

AA2A

30 years of nurturing creative talent

New City College

AA2A 2026-27

Key Dates & Information

New City College (NCC) is the largest 'Outstanding' Further Education Provider in the UK. Creative education is central to the NCC offer, and we enrol around 1500 young people onto a creative programme each year. The creative sector is also a national and London regional priority, and NCC works hard with employers and external stakeholders to meet the needs of industry and higher education.

Contact for enquiries: john.waite@ncclondon.ac.uk

Campus addresses: Hackney Sixth Form, Kenninghall Rd, London E5 8BP

Hackney GFE, Falkirk Street, Hackney, N1 6HQ

Havering Sixth Form, Wingletye Lane, Hornchurch, RM11 3TB

Havering GFE – Ardleigh Green, Ardleigh Green Road, RM11 2LL

Redbridge, Chadwell Heath Lane, Chadwell Heath RM6 4XT

Tower Hamlets, Poplar High Street, London, E14 0AF

Please note that successful applicants will be based at a single campus and will not have access to all campuses

Placements will be running from October 2026 to July 2027.

New City College welcomes applications from creatives of all backgrounds and is particularly interested in candidates with experience in Photography, Graphics, Printmaking, Fashion / Textiles, Architecture, Visual Arts, Digital Arts/ Installation, 3D / Ceramics, Fine Art.

Application key dates	Date
Application deadline	1st September
Shortlisted candidates notified by	11th September
Interviews & portfolio reviews	Week beginning 14th September
Formal offers issued by	18th September
Offer acceptance deadline	25th September
General induction session	Late September/early 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.

Candidates will be expected to work with young people, so will require an Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. This can take anything from one day to eight weeks, and will be significantly speeded up by the applicant holding a current form of UK identity (e.g. passport). A candidate with an existing Enhanced Employee or Volunteer DBS showing as live on the DBS update service may mean that we can start the individual with no further DBS checks.

All successful candidates will be required to complete basic training in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) legislation prior to start.

Workspace arrangements for AA2A residents: Some campuses may be able to offer a dedicated desk space, all will be able to offer shared or hot-desk space. Access to facilities will be allocated around student use, and there may be some limited secure storage of work/materials available.

Access dates and holidays: Facilities will be open term time during the residency period. Some, or all campuses will be closed during the following times (these will be announced prior):

October Half Term Break: 26 October – 30 October 2026 (some campuses closed)

Christmas Break: 21 December 2026 – 1 January 2027 (no access)

February Half Term: 15 – 19 February 2027 (some campuses closed)

Easter Break: 26 March – 9 April 2027 (some campuses closed during this period)

Summer Half Term Break: 31 May – 4 June 2027 (some campuses closed)

Summer Break: From 16th July

Staff Development Days (No Student classes or other student activities):

Friday 23 October 2026

Wednesday 27 January 2027

Tuesday 6 July 2027

Wednesday 7 July 2027

Access time: 09:00 - 17:00. Some campuses open Tuesday and/ or Thursday evenings until 21:00 (term time only)

Equipment and Facilities

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.

Hackney Sixth Form: Open studio space, 360 immersive projection studio, print facilities, fashion/textiles studio, photography and podcast studio, theatre

Hackney GFE: Open studio space, ceramics studio & kiln room, fashion pattern cutting and machining spaces (suite of industrial sewing machines) & Textiles, photography and podcast studio

Havering Sixth Form: Open plan art studio - screen printing, ceramics and printmaking. Fashion & textiles studio, architecture studio with 2D/ 3D software, 3D modelmaking, workshop with CNC, plasma and laser cutters. TV & podcast studio, photography (black & white digital studios)

Havering GFE: Open studio space, specialist print facilities, fashion/textiles studio, audio recording studio, TV & podcast studio (multi-cam, green screen), radio suite, moving image edit booths

Redbridge: Print workshop and wet area, painting & drawing studios, digital photography, Mac suites, multi-use studio incl. for filming and podcast, small breakout studio areas

Tower Hamlets: Printmaking (paper and textiles), ceramics, plaster, glass, laser, traditional hand tools, sewing machines (traditional & digital), photography (dark room), dying (natural and procion), mixed media studio space, green screen filming & podcast suite

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).