

AA2A

30 years of nurturing creative talent

De Montfort University

AA2A 2026-27

Key Dates & Information

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Placements will be running from mid-October 2026 to 25 April 2027.

We welcome applications from creatives of all backgrounds and are particularly interested in candidates with experience in painting, sculpture, installation, community-based practices, and new media.

Application key dates	Date
Application deadline	12th September
Shortlisted candidates notified by	19th September
Interviews & portfolio reviews	25th September (online)
Formal offers issued by	2nd October
Offer acceptance deadline	9th October
General induction session	19th October

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 'extra' facilities/areas:

- Library (reference and lending rights)
- Leicester Gallery Shop

Workspace arrangements for AA2A residents: dedicated studio space

Wheelchair access: All workshop facilities are wheelchair accessible

Access dates and holidays: The university is closed 25 December 2026 – 1 January 2027, 26 – 30 March 2027

Access time: Studio access Monday – Friday, 7:30am to 9pm, Saturday 10am – 4pm. Technical studio open times vary but are generally Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm.

Equipment and Facilities

The following equipment and facilities are available to participants on the scheme. If you have any specific queries regarding the facilities listed, please email the host for more information. As a reminder, the AA2A scheme is intended to support artists in developing and refining their existing skills, rather than acting as a formal training programme or an opportunity to learn a new skill.

Booking arrangements and induction meetings will be necessary for most workshop areas.

Printmaking - lithography, plate and stone, etching, screen process, digital imaging, relief print, photo-process

Wood construction - frame and stretcher making, band, radial and circular saws, lathes, sanders and finishers, pillar drills, hand routers

Ceramics - wheels, gas and electric kilns, extruders may be available by arrangement

Metalworking – C & C cutting and small welding facilities may be available by arrangement

Mould making - plaster, ceramic shell.

Digital technologies - Mac and PC computers and scanners, Computer-aided design and modelling, animation, time-based media, sound, colour and black & white laser printers, laser cutting, 3D printers

Film and Video – video and sound editing suites, audio dubbing and computer overlay, digital video, frame advance animation

Photography – photography studios, black and white darkrooms

Plastics – foam forming, resin casting and work

Spray booths

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).