Tropical Lab International Art Camp Prize

A two-week international art camp in Singapore for a current National Art School MFA (Research) or DFA student.

Application deadline 26 January 2027

Residency dates 15 July – 30 July 2027

Residency

The 21st edition of the renowned Tropical Lab, an international art camp for art academies and institutes, will take place from 15 July to 30 July 2027 at LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore.

The aims of Tropical Lab are to expand the views of the participants, to exchange experiences, and to stimulate creative thinking through a collaborative approach. In addition, creating a positive environment that will stimulate and cultivate minds, imaginations, emotional consciousness, and cultural sensibilities of the emerging generation of students of art.

LASALLE offers an environment for international student-artists to carry out research and advance their art practice in a short period. Through a series of research, presentations, seminars, dialogues and field trips organised around the theme, participants will have the opportunity to interact and learn from international and Singaporean artists and curators. The program concludes with a public exhibition at LASALLE's Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore (ICAS), offering participants the opportunity to present work developed during the residency and connect with an international network of emerging artists and practitioners.

The recipient of this Prize will receive:

- $1000 towards airfares & transfers
- Coverage of program registration fees
- LASALLE will cover accommodation and local travel costs in Singapore. All participants will reside at a hotel arranged by the College on a twin sharing basis.
- LASALLE will provide studio space, workshops, technical assistance as well as curatorial expertise.

About the 2027 Theme: *Noise*

Noise exceeds a threshold: of audibility, tolerance, legibility or order. Commonly understood as disturbance, interference, excess, error, static or distortion, noise has no stable identity of its own. What is noise to one receiver is music, information, ritual, warning or memory to another.

Beyond its association with sound, noise can be understood as disruption, distortion, ambiguity, resistance, or communication beyond conventional forms. Participants are encouraged to explore how noise influences contemporary life and artistic practice, using the theme as a starting point for experimentation, dialogue, and creative development during the residency.

Read more about TROPICAL LAB on the LASALLE College of the Arts website

Eligibility

- You must be a full-time MFA (Research) or DFA student at the time of application and be continuing your studies in 2027.
- Applicants are responsible for researching the relevant visa requirements for Singapore, and preparation of these arrangements in advance.
- TROPICAL LAB participants are required to be in full attendance during this two-week period. This may include missing the first 2 weeks of Semester 2 2027, which will be discussed with staff in advance.

Selection Criteria

The Residency will be awarded to an applicant who:

- Has displayed a high level of achievement and dedication to their practice throughout their MFA (Research) or DFA studies.
- Demonstrates clarity of purpose and a compelling rationale for their proposed residency.
- In the opinion of the judges, would benefit artistically from the experience at this stage of their studies and professional career goals.

Applications

- To be considered for selection, applicants must submit all parts of the online application form, together with required application materials, by the deadline.
- Eligible applications will be reviewed by a selection panel comprising suitable representatives of the National Art School.

Application Requirements

- A summary CV (of not more than one page) in PDF format.
- Portfolio of 10 images, presented in PDF format, with only one image per page. Each page should include the name of artist, title, date, medium, and dimensions. For moving image-based artists only, a high-quality video of up to two minutes presented as a single-track show reel.
  The panel reserves the right to not assess applications that do not include specified supporting material correctly formatted as outlined above.
- A 500–800 word travel proposal (PDF format): Please comment on your interest in participating in TROPICAL LAB 2027, including how the program and its theme, *Noise*, relate to your current artistic practice and research. Applicants should outline how they expect to benefit from the program and how participation may contribute to their creative and/or academic development.

- All applicants are required to provide the name, phone number and email address of one referee.

Conditions of Entry

- The successful applicant must abide by all the regulations of the award.
- The successful applicant is responsible for any additional costs associated with the residency and exhibition
- The selectors' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The successful applicant must strictly agree to abide by the conditions and policies of LASALLE.
- The selectors reserve the right to withhold the award if in their opinion the standard of applications is insufficient to warrant awarding.
- The selected applicant will be required to maintain communication with a designated NAS staff member during the residency.

Acquittal of residency

Post- residency, the selected applicant will be required to:

- Make a public presentation to the NAS community about their scholarship and study experience (dates TBA).
- Provide high-resolution photographs and a 200-word statement that can be used by NAS for promotional purposes and in publications including the Annual Report and Yearbook.

Please email **residencies@nas.edu.au**, for any inquiries regarding the application process