

**UNESCO/Tamayouz Cinema Foundation Film Residency
for young women African Filmmakers
Call for applications**

**Residency for young women African filmmakers in Morocco
15 September – 27 October 2025**

Submission deadline: 31 July 2025

Under the mentorship of internationally acclaimed filmmakers Abderrahame Sissako and Hicham Lasri, this film residency for 10 young women filmmakers from Africa aims to foster creativity, collaboration, and visibility for emerging African women filmmakers.

Apply now!

I. ABOUT

UNESCO is committed to promoting the diversity of cultural expressions and advancing gender equality within the arts and cultural industries, in line with the principles of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. By supporting initiatives that foster mobility and professional development, UNESCO aims to empower a new generation of African women to create impactful artistic works that are visible, accessible, and recognized.

Tamayouz Cinema Foundation is a Moroccan initiative aiming to build a creative, sustainable, and competitive film industry. Focused on empowering women professionals, it supports a new generation of filmmakers through training, networking, and project incubation. With a growing community, the Foundation seeks to create a lasting collective to represent industry voices, advocate for gender equality, and influence public policy across Morocco, Africa, and the Arab world.

With funding from the People's Republic of China and in partnership with the Tamayouz Cinema Foundation, UNESCO presents a 6-week filmmaking residency (15 September – 27 October 2025). This unique programme is open to **10 emerging women filmmakers from the five sub-regions of Africa**, providing a platform to enhance their skills, amplify their voices, and connect with influential players in the film industry.

This **film and artist-in-residence** offers an unparalleled opportunity for collaboration, artistic exchange, and professional growth accompanied by a group of experts in filmmaking, from scriptwriting, to filmmaking, and post-production.

The residency will be under the mentorship of:

- **Mr. Hicham Lasri**

Hicham Lasri, a versatile artist, has been interested in film language and writing since a young age, writing his first plays and short stories. His work is characterised by the exploration of social themes, adopting an avant-garde and experimental approach, both in his books and in his films. All his films are written and directed by himself. His books, like his films, are renowned for their humorous critique of society and their ability to push the boundaries of Moroccan literature. In 2011, he directed his first feature film, *The End*, which deals with the last days of King Hassan II. In *They Are the Dogs* (2013), he draws parallels between the Arab Spring of 2011 and the 'hunger riots' of 1981 in Morocco, appealing to both Arab and Western audiences and winning acclaim at festivals, accompanied by rave reviews. His third film, *The Sea Is Behind*, had its world premiere in Dubai in 2014, was presented in Panorama at the Berlinale in 2015 and won several awards at various festivals. *STARVE YOUR DOG*, the second part of the dog trilogy, was presented at the Toronto Film Festival in 2015 and selected for its European premiere at the 2016 Berlinale. In 2015, he directed *HEADBANG Lullaby*, followed by *Jahilya* in 2018, which was screened in the Forum section at the Berlinale. After a long career as a writer, director, novelist and comic book creator, his work continues to challenge conventions and explore new artistic horizons. Hicham Lasri aims to restore more humanity and freedom through his stories. In 2024, his film *Moroccan Badass Girl* ranked first in Morocco on the Netflix platform. The same year, he was awarded Best Director of a TV Film for his TV movie *Batema42* on the national channel Al Oula. His work continues to influence and capture a wide audience, consolidating his position in the film landscape of the MENA region.

- **Mr. Abderrhamane Sissako**

Abderrahmane Sissako has created a humanistic and socially conscious work that

explores the complex relations between North and South and the plight of a suffering African continent. Born in Kiffa, Mauritania, he spent his childhood in Mali. In 1983, he enrolled at the renowned VGIK, the State Institute of Cinematography in Moscow. There he made his first two short films: *Le jeu* and *Octobre*, which was presented in 1993 in the *Un Certain Regard* section of the Cannes Film Festival. Based on a commission for La Fontaine's fables, he made *Le Chameau et les bâtons flottants* (1995) and followed it up with a short film from the *Africa Dreamings* series, *Sabriya – Le Carré de l'échiquier*. In 1998, he shot *La Vie sur Terre*, a return to his native country that echoes the writings of Aimé Césaire. In 2002, he directed *En attendant le bonheur*, which won the International Critics' Prize at Cannes, the *Étalon de Yennenga* at Fespaco in and the Grand Prix at the Paris Arab Film Biennale. In 2006, in his family home in Mali, he shot *Bamako*, which was selected out of competition at the Cannes Film Festival. In 2015, *Timbuktu*, which was in the official competition at the Cannes Film Festival, generated great enthusiasm by becoming the first Mauritanian film to compete for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. In France, it won seven César Awards, including Best Director and Best Film. He is one of the few filmmakers from sub-Saharan Africa to have achieved international renown.

The Tamayouz Cinema Foundation will partner with the **Université Mohamed 6 Polytechnique (UM6P)** in Rabat, **the Digital Factory** in Marrakech, and **La Prod**, in Casablanca.

This residency represents a transformative initiative to foster artistic innovation, elevate women filmmakers, and contribute to the creative renewal of African cinema.

II. WHO CAN APPLY?

UNESCO invites **emerging African women filmmakers** aged 21-35 who are passionate about storytelling and have a background in film or audio-visual production to apply.

To ensure regional representation, **two applicants** will be selected from each sub-region of Africa: Northern Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa.

III. WHEN, WHERE AND WHAT?

The **residency programme** will take place during **six weeks** from **15 September to 27 October 2025** in the cities of **Rabat and Marrakech, Morocco**, hosted by the **Tamayouz Cinema Foundation**.

Residents will collaborate closely with their peers under the guidance of the **residency team**, benefiting from extensive artistic, technical, and logistical support provided by the Tamayouz Cinema Foundation and their partners. Filming equipment and resources will be made available. The residency combines technical training, short film production, and mentorship.

Theme of the residency

The writer-director Hicham Lasri, the mentoring supervisor of this residency, has agreed to leverage his original idea: a series on Casablanca's call centres. This imposed theme has the advantage of structuring the exercise but, above all, of maximizing collaborative learning and fostering collective creativity while respecting each participant's individual artistic voice. Thus, this subject serves as an arena in which each filmmaker can express her national and creative uniqueness while contributing to the project.

Today, Morocco has over 1,200 call centres, representing approximately 90,000 direct jobs, with Casablanca at their epicentre. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the

presence of young Sub-Saharan workers in these facilities: more than 20,000 Sub-Saharan students and young professionals now live in Morocco, often drawn by opportunities in customer-relations roles. These call centres have become living spaces and sites of cultural exchange, where the accents, references, aspirations, and struggles of an entire continent converge.

Programme

Format: Hybrid (online and in-person)

- August – September: Preparatory activities (online)
- 15 September – 27 October 2025: Six-week residency (in presential in Morocco):
 - Session 1: Introduction and development of scenarios
 - Session 2: Pre-production
 - Session 3: Production
 - Session 4: Post-production and closing of the residency
- October – December: Post-residency follow-up (online)
- The residency programme offers selected filmmakers multiple networking opportunities to forge lasting connections.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

In order to apply for this filmmaking residency, you must qualify for the following conditions:

- 1) Identify as a woman
- 2) A citizen of an African state
- 3) At least 21 years old and no more than 35 years old before the beginning of the residency
- 4) At least 2 years of professional film or audio-visual experience
- 5) Must have written and directed one fiction film (short, medium, or long feature) preferably showcased at a festival and/or broadcasted
- 6) Must speak and understand English and/or French fluently

Before submitting your application, please ensure that you meet the following requirements:

- You attest that you are able to travel to and stay in Morocco for the full duration of the filmmaking residency (15 September – 27 October 2025) and are available to travel one or two days after and before.
- You attest that you will be available online to participate in the preparatory activities of the residency.
- You hold a passport that is valid until at least June 2026.

V. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Motivation:** Demonstrate a clear and compelling reason for your interest in participating in this filmmaking residency in Morocco.
2. **Relevance:** Explain how this residency aligns with your professional goals and how it will enhance your filmmaking skills and capacities.
3. **Sustainability:** Describe how you plan to leverage this experience to inspire others and advance opportunities for women in the film industry.

VI. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

To apply for the filmmaking residency, applicants must follow these steps:

1. **Complete the Application Form:** Fill out the form **in English or in French**. (Applications received in other languages will not be considered).
2. **Attach Required Materials:** Include all necessary documents, such as Curriculum Vitae, and a copy of your passport.
3. **Sign and Date:** Ensure the application is signed and dated.
4. **Submit Application:** Send the completed application by **31 July 2025** via email to convention2005.call@unesco.org. UNESCO will confirm receipt via email, and all applicants will be notified.

A selection committee, comprising representatives from **UNESCO** and the **Tamayouz Cinema Foundation**, will assess all applications. Successful candidates will be selected based on the **eligibility and selection criteria** outlined in this call.

After reviewing written applications, shortlisted candidates will be invited to a virtual meeting prior to the final selection.

VII. LOGISTICS

Selected participants will receive logistical support, including:

- Travel arrangements from home country to Morocco.
- Assistance with administrative and visa procedures.
- Accommodation, meals, and local transportation for the duration of the residency. Transportation expenses related to activities included in the residency program will be covered. Local transportation costs for personal purposes are the responsibility of the residents and should be paid from their per diems.
- Training and production costs for the shooting of the short films (equal amount for all participants to the residency).
- Per diems for other expenses.

VIII. KEY DATES

Date	Activity
7 July 2025	Launch of the open call for applications
31 July 2025	Deadline for applications submissions
15 August 2025	Announcement of the selected candidates
28 August 2025	Online session / Preparatory activities
15 September - 27 October 2025	6-week residency in Morocco

IX. RESIDENCY TEAM

Lamia CHRAIBI

Producer and founder of Moon & Deal Films, established in Paris in 2011, and La Prod, in Casablanca in 2007, Lamia collaborates with renowned directors, promoting creativity and pushing narrative boundaries. Her line-up includes the co-production of Oliver Laxe's 'Las Mimosas' (Grand Prix at the Critics' Week at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival) and Balint Kenyeres' 'Tegnap' (Locarno FF). Lamia has produced projects such as Talal Selhami's 'Achoura', the first Moroccan fantasy film (Best Film at the Hardline Festival, Special Mention from the Jury at the Sitges Fantasy Film Festival), and Ismael Ferroukhi's 'Mica' (Angoulême Francophone Film Festival 2020). Her repertoire also includes documentaries, notably Simone Bitton's 'Ziyara', Mohamed El Aboudi's 'École de l'Espoir' (Special Jury Prize at Hot Docs, Special Prize at the Tampere Film Festival) and 'Genet, Notre Père des Fleurs' by the late Dalila Ennadre. In 2021, Lamia Chraibi participated in Film Independent's Global Media Makers programme and the EAVE

European producers' workshop. She is currently involved in the ACE programme, the first European network of successful producers Europe and beyond. She founded the Tamayouz Cinema Foundation, dedicated to the professionalisation of women in the Moroccan film industry through workshops, scholarships and mentoring programmes, for a better representation of women in cinema.

Pauline MORINEAU

Trained at La Fémis and École Centrale Paris, Pauline Morineau began her career as Head of Development at a production company. She later became an independent consultant, then served as a Program Executive at Canal+ for 12 years, focusing on Original Creation series. Alongside her professional work, she co-created the “Feature Film Screenwriting Expertise” training program at La Fémis, where she teaches. Today, as an independent script doctor, she works on both feature films and series, while continuing to teach in several French schools and mentor in writing workshops.

Sebastien ONOMO

Sébastien Onomo is a producer who has been working in film and audiovisual media for over ten years. To date, he has produced numerous films for television, such as *Bois d'Ébène* by Moussa Touré, *Léon Blum haï et adoré* by Julia Bracher and Hugo Hayat, *Rudy Gobert* by Jonathan Bensimhon, and *African Empires*, a documentary series directed by Chris Macari, Françoise Ellong-Gomez, Askia Traoré and Josza Anjembe. He also produced *Le Gang des Antillais* by Jean-Claude Barny, *Funan* by Denis Do, which won a Cristal award at the Annecy Festival in 2018, *Les Âmes Perdues* by Garance Le Caisne and Stéphane Malterre in 2022, *La Forêt de Mademoiselle Tang* by Denis Do, selected for a special screening at Annecy 2023 and nominated for the 2024 César Awards in the animated short film category, and *La Sirène* by Sepideh Farsi, which was the opening film of the Panorama selection at the Berlinale 2023 and selected at the Annecy Festival 2023, where it won the award for best music as well as the award for best director at the Festival des Champs-Élysées 2023. He also co-produced *Augure* by Baloji, selected at the Cannes Film Festival 2023 in the Un Certain Regard category and winner the New Voice Award. Finally, he produced Jean-Claude Barny's latest feature film, *Fanon*, currently in theatres. In addition to his work as a producer, he was elected Vice-President of the Syndicat des Producteurs Indépendants (Le SPI) and President of the Animation College in 2023. That same year, he received the Film Français animation award at the 2023 Annecy Festival. For many years, he has contributed his expertise to various university programmes (Paris 3, Paris 7) and prestigious schools such as INA, FEMIS and Les Gobelins, and is the creator of the Panafrican Animation Workshop.

Yasmina TAMER

Yasmina Tamer grew up in London, Copenhagen, then Rabat and Casablanca, before studying business at Paris Dauphine University. After an initial career in the fashion industry, she transitioned to cinema through the Master's program “Image and Society” at the University of Evry-Val d'Essonne, which combines film and visual anthropology. She gained her first experience with producers such as Vincent Wang (House on Fire Films), Delphine Schmit, and Gaëlle Jones (Perspective Films), contributing to the development of films such as *Youth* by Wang Bing (Official Competition – Cannes) and *Our Mothers* by César Diaz (Caméra d'Or – Cannes). She then moved into international sales at Memento and later Le Pacte, where she contributed to the global distribution of films like *Monos* by Alejandro Landes (Best Film – BFI London), *Call Me by Your Name* by Luca Guadagnino (Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay), *Good Time* by the Safdie Brothers, *Everybody Knows* by Asghar Farhadi, and *The Wild Pear Tree* by Nuri Bilge Ceylan (all three in competition at Cannes). In 2021, she joined a project initiated by Nabil Ayouch: Aflamin, the first streaming platform created in Morocco dedicated to cinema, seizing a long-awaited opportunity to return to Morocco and contribute to promoting cinematic diversity.

Asmae ZIATI

Asmae Ziati is lead editor and head of image at Digital Factory Marrakech, where she has overseen the postproduction of a wide variety of projects—fiction, documentaries, TV series, advertising, music videos, and institutional content—since 2015. Trained at Mondial Média and Studio M, she has developed comprehensive expertise in editing, technical supervision, and team coordination. She has worked on many Moroccan TV films and series, as well as projects aired on Canal+ Afrique, including the series FSA. She has supervised postproduction for films directed by Jillali Ferhati, Noureddine Lakhmari, Layla Triqui, and Karim Tajouaout, and has taken part in multiple editions of the Marrakech International Film Festival, where she edited masterclasses and tributes for Agnès Varda, Robert Redford, Paolo Sorrentino, James Gray, Tilda Swinton, and others. In addition to her editing work, she mentors emerging talents in building their short films and actively contributes to the development of a structured, high-standard postproduction ecosystem in Morocco.

David MAGALHÃES

David Magalhães is a French colorist and postproduction specialist whose career has been shaped through collaborations with major names in European cinema. Trained in audiovisual techniques in Paris, he began his career at Éclair Lab before joining Digital Factory, one of the most dynamic postproduction hubs in France, where he has led the rushes department for over 10 years. Over time, David has developed deep expertise in rush grading and color continuity, becoming involved in projects from the earliest stages of postproduction. His keen eye and sensitivity to light allow him to support a wide range of visual styles, from action and science fiction to auteur films. Within Digital Factory, he has contributed to large-scale productions such as “Lucy” and “Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets” by Luc Besson, “3 Days to Kill” by McG (also produced by EuropaCorp), and has worked closely with renowned cinematographers on demanding international projects. Alongside blockbusters, David also supports more intimate films, collaborating with emerging and established filmmakers on projects where cinematography is central to storytelling. His technical mastery, combined with a deep understanding of artistic intent, makes him a key partner in shaping a film’s visual identity. He continues his work at Digital Factory today, bringing his experience to both French and international projects, and actively contributing to the evolution of postproduction practices in the industry.

Thomas AYMAR

Thomas Aymar is a sound designer and artistic director. Trained at the ARFIS school in Lyon, he has spent over a decade working in sound design, mixing, dubbing, and music creation between France and Morocco. Since 2024, he has served as Artistic and Technical Director at Digital Factory Marrakech, where he oversees the entire audio postproduction process: studio design, voice recording, multilingual dubbing, 2.0 and 5.1 mixing, and sound direction for fiction, animated series, documentaries, commercials, and music projects. He also leads a team of specialized technicians and develops internal training programs in dubbing and postproduction. Before that, he worked at Hiventy North Africa and Lylo Africa, contributing to many productions for platforms, TV channels, and festivals. He also collaborated on audiovisual projects in France with BFMTV, NRJ12, Europa Dubbing, and recorded music at Everest Studio Paris. In parallel to his studio work, Thomas Aymar composes music under the artist name Nourad, with several EPs released through Carton Pâte Records (France), Badlqqk Records (Canada), and Bunkaball Records. Versatile and passionate about sound creation in all its forms, Thomas brings a sensitive, rigorous approach to sound as a language of its own, serving visually ambitious and globally minded narratives.

X. UNESCO SECRETARIAT CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you have any questions, please contact the UNESCO Secretariat by e-mail: convention2005.call@unesco.org.