



Vilnius
Academy
of Arts



PANEMUNĖ
CASTLE



CASTLES
AND
MANORS
ROUTE

Call for Papers: International Heritage Residency 2026

Dates: 9–16 November 2026

Location: Vilnius Academy of Arts' Panemunė Castle, Lithuania

Application Deadline: September 18, 2026



Vilnius Academy of Arts' Panemunė Castle, Lithuania | Artist residency, museum, gallery, restaurant, park

Executive Summary & Context

The International Heritage Residency 2026 is a week-long, action-oriented consultative forum dedicated to the revitalisation, sustainable adaptation, and activation of historic sites along Lithuania's National Castles and Manors Cultural Route. Based at the historic Panemunė Castle in the Nemunas Valley, the residency brings together an international cohort of specialists to address critical management, conservation, and integration challenges facing heritage sites within contemporary cultural and logistical networks.

Initiated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marius Daraškevičius (Director of Panemunė Castle and Chairman of the Castle and Manor Route) and led by international heritage expert and ICOMOS member Assoc. Prof. Dr. Melinda Harlov-Csörtán (Hungary), the residency bridges high-level theory with site-specific practice. Rather than generating abstract models, participants work directly with site owners, managers, local institutions to develop applied solutions and methodological frameworks suitable for site-specific case studies and broader application across European heritage networks.

Funded by Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture





Vilnius
Academy
of Arts



Key Thematic Pillars

The programme focuses on four core intersections of contemporary heritage practice:

- ❖ **Cultural Routes & Landscapes:** Methodologies for positioning standalone heritage assets into cohesive, sustainable network systems.
- ❖ **Stakeholder Dynamics & Communities:** Navigating the rights, obligations, and needs of property owners, local populations, visitors, and underserved groups.
- ❖ **Historical Narratives & Adaptive Reuse:** Reinterpreting past built environments for contemporary public utility while balancing authenticity, physical accessibility, and environmental ethics.
- ❖ **Sustainable Management & Strategic Programming:** Formulating operational models anchored in site carrying-capacity, seasonal variability, and local ecological balance.

Individual Output & Participant Commitments

Participants are expected to actively engage in all field studies, lectures, and peer-to-peer working sessions. By the end of the residency, each participant must produce a draft research paper or professional project proposal addressing one of the core thematic areas. Dedicated writing hours, source material, and academic mentorship will be provided on-site.

Note: Participants are required to bring their own laptop computers.

Application Requirements & Eligibility

We invite applications from PhD students, post-docs, to early-career and established architects, conservators, heritage researchers, restorers, cultural managers, and spatial policy experts.

Required Documents (merged into a single PDF):

- ❖ Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- ❖ Summary or Portfolio of relevant recent publications or professional projects (last five years)
- ❖ Motivation letter outlining your intended contribution to the residency themes

Submission: Send your compiled PDF to residence@panemunespilis.lt by **September 18, 2026**.

For programmatic or application inquiries, contact the same address.

Financial & Logistical Provisions

Provided by Organisers: On-site accommodation, all meals, local transport between Vilnius/Kaunas and Panemunė Castle, and all field excursion transit.

Participant Responsibility: Travel expenses from home location to Vilnius or Kaunas, Lithuania.



Preliminary Programme Schedule

Monday, November 9 | Arrival & Orientation

16:00 Group pick-up (Vilnius / Kaunas)
19:00 Arrival and check-in at Panemunė Castle
19:30 Welcome Dinner

Tuesday, November 10 | Cultural Networks & Local Context

08:30 Breakfast
10:00 Keynote Lecture: *Perspectives on Contemporary Cultural Heritage* — Assoc. Prof. Dr. Melinda Harlov-Csörtán
11:00 Guest Lecture (*Topic TBD*)
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Case Study Excursion 1: Architectural & Operational Tour of Panemunė Castle
15:00 Presentation: *The Nemunas Valley Castle and Manor Route Framework*
16:00 Independent Focus Time / Break
18:30 Dinner
19:30 Evening Seminar: *Cultural Landscapes & Institutional Frameworks (ICOMOS/EU)* (*Includes participant presentation of international case studies*)

Wednesday, November 11 | Social Dimensions & Community Stakeholders

08:00 Breakfast
09:00 Morning Seminar: *Sociological Perspectives: Owners, Visitors, and Local Dynamics* (*Covers year-round economic viability, legal obligations, and inclusive design for marginalized/special-interest visitors*)
10:00 Field Visit: Case Study Site 2
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Field Visit: Case Study Site 3
16:00 Group discussion
18:30 Dinner

Thursday, November 12 | Temporal Layers, Narrative & Accessibility

08:00 Breakfast
09:00 Morning Seminar: *Time, Space, and Memory: Narrative Strategies for Historical Structures* (*Architectural & museum methodologies for structural reuse, balancing physical integrity with universal access*)
10:00 Field Visit: Case Study Site 4
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Field Visit: Case Study Site 5
16:00 Group discussion
18:30 Dinner

Friday, November 13 | Operational Management & Capacity

08:00 Breakfast
09:00 Morning Seminar: *Strategic Programming & Environmental Constraints* (*Harmonizing event schedules across regional networks, accounting for seasonality, protection status, and local capacity*)
10:00 Field Visit: Case Study Site 6
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Field Visit: Case Study Site 7
16:00 Group discussion
18:30 Dinner

Saturday, November 14 | Intensive Project Writing

09:00 Breakfast
10:00 Independent Research & Project Drafting
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Independent Research & Peer Consultations
19:00 Dinner
20:00 Cultural Evening / Film Screening

Sunday, November 15 | Presentation & Synthesis

09:00 Breakfast
10:00 Final Paper Polishing & Presentation Prep
13:00 Lunch
15:00 Symposium & Final Presentations (*Attended by site owners, managers, and regional stakeholders*)
18:30 Farewell Dinner

Monday, November 16 | Departure

09:00 Breakfast
10:00 Transfers to Vilnius / Kaunas & Departure



Vilnius
Academy
of Arts



PANEMUNĖ
CASTLE



CASTLES
AND
MANORS
ROUTE

National Castles and Manors Route



Aukštoji Freda Manor



Belvederis Manor



Gelgaudiškis Manor



Ilguva Manor



Jurbarkas Manor



Kaimelis Manor



Kaunas Castle



Kiduliai Manor



Panemunė Castle



Raudondvaris Manor



Raudonė Castle



Svietošinas Manor



Veliuona Manor



Žemoji Panemunė Manor



Zypliai Manor