

AA2A

30 years of nurturing creative talent

Birmingham City University

AA2A 2026-27

Key Dates & Information

The Department of Art and Design at Birmingham City University offers AA2A artists access to a wide range of specialist facilities as part of our commitment to our heritage as an outward-facing institution rooted in Birmingham since our founding in 1843. Participants will be given full access, after appropriate inductions, to an impressive array of workshops across our two sites: the historic School of Art on Margaret Street, and the Parkside building on the main campus. Facilities include printmaking and letterpress; textiles and weaving; metal, wood and plaster studios; CAD Lab, laser-cutting and 3D printing; video and sound production and editing suites; animation studios; photography facilities (both analogue and digital); and ceramics.

Contact for enquiries: AA2A@bcu.ac.uk

Placements will be running from 2 Nov 2026 – 7 May 2027.

We welcome applications from individuals from a broad range of art and design practices that resonate with the diverse disciplines represented across our courses, including: Fine Art (Painting and Printmaking, Sculpture, Photography and Video), Art and Design with Creative Technologies, Illustration, Entertainment Design, Graphic Design, Digital Marketing, Product Design, Art and Education Practices, and Visual Communication.

Application key dates	Date
Application deadline	14th September
Shortlisted candidates notified by	1st October
Interviews & portfolio reviews	7th October
Formal offers issued by	12th October
Offer acceptance deadline	16th October
General induction session	2nd November

Dates are subject to change, and delays may occur. If there are significant delays to the scheme's start, the host may extend the end date. Attendance at the induction session is usually mandatory before you can access the host's facilities.

List of facilities: Facilities include printmaking and letterpress; textiles and weaving; metal, wood and plaster studios; CAD Lab, laser-cutting and 3D printing; video and sound production and editing suites; animation studios; photography facilities (both analogue and digital); and ceramics.

List of 'extra' facilities/areas: School of Art Library, Supplies Shop (Parkside), School of Art Lecture Series on Tuesdays from 16-17:00 during term time (details will be available from September).

Campus address: School of Art, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BX; and Parkside Building, 5 Cardigan Street, Birmingham B4 7BD

Workspace arrangements: We are unable offer dedicated permanent individual workspaces; however, through the scheme artists will have to access to workshop facilities without allocated space, with the possibility of secure storage of work/materials depending on the specific workshop. Booking arrangements and induction meetings will be necessary for all workshop areas.

Access to facilities and equipment will need to be negotiated and planned based on your project needs and the specific requirements of the workshop facility you are working in primarily. Access cannot always be guaranteed, as student access may be prioritised on certain dates/times.

Wheelchair access: Workshops are fully accessible at either the School of Art or Parkside. Please contact us for further details and individual access needs.

Access dates and holidays: Access is expected to be available from November 2026 to May 2027. In addition to bank holidays some university facilities will be closed, or working under reduced hours and access for Winter Break (21 December 2026 - 3 January 2027) and Easter Break (29 March - 11 April 2027)

For more information visit -

<https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/welcome/when-you-get-here/timetables>

Access time: Unless by special arrangement, access will normally be during hours that the department is open to students, which is normally between 9:00 - 16:00, Monday to Friday (hours may be subject to change due to staff availability and student use priority).

Equipment and Facilities

The following equipment are available to participants on the scheme across our facilities at the School of Art and Parkside buildings. If you have any specific queries regarding the facilities listed, please contact us for more information at AA2A@bcu.ac.uk

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School of Art

Printmaking: Presses and production facilities for Intaglio (dry-point, etching, aquatint, sugar-lift), Serigraphy, Lithography (plate and stone), Relief (lino, woodcut, collagraph)

Textiles: Sewing and Embroidery, hand-dyeing, heat transfer, rug punch

Sculpture: Wood Construction (panel saw, table saw, band saw, hand tools); Metalwork; Casting (mould making and casting in latex, silicone; Laser cutting

Photography: analogue and digital cameras, lighting studio and equipment, small darkroom for screen/plate exposures and alternative processes such as cyanotype, chemograms, digital printing up to A0

Video: video and audio capture, camcorders, digital editing and mixing, stop-frame animation

Library: specialist fine art and design library with reference and circulation services

Visting Artist Lecture Series: regular weekly artist lecture series on Tuesday afternoon during term times.

Parkside

Printmaking: Presses and production facilities Serigraphy, Relief, Letterpress, Book-binding

Ceramics: pottery wheels, slip blunger and casting bench, selection of clay bodies, glazes, underglazes and colour slips, trolley and front-loading electric kilns

Plaster: plaster bandsaw, lathes and whirler, drying cabinet

Wood and Metal: CNC machinery for wood and metal

CAD Lab: Trotec Speedy 400 laser cutters, Ultimaker2+ 3D printers, Raise duel-head 3D Printers, and Formlabs Resin Printers for prototyping and final printing of 3D models.

General Application Information

Eligibility criteria:

- Artists must have at least one year of professional arts practice
- Artists are expected to commit to 100+ hours on-site during the residency period
- Artists can work independently, with minimal technical support from staff
- Artists must be willing to deliver up to 4 sessions to students (workshop, talk, etc.).
- Artists must monitor and respond to AA2A emails promptly throughout the residency period
- Artists must agree to the [terms and conditions](#) of AA2A residencies

Who can't apply:

- Artists in full-time education or on a part-time undergraduate course
- Artists who have participated in AA2A within the last 2 years (i.e. 2024/25 or 2025/26)

Selection criteria:

- Project proposal: A considered project outline describing ambition and goals for the residency, which aligns with the host institution's specific educational objectives, if any, including how it will help your creative development and noting which facilities and equipment will be used
- Proposal for contributing to student development and a commitment to being a positive role model for art students
- Realistic travel plans and an achievable estimate of how much time will be spent at the host with a commitment to attending a minimum of 80 hours
- Clear understanding of residency format - aware of timescales alongside your other obligations and financial situation; must be capable of working independently after equipment and workshop inductions
- Commitment to timely communication with the AA2A team and host staff, plus completion of a two-part AA2A evaluation
- Positive, approachable and collaborative attitude

Full details on eligibility and selection can be found [here](#). You may also find our [FAQ page](#) useful.

Artist Support Fund

AA2A has a fund for artists participating in AA2A schemes to help with the cost of childcare, travel and materials, and costs associated with disability incurred during the residency period. Artists must have accepted a place before they apply for ASF.

Eligibility Criteria	Maximum Amount Available
Artists on benefits associated with low income	Up to £400
Artists with a personal income below £13,000 and a household income below £25,000 (not receiving benefits)	Up to £300
Artists with costs associated with disability	Up to £700

Artists can apply for support with costs associated with disability AND low income/benefits.

As we have a fixed ASF budget, we cannot guarantee we will approve all claims/give everyone the full amount they requested. Click [here](#) for further information.

Public liability insurance

Some hosts recommend, or may require, AA2A residents to have public liability insurance. Through AA2A's partnership with AXIS, residents are eligible for discounted AXIS membership, which includes public liability insurance.

How to apply

To apply for an AA2A residency, please complete the form on [this page](#). You will then receive the link to the main application form. Once submitted, your responses will be sent to AA2A and shared with your chosen host institution(s).

You must apply to a scheme before its stated application deadline. Applications submitted after the deadline may not be considered (unless the deadline has been formally extended).