

Call for applications «What's next_Compass 2026/27»

The Z-Kubator's support programme with a focus on your social, cultural and economic development steps

Apply for What's next_Compass / Application deadline Friday, 20 March 2026, 23:59 CET

As a transition to professional practice, the 12-month programme enables graduates from the disciplines of Art Education, Design, Film, Fine Arts, Music, Dance, Theatre, and Transdisciplinary Studies to sharpen and refine their individual profiles, network with practitioners and lay the foundations for building a sustainable career in the arts.

The programme focuses on the driving forces and needs of the participants to create a socially, culturally and economically sustainable basis on which to develop their own practice. Artistic and entrepreneurial topics come together.

Don't worry; if you are unsure whether or how your own practice fits with our approach and the Z-Kubator themes, find out during a **Zoom session** with more information about the programme and testimonials from current and former participants (dates and links below).

The aim of the programme is for participants to have discovered and explored possibilities and opportunities for themselves over the 12 months and to be able to strategically take the next steps in their development.

What's next_Compass is supported by the City of Zurich and the Righini-Fries Foundation.

For whom?

We are looking for **BA and MA graduates from all disciplines of the ZHdK** up to two years after graduation (2023 or later) who are interested in developing their work in an inter- or transdisciplinary context. We particularly support graduates who want to reflect on and test new working methods and ways at the interface between artistic or design ideas and entrepreneurial practice. We require the professional career aspect in an application, as well as the ability to work independently. A healthy balance between artistic freedom and discipline is necessary to benefit from this programme.

It is not possible to be enrolled in a BA or MA programme or preparatory training (Preparatory Courses in Art and Design or PreCollege Music) at the ZHdK and participate in the Z-Kubator programme at the same time. Participants and graduates of further education programmes (CAS, MAS) are not eligible to apply.

A rotating jury consisting of ZHdK internal and external members decides on participation.

What do we expect from you?

The topics that the Z-Kubator focuses on (see link below) are relevant to your further development and you see value in the inter- and transdisciplinary exchange. It is expected that you can find the necessary time to participate in workshops and joint activities (approx. 5 per year). The Z-Kubator offers you individual support during these 12 months. For good cooperation, it is important for us to have a trustworthy relationship and good communication. We want to see you committed to the further development of your ideas, projects and personal goals and not afraid to try out new things with the necessary support.

A selection of Z-Kubator topics: <https://www.zhdk.ch/en/zkubator/one-to-one-coaching-3741>

What kind of support is offered to participants?

- o Methodological workshop for mapping your own practice
- o Development of your action plan with regard to social, cultural, and economic objectives
- o Inputs and workshops around the theme of entrepreneurial thinking and acting in an artistic context
- o Peer-to-peer exchange opportunities with participants of the programme
- o Personal consultations, mentoring and networking with practitioners from the field
- o Joint events and exhibition opportunity
- o Personal ZHdK email address
- o Continuation of your Adobe licence at the current conditions
- o Subsidised studio space from the City of Zurich at the Mediacampus Zurich (CHF 200.00 / month)*
- o Campus Card for access to the infrastructure at Toni Campus (workshops, photo cluster, editing rooms, equipment hire, etc.)**.

* Monthly rental costs for a studio space (approx. 25m²) are CHF 200 / person.

If you already have your own studio or workspace and cannot / do not want to give it up, it is still possible to apply for the programme in consultation with us. Of course, we recommend that you rent a studio space in order to benefit fully from the support programme. If you are unsure, please contact us to discuss your situation.

The subsidised studios of the City of Zurich are located in the Mediacampus Zurich (Baslerstrasse 30), not far from Toni Campus. The studios each offer space for 2-5 people and have a size of up to 130 m². This generous space allows you to invite guests, work on joint projects and carry out test set-ups or workshops. The 24-hour access offers flexible working around the clock in an environment of other artists supported by the City of Zurich Cultural Affairs.

**ASVZ and benefits at Toni Campus (student discount) are not included.

Application

Please submit your application digitally as one single PDF file with a max. of 13 pages (100 MB):

- o Letter of motivation (1 Page)
- o CV with contact details (contact information, current address, telephone number, links), date of birth and information on ZHdK degree (1-2 pages)
- o Portfolio of recent work and description of ideas and topics you would like to explore during the programme (max. 10 pages)

The application is submitted digitally in the form of a coherent PDF and comprises a maximum of 13 pages.

We take the liberty of obtaining internal ZHdK recommendations from the departments. The final decision on participation will be made by the jury.

Applications-link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedY-n6FZ-cc-9glAODWIZBDQYdTZWQYa1jXVNd_1v2h1u6SA/viewform?hl=de&pli=1

We only accept online applications via this channel. Only complete applications that fulfil the application criteria will be considered.

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Zoom sessions for questions about the programme or the application process:

Wednesday, 25 February 2026, 12:00 – 13:00

<https://zhdk.zoom.us/j/65996046622?pwd=dPZalqG1AhNhTbBEIEV3aKWjejv999.1>

Meeting ID: 659 9604 6622

Password: 291190

Friday, 06 March 2026, 12:00 – 13:00

<https://zhdk.zoom.us/j/63327145911?pwd=KdODy1LUSrucjQz6Ps9mCOA8VIHram.1>

Meeting ID: 633 2714 5911

Password: 864539

Language: German and English

On **Thursday, 26 February 2026**, you will have the opportunity to meet current and former programme participants in their studios at the **Open Studio Night** and exchange ideas with them and us on site.

Registration: [here](#)

Programme dates

Programme duration: 1 September 2026 - 31 August 2027

Contact

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