept incomplete or late applications. It is important to not submit applications at the last minute. If you submit early and reach out to us because you have a technical issue, uploaded the wrong document, realized you made a mistake, or get stuck in any way, we can likely help you. We want you to successfully submit! It is good practice to submit 2-3 days before an application deadline. Be sure to not only start the application before the deadline but complete it. If you do not hit the submit button before the deadline time, your application will not go through and will not be accepted.

DESCRIPTION

The Turner Fund awards \$5,000 grants to undergraduate and graduate students who have secured summer internships related to performative arts. These grants support internships that engage performance in its many forms - by the artist or others, live or recorded, spontaneous or scripted, and situated on or off a traditional stage. This can include all aspects of design, production, creative development, theoretical inquiry, research, and the broader social, cultural, or historical impact of performance. Applicants are encouraged to articulate how their internship aligns with a performance-based or performative approach in their proposed work.

Of note:

- **TIME COMMITMENT:** Recipients should expect the Turner Fund Performative Arts Internship Grant to be their key focus during the internship, which must take place during the summer (June-August). This grant requires that recipients devote focused time, energy, and reflection to the experience.
- **ARTWORKS REGISTRATION:** All recipients must register their internship in Artworks by the June internship deadline and submit a final evaluation in Artworks by August. Internships can be taken not for credit but must still be registered in Artworks. Those for credit must be registered in Artworks and receive departmental approval for the credit.
- **HEALTH INSURANCE:** U.S. citizens and international students traveling outside of the U.S. will have health insurance coverage provided by RISD unless the experience is in their home country.
- **FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS:** Following U.S. government regulations, all institutional funding has to be considered in financial aid packages. If you are a recipient of financial aid and not graduating June 2026, this award may impact your financial aid package for 2026-2027. It is important that you meet with RISD Student Financial Services (SFS) to discuss the impact BEFORE you apply. Make an appointment with SFS at <https://sfs.risd.edu/contact>.
- **TAX IMPLICATIONS:** For tax purposes, this award is considered a fellowship, and is considered taxable income by the IRS.

*ALL Students: RISD adheres to the U.S. government tax law for all grants and fellowships offered by RISD.

*International Students: Please note that a portion for your award may be withheld and your award amount may be decreased based on IRS requirements.

- This link provides details from RISD: https://cdn.risd.systems/webhook-uploads/1646941471182_FINAL-Tax-guidance-for-fellowships_220308sbcv4.0---Letterhead.pdf
- This link provides details from the IRS: <https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc421>

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants:

- Applicants can be currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate students.
 - Undergraduates must be sophomore or junior status, Brown/RISD Dual Degree and Architecture students in years 2-4, or senior/5th year students who are not graduating June 2026.
 - Graduate students can be at any stage but cannot be graduating. See next bullet.
- Applicants must be an enrolled RISD student the semester before the summer of the internship and returning to RISD the fall after the internship. Students graduating June 2026 are not eligible. Students graduating December 2026 or after are eligible.
- Applicants must be in good academic and community standing.
- Applicants can be of any major and work in any medium. However, they must make a case for preparedness and room for growth in the performative arts for this grant.
- Applicants of any citizenship are eligible. For international students, if the internship is in the United States and you are returning for Fall 2026, you must have Employment Authorization in the form of Curricular Practical Training (CPT) before beginning work as an intern and you must take the internship for credit.
- Students may only receive one Turner Fund Grant during their RISD career.
- Students can apply for, but can only receive, one of these grants in the same year: Maharam, Discovery, or Turner. However, students can receive the RISD Internship Support Grant along with the Turner Fund Grant in the same year.

Internships:

- Internships can be local, in the U.S., overseas, or in your home country. If your internship is outside your home country, it will be important to demonstrate a strong support system.
- Internships must be on-site or hybrid, and cannot be remote for this funding.
- This award will be applied to one internship experience with one organization.
- The internship can be taken for credit or non-credit. Unless you are an international student and the internship is in the United States and you are returning for Fall 2026; then it must be for credit.
- The internship must take place during the summer, June to August.
- The internship must be at least 8 weeks.
- The internship must be at least 20 hours a week.
- Weeks/hours for Architecture students: You are highly encouraged to work a total of 280 hours if possible to meet your department's requirements; typically, this is 35-40 hours per week for 7-8 weeks.
- Internships that are arranged for by an internship placement service or through a third-party organization are not eligible. This includes any organization that requires fee-for-service, fee-for-materials, or mandatory donations to the organization.

RISD Nondiscrimination Statement: Rhode Island School of Design does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, national origin, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law in admission to, participation in, or administration of its educational programs and activities; in employment; or in its other programs and activities.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Please keep in mind that this is a competitive grant and funding is limited. All components of the application are considered in selecting recipients.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Application materials must be complete by the due date.
- All requirements must be met and instructions followed.
- Attention should be paid to the quality and presentation of materials. Attachments must be formatted neatly and scanned documents must be legible.
- Responses address the questions asked and are clear, concise, and comprehensive.

STUDENT READINESS

- Articulates a solid understanding of and interest in the proposed internship site.
- Demonstrates the ability to be successful and shows interest in being challenged in new ways.
- Demonstrates initiative, creativity, and maturity.

STRENGTH AND FIT OF INTERNSHIP SITE

- Organization is prepared and qualified to create a learning environment and provide appropriate supervision.
- Organization acknowledges an understanding of the student's interests and learning outcomes.
- Internship is arranged so the intern has a voice in their work and can contribute in meaningful ways.

ACTIVITIES & FEASIBILITY

- Activities and responsibilities are clearly described.
- The goals articulated and achievable.
- Expenses are realistic. This should be addressed in your Application Response for Expenses.
- Applicant has appropriate support in place for the internship experience.

IMPACT

- Learning objectives are articulated.
- Significance to applicant's education and practice is well-described and compelling.
- The opportunity will have an impact on the student and further their work, along with potential impact on the internship organization or community.

HYBRID INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES

- Hybrid internship experiences should consider RISD's Guidelines for Remote Internships for an effective experience even though the internship cannot be fully remote:
<https://careercenter.risd.edu/guidelines-remote-internships>

APPLICATION PROCESS & COMPONENTS

Students must fill out and submit the RISD Application online by the deadline. The link to the online application can be found at <http://careercenter.risd.edu/risd-managed-grants>
The application components are:

- APPLICANT PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC INFORMATION
- INTERNSHIP INFORMATION
- RESPONSES to the following in 1 PDF. Please include the question text as headers before your responses, and use 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12-point font, and single spaced rows:
 - ESSAY 1) What is the name, location, mission, and services of the organization? And, why are you interested in an internship in the performative arts and at this particular organization? (250 word max)
 - ESSAY 2) How did you find the internship? Describe how you made the connection and your communication with the organization. (250 word max)
 - ESSAY 3) What will be your main activities and responsibilities? In what ways will you have a voice in your work and contribute in a meaningful way? Please provide at least 2-3 things you hope to accomplish through this experience in the performative arts. (250 word max)
 - ESSAY 4) How are you prepared for this internship experience? How is this the right time in your academic and artistic growth for this experience in the performative arts? What skills do you have now that will help you to be successful in this internship? (250 word max)
 - ESSAY 5) Describe the impact this grant will have on you - academically, artistically, professionally, and/or personally. What skills do you hope to gain as they relate to the performative arts? (250 word max)
 - ESSAY 6) How are you prepared to work and live in the community where the internship is located? If you are proposing an internship outside of Rhode Island or your home state or country, describe your support system. (250 word max)
 - EXPENSES) Provide an overview of your expenses and anticipated costs which may include travel, housing, meals, materials, supplies, equipment, or other related expenses. Show your expenses in a table format with columns for “Item,” “Description,” and “Amount.” AND, do the math – include totals. (1 page max)
 - * Include the pay rate (hourly, weekly, monthly rate, or stipend) if applicable.
 - This funding is to help you realize your proposed summer internship experience. Therefore, expenses listed should demonstrate the use of the \$5,000 during the summer to fulfill the internship.
 - If your expenses are significantly over or under, please address in a short narrative below your Expenses table. Consider that this is a grant for \$5,000 and feasibility is a factor in selection.

- If your experience is hybrid, you may still include housing, meals, materials, supplies, and equipment.
 - This funding should NOT be applied to cover organization program participation fees or materials/equipment that benefit the day-to-day organization such as paper, printing, or items that will be staying with the organization. This funding is for you!
- **INTERNSHIP OFFER LETTER.** In order to understand commitment and feasibility, the RISD Selection Committee places value on details and structure provided by the organization in the offer letter. The offer letter, ideally on official organization/business letterhead and signed by the letter writer, should be a formal invitation from the internship supervisor and include:
 - Contact information including the contact's title
 - The pay rate should be included in the offer letter or, if unpaid, that should be noted.
 - The specific time period (weeks and hours)
 - Indication there is a position and appropriate work for the student
 - List of potential activities
 - Description of potential outcomes
 - Agreement to mentor/support the student and provide appropriate resources

For hybrid remote internship experiences, the organization should review RISD's Guidelines for Remote Internships and include details for these guidelines in the offer letter on how they will support a hybrid experience: <https://careercenter.risd.edu/guidelines-remote-internships>

- **RESUME.** Include most recent employment, performative arts experiences, community involvement, volunteer service, exhibitions, awards, achievements, and other accomplishments.
- **Unofficial TRANSCRIPT.** This can only be accessed on a computer; not through the mobile or iPad app.
 - 1) Go to Workday, then Menu, then Academics.
 - 2) Under Academic Records, select Generate Unofficial Transcript.
 - 3) File outputs as a PDF. Save this PDF.
 - 4) Review the transcript. Your submitted transcript should include the courses you are registered for in the Spring 2026 semester.
 - 5) Check the size of this document. The transcript file you receive is often quite large. You will likely need to compress this file considering your application cannot exceed 25MB in uploads.
 - 6) Upload this PDF into your application.

TIPS FOR APPLICANTS:

- **Each attachment can be up to 3MB, however, please note that the TOTAL upload cannot be over 25MB.**
- **Avoid submitting at the last minute. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.**
- Review the guidelines and required materials carefully before you begin the application.
- Follow all directions carefully.
- Prepare your application in advance in a word document and check your spelling. **The application form will not save your answers once you leave the page.**
- Documents/Responses within a PDF should be in the same order as listed in the guidelines. Please include the question text as headers before your responses, and use 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12-point font, and single spaced rows.

- Attachments should be named appropriately as file names are visible to reviewers.
- After you submit you will see a submission screen and receive an email confirming a successful submission.

RISD CONTACT

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Updated 1/2026