Organismo | Art In Applied Critical Ecologies
Terms & conditions of the applied research program and the *sustrato* scholarship
Organismo 2027 edition

01. Presentation

Organismo | Art in Applied Critical Ecologies is an experimental applied-research program developed by TBA21–Academy and the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza. It weaves together situated investigation, critical theory, and speculative practices through a series of applied case studies developed in alliance with cultural, academic, and civic entities. Organismo operates on the hypothesis that the work of artists reinvigorating interdisciplinary projects can operate as a form of infrastructural activism, going beyond critical reflection to activate tangible processes of ecological reparation. Organismo operates from the conviction that these practices can operate as a form of infrastructural activism, going beyond awareness-raising or critical reflection to activate tangible processes of territorial, social, and ecological transformation.

To this end, Organismo proposes testing with methodologies and entanglements, collaborative practices and configuration of actors across governance frameworks, types of knowledge, and communities to generate prototypes that directly intervene in reality and its material conditions.

Organismo is rooted in the long-standing commitment of TBA21–Academy—the unorthodox research and advocacy arm of TBA21—to promote artistic experimentation and collective work as forces capable of catalyzing the systemic transformations needed to inhabit the planet otherwise. In partnership with Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Organismo assembles a transdisciplinary ecosystem of cultural agents, researchers, public bodies, and local communities to prototype infrastructural responses to the entangled urgencies of our time.

02. Purpose

This open call, in line with the principles of transparency, equality, and fairness of the involved entities, seeks to select researchers to take part in the 2027 edition of the program. Organismo 2027 will be structured around three case studies, each developed through an interdisciplinary working cell composed of up to nine selected researchers, with the following objectives:

A) Promote research, reflection, and design of actor configurations that position artistic practice as a driving force to foster new social visions for ecological regeneration.
B) Encourage the inclusion of artistic practices in the negotiation, ideation, and design of initiatives aimed at sociocultural transformations, and advocate for policies that are demanded by current crises.
C) Facilitate the conditions for connecting actors from different disciplines and their associated contexts, towards the development of practices to respond to the ecological crisis.
D) Promote the connection between actors and related cases in different locations that can inform and mutually enrich each other.
E) Provide participants with theoretical, creative, and relational and contextual support, as well as educational resources to facilitate the creative process.
F) Facilitate the conditions to enable complexity in processes of multiple voices and collective creation.

03. For whom is intended

FULL modality: This call is directed at individuals of legal age, with no requirement for formal qualifications or curriculum justification, who are interested in the proposed interdisciplinary approach and/or have some form of experience related to the themes and contexts posed by the case studies. In their application, each candidate must select a single case study in their application, choosing it as their primary option, and a second choice from the three options listed in the call. Six to nine researchers will be selected for each of the three case studies, forming the corresponding working cells.

CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS modality: Organismo also offers a Critical Encounters participation modality for applicants who wish to engage with the transversal conceptual and methodological framework of the program without participating in the development of a specific case study or its prototype. Participants under this modality will have access only to the five sessions of the Transversal Study Module that will unfold from February 2 to March 9, along with the opportunity to receive mentorship sessions from the Organismo team and to access TBA21's publishing and dissemination platforms. However, they will not participate in the on-site Initial and Final Gatherings and the Research Trip, nor be assigned to a specific case study.

04. Requirements

All participants must meet all requirements. Non-compliance implies the candidate's exclusion from the selection process:

- Applicants must be over eighteen years of age.
- The ability to understand and communicate in English will be required; the ability to understand and communicate in Spanish will be positively valued.
- Only individuals may apply; applications made by legal entities or other entities without legal personhood will not be considered.
- Applicants for the FULL modality must be available to participate in the mandatory activities associated with their assigned case study.

05. Modes of participation

Organismo is a non-profit initiative. Consequently, TBA21 nor Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza (hereinafter the "Organizers") do not obtain any direct financial benefit from the registration fees. All funds collected will be allocated exclusively to financing the program's activities.

Admission to the program will entail the candidate's explicit acceptance of their commitment to actively engage in the collective work proposal, as well as their attendance and compliance with all mandatory activities set forth in the program schedule. Upon completion, all participants will receive an official accreditation certifying their participation.

Applicants may submit their application under one of the following participation modalities:

FULL enrolment: Six to nine researchers will be selected for each of the three case studies, forming the corresponding working cells. Research participants will take part in the research and prototyping processes throughout the first two phases of the program, including the case study sessions, Critical Encounters, and the on-site Initial and Final Gatherings and the Research Trip.

Participation under this mode requires the payment of a registration fee of five hundred and fifty euros (€550). Each participant will also be responsible for covering the expenses associated with their participation, including those necessary to ensure their presence at the three mandatory in-person gatherings of the program: the Initial Gathering in Madrid, the Research Trip to the case study location, and the Final Gathering in Madrid for the Public Presentation at Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza. Should the project advance into the third phase of development, no additional registration fee will be required if that phase takes place.

Organismo foresees the granting of up to two *sustrato* fellowships per case study. These fellowships fully cover the registration fee and include a travel allowance to support participation in the three mandatory in-person gatherings, in accordance with the provisions set out in section 09 of this document. Recipients of these fellowships will take on the role of *sustrato* and commit to carrying out a set of functions, in addition to those of the researchers, including documenting the development of their assigned case study, facilitating coordination among the agents involved, and exploring ways of communicating and tracking the impact of the process itself (see Section 09 for further details).

CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS enrolment: This modality exclusively consists of five online sessions conceived to establish the overarching conceptual and methodological framework of Organismo 2027, with the possibility, should the participant wish, of accessing mentorship sessions. Participation under this modality requires the payment of a registration fee of one hundred and ninety euros (€190).

06. Duration, structure, and attendance

The program under the FULL modality has a duration of six months, spanning from January to July 2027, in a hybrid format that combines online sessions with a series of in-person gatherings, corresponding to its two main phases. Additionally, a third optional phase of implementation may take place between September and December 2027, depending on the nature and progress of each case study.

Participation in the program requires a part-time commitment estimated at five hours per week, distributed between online sessions and autonomous research time. The calendar of sessions may be modified by mutual agreement among the participants, TBA21, and the collaborating entities, without exempting participants from the obligation of attendance.
In chronological order, the program is structured as follows:
Introductory online sessions presenting the methodologies and parameters of the program in January 2027.

Initial Gathering Organismo 2027. Scheduled as an in-person mandatory gathering on January 27, 28, and 29, 2027, from 10:00 to 19:00 CET, at Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid, designed by TBA21. The agenda will include workshops, lectures, and collective meetings with invited experts and collaborating entities designed to foster dialogue across all case studies. Participation in this activity is compulsory. Travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs will be borne by each participant.

Phase 1. Research (January–March 2027) During this phase, the following activities will take place:

- Critical Encounters Transversal Study Module. Consisting of five online sessions of 1.5 hours held on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 PM CET, open to participants of the FULL enrolment as well as the CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS enrolment. The dates for these sessions, which bring together the case study pulsos with expert profiles, are the following:
  - Session 1: February 2
  - Session 2: February 9
  - Session 3: February 16
  - Session 4: February 23
  - Session 5: March 2
- Case study sessions. Online meetings of 1.5 hours, held weekly on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 PM CET, led by each case study *pulso* and invited guest experts and entity representatives, conceived as a first immersion into the specific challenges of each case study.

Phase 2. Prototyping and Presentation (March–July 2027) During this phase, the following activities will take place:

- Research Trip to the Case Study Location: Lasting between five and seven days, attendance is mandatory. The Organizers will cover only the costs of activities, visits, and official events. Travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses are the responsibility of the participants.
- Online Sessions: 1.5-hour meetings on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 PM CET, led by the *pulsos* and invited expert agents.
- Transversal Case Study Status Sessions: Organismo will introduce cross-working cell dynamics aimed at exploring the interrelations between the case studies and fostering the mutual exchange of methodologies, findings, and proposals.
- Final Gathering in Madrid and Public Presentation: Three days of in-person work in Madrid that will bring together all researchers to consolidate the prototype and prepare the public presentation of their collective proposals. Mandatory, to be held by July 2027, exact date and venue to be communicated. Travel and accommodation costs shall be borne by the participants.
- Publication of Research: Research and proposals developed collectively will be compiled by the participants in publicly accessible online repositories. After review by the Organizers, it will be disseminated through the official program website hosted by Fundación TBA21 and other associated communication channels. The Organizers reserve the right, at their discretion, not to publish the results in whole or in part.

Phase 3. Incubation and Refinancing (September–December 2027)

A) This phase is subject to approval by the Organizers and will be activated only for those proposals that prove to be relevant, feasible, and transformative by the Organizers and collaborating institutions.

B) Selected projects may receive additional financial support, subject to the specific needs of each case.

C) The execution of this phase will require the

formalization of specific agreements determining the level of involvement and commitments of each party.

D) The timeline for this phase will generally begin in September 2027, unless otherwise agreed with the Organizers.

E) Participants will not be required to pay additional registration fees. Once the available resources are allocated, participants will receive financial compensation proportional to their level of involvement in the project.

All participants are required to commit to attending all the sessions mentioned, as well as other previously outlined activities and tasks; continued attendance at Organismo's proposed sessions is necessary. In the case of continuous absence that prevents satisfying 80% attendance, the participant will be removed from the program. A weekly commitment of five hours is estimated for proper follow-up of the program.

Participants of the applied research program will have access to audiovisual recordings of the online sessions in case they cannot attend.

The aforementioned sessions will be accompanied by Organismo's public program in-person encounters that are open to the general public, as a way to generate spaces of exchange with an expanded audience. They will happen on weekdays at 6:30–8 PM CET from January to July 2027 in Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza and at other locations in the city of Madrid.

Communication between selected participants and the Organizers, case study facilitators and collaborators, invited guests and artists, and any other figures involved in the program, as well as among current participants, will take place via email and/or Discord, unless otherwise agreed in specific cases. Session recordings, bibliographic materials, and any other content relevant to the program or case studies will also be accessible through a digital storage platform. Participants will receive access to these platforms at the start of the program. All dates are subject to change for organizational reasons. If any changes occur, participants will be informed as soon as possible.

07. Selection process

A) Application questionnaire and deadline

All those interested in participating in the program under the FULL modality who meet the established requirements must submit their application before November 15, 2026, at 11:59 PM CET. Applications must be submitted through the online form, which includes all the required questions. Applicants must upload a PDF document of up to three pages responding to the questions provided in the online application form. Additionally, applicants may upload an optional presentation video of up to two minutes. Those applying for the sustrato fellowship must also answer the corresponding additional questions. The video file must not exceed 100 MB, while the PDF document containing the responses and the visual dossier must not exceed 10 MB each. Responses may be submitted in either Spanish or English. All applicants interested in participating in the program under the CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS modality who meet the established requirements must submit their application before December 15, 2026, at 11:59 PM CET.

B) Selection process stages

For the CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS modality, selection will be based solely on the questionnaire and the documentation submitted. No interviews will be required, except in exceptional cases where the Evaluation Committee considers it appropriate to invite an applicant for an interview. Once the selection has been announced, participants must make the payment in accordance with the provisions set out in Section 08 of this document. Failure to make the payment by the specified deadline will be understood as a rejection of the applicant's place in the program.

For the FULL modality, the selection process will consist of two stages:

Pre-selection: The Evaluation Committee (as described in paragraph C of this point) will review the applications received and exclude those that do not meet all the requirements. A shortlist will be drawn from the remaining applications, and pre-selected applicants will be contacted for an online interview.

Final Selection: Following the interviews, which will take place from November 30 until December 11, 2026, the Evaluation Committee will select the applicants who best meet the evaluation criteria established in this open call.

The Evaluation Committee will notify the finally selected applicants, as well as those considered for the sustrato fellowship, by email. Upon receiving this notification, applicants must confirm their participation by emailing organismo.info@tba21.org within the deadline specified in the notification. If an applicant fails to confirm their participation within the specified deadline, the Organizers reserve the right to select an alternative applicant. This alternative applicant will be notified by email and must confirm their participation by email within the deadline specified in that notification. All applicants who are not ultimately selected will also be notified of this decision by email before December 18, 2026.

Once the selection has been announced, participants must make the payment in accordance with the provisions set out in Section 08 of this document. Failure to make the payment by the specified deadline will be understood as a rejection of the applicant's place in the program. The final group of participants will be notified individually by email.

The planned dates for selection interviews and the notification of selected applicants may change for organizational reasons. In such cases, applicants will be informed by email as soon as possible.

The Evaluation Committee's decision will be final and not subject to appeal. The Organizers reserve the right not to award all the sustrato fellowships announced, if recommended by the Evaluation Committee.

C) The Evaluation Committee

Fundación TBA21 and Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza will establish an Evaluation Committee whose objective will be to evaluate at least two individuals linked to the governance structure of Organismo, and one individual related to each case study, who may either be the person holding the *pulso* role or someone appointed by the collaborating entities for that case. The acceptance of candidates, as well as

their exclusion for non-compliance with requirements, is solely within the competence of the Evaluation Committee.

Each and every decision of the Evaluation Committee will be based solely on its discretion and cannot be appealed.

D) Evaluation criteria

The applications submitted will be examined by the Evaluation Committee based on the following criteria:

- Trajectory: previous life and intellectual experiences of the applicants will be taken into account, particularly how these can contribute positively to the program's goals.
- Diversity: diversity of approaches, disciplines, and backgrounds will be valued, as well as their integration into the overall selection of candidates and the resulting composition of each working cell.
- Group compatibility: efforts will be made to create a diverse workgroup, both in terms of disciplines and the particular contexts of the candidates, while considering and adapting to the characteristics of each case study.
- Availability: based on the information given by the candidates, the time availability of each candidate will be considered in the selection process to ensure the correct functioning of the case study group.
- Group work: willingness and experience in work groups and collective processes.

08. Payment

Once selected, participants will be required to pay the registration fee. The amount of this fee, depending on the enrolment type, will be:

- €550 for the FULL enrolment modality.
- €190 for the Critical Encounters enrolment modality.

For the FULL enrollment modality, the payment can be made in full or in two installments. Full payment must be made by January 15, 2027. In the case of two installment payments, the first installment corresponding to 50% of the payment must be made before January 15, 2027, and the second payment of the remaining 50% before April 1, 2027.

For the Critical Encounters enrollment modality, full payment must be made by January 5, 2027.

Payments will be processed through *Stripe*. Further payment instructions will be provided to selected participants upon confirmation of their place.

If participants do not make this payment under the conditions established in this document, it will be understood that they are renouncing their place, and it may be reassigned to another candidate.

No payment, whether total or partial, will be reimbursable.

09. Fellowships

Fundación TBA21, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, and the partner entities facilitating each case will award up to two *sustrato* fellowships per case study, exclusively for the FULL modality. These fellowships aim to offer participants the opportunity to assume the role of documenting the development of each case study, facilitating coordination among the agents involved, and exploring ways to communicate the impact of the process. These *sustrato* fellowships will fully cover the registration fee.

Sustrato fellowship recipients will also receive a total of 1950€ to support their participation in the three mandatory in-person gatherings of the program: the Initial Gathering in Madrid, the Research Trip to the case study location and the Final Gathering in Madrid for the Public Presentation at Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza.

The fellowship award will be paid in three installments, in January, March, and June 2027, prior to the corresponding in-person gathering.

For the *sustrato* fellowship, a weekly commitment of seven hours is required to cover both the program and the additional responsibilities associated with this role. To fully obtain the fellowship, recipients must attend at least 90% of the scheduled weekly meetings and ensure that all agreed-upon materials are submitted according to the established criteria. These materials consist of a documentation piece to be presented in a digital context at the end of the program, along with a proposal for an exercise in alternative indicators for implementation processes. The details of these materials will be provided during the specific sessions with *sustrato* fellows during the program.

To apply for this *sustrato* fellowship, applicants must answer the specific questions indicated in the application form.

The Critical Encounters modality does not offer an associated fellowship.

10. Participant obligations

Selected participants commit to fulfilling the following obligations:

FULL modality:

A) To attend at least 80% of the sessions indicated in Section 06 of this document. Failure to meet this minimum attendance requirement without a justifiable cause will result in forfeiture of participation in the program. Additionally, if a participant withdraws from the project without a justified cause, they may be excluded from the program. In cases where attendance is not possible, participants commit to subsequently viewing the materials provided by the Organizers.

B) Participants must adhere to the protocols listed in these Terms and Conditions for the use and behavior of the spaces and materials made available to them.

C) Provide the documentation requested by the Organizers.

D) At all times, act in full accordance with the values advocated by Fundación TBA21, as stipulated in its Code of Conduct, and in alignment with the principles of Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza and other

collaborating entities, ensuring the exclusion of any discriminatory behavior.

In addition to these obligations, *sustrato* fellowship recipients under the FULL enrolment modality must fulfill the following commitments:

A) Act as a representative of the working cell for communication and coordination with Organismo and other agents of the case study.

B) Document, measure, and evaluate the processes developed in the specific case in which they participate, generating the appropriate materials to meet the needs and specific agreements established in the case study. This documentation will be presented at the end of the program and is intended to serve as an evaluation and assessment tool.

C) Attend at least 90% of the scheduled weekly meetings.

CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS modality:

A) Participants must adhere to the protocols listed in these Terms and Conditions for the use and behavior of the spaces and materials made available to them.

B) Provide the documentation requested by the Organizers.

C) At all times, act in full accordance with the values advocated by Fundación TBA21, as stipulated in its Code of Conduct, and in alignment with the principles of Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza and other collaborating entities, ensuring the exclusion of any discriminatory behavior.

11. Intellectual and industrial property

The ownership of any and all creations, conceived within the framework of the Organismo project, shall remain vested in their respective creators/authors, who will be considered equal co-authors, and will be subject to the Creative Commons CC BY-NC 4.0 license. Notwithstanding the above, the authors grant the Organizers the right to communicate to the public the creations and for educational purposes of the overall activities of the Organizers, always crediting the authors.

All members of each working cell will be considered co-authors of the collective proposal developed within the framework of their case study, unless otherwise agreed between the case study team members and the Organizers.

Any creation developed within the framework of Organismo must be credited in all public presentation, communication, or publication as: "A project created within the framework of the Organismo | Art in Applied Critical Ecologies, developed by TBA21–Academy and Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza as part of the case study *[case study name]*, facilitated by *[facilitating entity]* with the collaboration of *[collaborating entity]*".

Participants must inform the Organizers of any creations resulting from the project before making them public in any format, in case they may be subject to Industrial or Intellectual Property protection. Both TBA21–Academy and Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza reserve the right to be listed as collaborators or promoters of such creation for the purpose of communicating it to third parties.

The Organizers undertake to respect the moral rights of the participants, especially the right to be recognized as authors in the event of a creation subject to intellectual property protection.

Any conflict or dispute arising from this contract, whether regarding its interpretation, execution, validity, or fulfillment, will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Spanish courts.

12. Conflict resolution

In the event that a personal conflict arises between one or more participants, whether in the context of a case study or any other, the Organizers will not be responsible for the mediation or resolution of such conflict, limiting themselves to ensuring the proper functioning of the program as well as the affected case study, always in accordance with the ethical precepts of the Organizers. In the event that the governance of the Organismo considers that one or more participants violate the correct and ethical functioning of the program, it reserves the right to immediately terminate the participation of any participant in the program.

13. Image rights

By accepting participation in the program, the Participants allow the Organizers to record their image and voice with both photos and/or video throughout the project's development. They expressly allow the Organizers to use, distribute, and publish said photographs or videos that feature participants' images and/or voices to publicize and promote the project Organismo or any other activities of the Organizers, and if applicable, those of its collaborators. These may include, but are not limited to, publication in newsletters, posting on the Organizers' websites, sharing on social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram, publication in print media, and dissemination to participants. The photographs and videos will be kept for as long as necessary to achieve the purposes for which they were collected or to fulfill legal obligations. These grants of rights are free of charge.

14. Confidentiality

By accepting participation in the program, the Participants undertake not to disclose the materials offered by the Organizers in the framework of their participation in Organismo. This commitment covers, among others, the recordings of the public sessions, the online sessions for the participants, the specific online sessions per case group, the case meeting sessions and any other type of audiovisual or textual materials shared by the collaborators of the program. Participants in the program agree not to record the participation of third parties, including their materials.

15. Data protection

15.1. The processing of personal data is carried out in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27, 2016, concerning the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, and Organic Law 3/2018 of December 5, 2018 on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights. The participant (Interested Party) is informed that by applying to the program, they consent to the processing of the personal data provided, and in compliance with the provisions of Article 13 of said Regulation, the following is informed:

DATA CONTROLLER:

Fundación TBA21
privacy@tba21.org

PURPOSE OF PROCESSING:

To process the application for participation in Organismo.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PROCESSING:

Necessary processing for the selection process of the candidates. The personal data of the candidates will be shared in TBA21's online platforms, as well as tangible mediums for promotional, educational, archival, or informative purposes.

RETENTION PERIOD:

Data will be retained for as long as necessary to fulfill the purpose for which they were collected and to determine any possible liabilities that may arise from that purpose and the processing of the data.

DATA TRANSFER:

TBA21 will transfer the strictly necessary information to its Collaborators (the entities that promote the study cases) for the selection process.

RIGHTS YOU MAY EXERCISE:

Regarding the personal data collected for processing, you have the possibility to exercise the rights of access, rectification, cancellation, limitation of processing, opposition, and data portability, by making a written request to the data controller at the address provided above, in the terms stipulated by current regulations. If you believe your data protection rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Spanish Agency for Data Protection. (https://www.aepd.es/ [External link]).

15.2. The participants authorize TBA21 to collect their image and/or voice in photos and/or videos and to potentially share it in their current or future online and tangible platforms, for promotional purposes, free of charge. This use of personal data is subject to point 15.1.

16. Observations

16.1 All deadlines and times specified in these terms are understood to be in the time zone of mainland Spain.

16.2 The submission of an application for this call implies, on the part of the candidate, the explicit acceptance of both these guidelines and the criteria and decisions that the Organizers may make regarding any interpretation doubts about the requirements and conditions stated up to this point.

16.3 The detection of a violation of these terms, regardless of when it occurs and irrespective of the stage of the application process, whether during pre-selection, selection, or acceptance of the application, will result in the automatic cancellation of the candidate's participation in the project, as well as the *sustrato* fellowship if it has already been awarded.

16.4 If the participant fails to fulfill the commitments derived from these terms—or any other that is communicated later by Organismo—the Organizers reserve the right to proceed as it deems appropriate and may even request the return of any amounts received if the participant was awarded a fellowship. In such a case, the participant will not be eligible to participate in future calls for the project.

17. Right to modify the terms

The Organizers reserve the right to modify, amend, or update the terms of this program, either partially or entirely, at any time and at their own discretion. Any modifications will be promptly communicated to the participants and will take effect from the date of publication.

In the case of substantial modifications, participants will be given the option to accept the new terms or withdraw from the program, with the corresponding refund of the registration fee, if applicable.