

AA2A

30 years of nurturing creative talent

Loughborough University

AA2A 2026-27

Key Dates & Information

Loughborough University is host to a Fine Art programme that ranks 4th in the UK and a range of first-class facilities, equipment and expertise. We have exceptional provision in ceramics and printmaking, but also excel in paint, photography, wood and construction.

Contact for enquiries: sdca.visitingartists@mailbox.lboro.ac.uk

Placements will be running from 14 October 2026 to 18 June 2027.

Application key dates	Date
Application deadline	31st August
Shortlisted candidates notified by	18th September
Interviews & portfolio reviews	23rd September (online)
Formal offers issued by	25th September
Offer acceptance deadline	28th September
General induction session	14th 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 facilities: printmaking, wood, ceramics, mould making, digital media, film & video, performance, photography, painting, some small-scale metalwork facilities may be available by arrangement.

List of 'extra' facilities/areas:

- All workshop areas

- Supporting areas, i.e., photographic darkroom and computer room
- Library (reference and lending rights)
- Guest lecture programme when available
- Social facilities

Workspace arrangements for AA2A residents: We will make a dedicated shared studio space available to our visiting artists

Wheelchair access: We also endeavour to make studio and workshop space wheelchair accessible.

Access dates and holidays: In addition to bank holidays the university will be closed from 24th Dec 2025 – 1st Jan 2026, 3rd – 7th April 2026, 4th and 26th May.

Access time: Unless by special arrangement, access will normally be during hours that the department is open to students, which is normally between 9.00am – 8.00pm, Monday to Friday.

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.

Library - on site specialist art and design library with lending and reference facilities

Visiting lecture programme

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, pugmills, gas and electric kilns, extruders

Metalworking - some small-scale metalwork 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

Film and Video - camcorders, VHS editing and mixing, audio dubbing and computer overlay, digital video, frame advance animation

Photography – photography studios, black and white darkrooms, analogue and digital cameras and printing

Other equipment/facilities - e.g., paper making, bookbinding, 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).