FAQs

APPLICATION RELATED

Do you accept applications in languages other than English?

Once selected, you can work in any language but the application jury will only be able to read in English. So, if your work or portfolio is in any other language, we request you to please submit a translation of the same as a part of your application

Can I still apply if I have not yet published / exhibited work?

Yes, you can. We ask you to demonstrate 8 or more years of practice in your chosen area in your application, but we are not concerned with whether work has been published or exhibited, etc.

What kind of work sample can I submit?

This is a unique, interdisciplinary residency that is looking to bring together artists, writers, educators, and social changemakers. We understand that not all the work that you do in these various fields can be standardized, and we're open to a wide variety of materials that might cut across these contexts. Therefore, while we cannot provide you with an exhaustive list of what you can submit as work samples, here are some examples: if you are an artist or a writer, a sizable sample of your work is good; if you work with young people or in a community, we would love to see your curriculum plans or your student work; if you work in social change, you might send us papers, briefs, case studies, or whatever other materials that you may feel are necessary in showcasing your work to the jury. In case you feel like your work falls outside all of these categories, and you are still unsure about what to submit, feel free to write to us at aditi@nomadretreat.in, and we will do our best to help you figure it out!

If I work with a collaborator, do we both need to apply separately?

Yes. Our jury would prefer to award the residency to an individual rather than to a project, so we encourage you to both apply separately; however, we cannot guarantee that both collaborators will be accepted.

If you absolutely cannot work separately, and/or there is a very important reason to collaborate, then you may apply jointly and let us know the reason in your application. Do keep in mind, though, that if we accept such an application, you will be required to share accommodation.

Why is the residency only open to participants from the "Global South," and which countries does that include?

At Serai, we believe that a rich South-South dialogue, unmediated by Europe or North America, has the potential for transformative collaborations and new ways of knowing and being. This guideline is less about excluding folks from certain parts of the world and more about actively

nurturing a long overdue conversation amongst postcolonial and other so called “developing” countries.

Typically, the Global South is understood broadly to comprise Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia excluding Israel, Japan, and South Korea, and Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand. We are, however, also open to refugees, displaced peoples, and first nations peoples from other parts of the world as well: If you think you qualify for the residency, please apply (and, if needed, please feel free to explain more in your application).

I am originally from the Global South, but I now live and work in the Global North. Can I still apply?
The residency is intended for individuals who live and work in the Global South, primarily because of the dearth of such opportunities in these parts of the world.

Do you require references?

No. We do not need to know who you know. Your work is our guide for the selection process.

Can I get feedback on my application?

As much as we would love to talk to you about your applications individually, considering the volume of applications and the depth and precision with which the jury members will go through each one, it will be impossible for us to respond with individual feedback

LOGISTICS

What are the dates for the residency?

Fellows will be awarded either a 2 week or a 4 week residency. The dates will be between 15 November and 14 December 2026, and you will have the opportunity of indicating on your application if one set of dates does not work for you.

What is the accommodations and food like?

You will be staying in a comfortable mud cottage with an ensuite modern washroom. The hut contains a bed, a desk, two window seats, and a wood-burning stove. There is an electric kettle in the room for tea and coffee, and all meals are served in the shared community dining area. There is good Airtel and Jio mobile connectivity everywhere and Wifi is only in the cafe. Food is mostly homestyle Indian food cooked on the premises, with occasional treats from other cuisines.

Please note that we are in the middle of a mountain village, and the electricity voltage and

water supply can vary; we will do our best to keep you comfortable, but we do need you to know we are not a hotel with full power back up and other such amenities.

Are there any costs I need to bear?

Serai will cover your accommodation, meals, and group activities. You will also have access to a printer and projector. Travel and all other personal costs will be borne by the fellows themselves.

What kind of weather can I expect?

The residency will take place at the beginning of winter at Nomad Eco-Retreat. Days are usually bright and sunny, averaging at about 15-18 degrees Celsius, and nights can get cold at about 4-5 degrees Celsius. There will be a fire in the common areas every evening, and our staff can also build a fire in the stoves in your cottage or provide heaters if you would like. There will also be electric blankets and hot water bottles to keep you even cosier at night.

It is very unlikely to snow during your time with us, but you will be treated to stunning views of the snow peaks in the distance.

Can you accommodate medical needs, allergies, or disabilities?

Absolutely. Nomad Eco-Retreat works hard to be an inclusive and accessible space, and we would love to work with you regardless of illness or disability. Our common dining area, shared washroom, and two of our mud huts are fully wheelchair accessible, although the mountainous landscape means that a wheelchair user would need assistance navigating some of the slopes and ramps around the site (our staff is happy to assist you with this).

We also pride ourselves on catering to a diversity of dietary needs, and we will be able to accommodate gluten free, vegan, nightshade-free or other medically required diets if we are given adequate prior notice; however, there are no halal butchers in the area, so Halal meat is one accommodation we are unable to provide. Please note also that we only have one kitchen, so we will not be able to ensure zero cross-contamination of ingredients; in case you have a severe food allergy, please write to us beforehand so that we can realistically let you know if we will be able to support your time with us.

Do bear in mind that we are in a somewhat remote location in the mountains, and specialized medical care may not always be available. If you have specific concerns or questions regarding this, please email us.

What happens if I need to reschedule my residency or leave early due to an emergency?

At this moment, rescheduling will not be possible. We ask you to inform us at the earliest possible date in case you need to cancel, in which case your residency will be awarded to

someone on our waiting list instead.

In case you are already at the residency and need to leave early due to an emergency, we shall make every effort to get you back home at the earliest. However, any additional expenses incurred as a result of such travel will have to be borne by the fellow in question, and an inability to complete the residency might make you ineligible for future iterations of the program.

Is there an application fee?

No. We wanted to keep the application as accessible and inclusive as possible, so there is no application fee.

How and when are notifications sent?

The notifications will be sent via email by mid-October 2026

Can I opt out of having my participation and information on public forums?

We would love to be able to celebrate all of our fellows publicly, but we understand that there may be safety considerations for some of you in terms of not having your location in the public domain. You can let us know if you would rather we do not publish any information about your stay with us, either indefinitely or until after your departure.

Can I bring family members or pets?

The residency is meant to be a deep dive into solo-time to focus on your work and community-time with other residents; visitors and companions are therefore strongly discouraged. However, if there are extenuating circumstances which make it impossible for you to attend unless you can bring another person or pet along, such as if you need a caregiver or a support animal due to a disability, or are a single parent to a young child, please let us know in your application. We will do our best to accommodate you.

PROGRAM RELATED

How will the working day be structured?

There is no set pattern for the day, you are welcome to spend it as you would like – work in your hut, read in a hammock, go for a walk, or spend time in our shared community spaces. All meals will be shared in the dining hall, and we encourage all residents to gather around the fire in the evenings to share the day's work and connect with one another. There may also be a few community events, such as a live music night or a field trip, but none of these are mandated, only encouraged.

Will I be required to share my work?

You will be expected to do 1-2 workshops/ public talks regarding your work and one online post on the official platform of the residency. We may also do an informal interview with you about your creative process, which we would include as part of creative documentation. Other than these, no other sharing is required, although we of course encourage cohorts to share their work and processes with one another.

Are there any deliverables at the end of my time there?

Apart from attending the residency and sharing your work as mentioned above, you will be asked to fill out a feedback form at the end of the residency. Apart from this, there are no further obligations: while you are encouraged to share your work with us, you are not required to submit anything specific.

Can you clarify what 'no further obligation' means?

The Serai Residency is committed to empowering all participants to develop/sustain their own creative process with regards to their work. There are no restrictions on how you use the time at the residency: for example, you are not required to come out of the residency with finished work, or to report back to us on how your time was spent. Also, everything you create at Serai will belong to you. If you do publish, exhibit, or otherwise publicly share your work, we request you to please acknowledge the residency.