

AA2A

30 years of nurturing creative talent

University of Chester

AA2A 2026-27

Key Dates & Information

The Division of Art, Design and Innovation at The University of Chester has a tightly knit community of creative staff and students and is rich with expertise, opportunities and ideas. It has been a supporter of the AA2A scheme for over 13 years and during that time, we find that the presence of emerging and established artists amongst our student cohorts, workshops and studios provides both motivation and inspiration. It is a fantastic opportunity for artists to access a wealth of equipment and machinery in return for working alongside students studying in the same disciplines. A particular highlight is the exhibition of AA2A artists' final work at the conclusion of the scheme.

Contact for enquiries: ahsbusinessadmin@chester.ac.uk

Placements will be running from 12 October 2026 to 12 May 2027

We welcome applications from creatives of all backgrounds and are particularly interested in candidates with experience in Sculpture, Printmaking, Painting, Collage, Digital Media, Textiles and Photography.

Application key dates	Date
Application deadline	4th September
Shortlisted candidates notified by	11th September
Interviews & portfolio reviews	Week beginning 21 September at the Kingsway Campus, Chester
Formal offers issued by	25th September
Offer acceptance deadline	1st October
General induction session	Week beginning 12 October 2026 at the Kingsway Campus, Chester

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, metal, foundry, fashion and textiles, laser cutting, 3D printing, video, sound, analogue and digital photography, digital printing, graphics, animation, virtual reality, letterpress typography, bookbinding, painting, drawing

List of 'extra' facilities/areas:

- All workshop and supporting areas available to art, design & innovation design students
- Library (reference and lending rights)
- General art, design & innovation lecture programme
- Social facilities, e.g., canteen and common room
- Wider University events by negotiation

Workspace arrangements for AA2A residents: Access to workshops is through negotiation with the technical team and will be accommodated around the taught student timetable. Depending on the needs of our student population, studio space could be provided. Limited storage of work is possible and again through negotiation with technical staff.

Wheelchair access: Our campus is accessible for wheelchair users. Technical support may be required to access certain machinery.

Access dates and holidays: The campus will not be open during Bank Holidays and seasonal holiday periods. Dates TBC

Access time: Access to the campus during the working week is between 9.00am - 10.00pm, with specialist workshop access between 9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am - 4.00pm on Fridays. These spaces are managed by technical staff and will need to be informed if access is required.

Equipment and Facilities

We expect the following equipment and facilities to be available to participants on the scheme. If you have any specific queries regarding the facilities listed, please contact us for more information. Booking arrangements and induction procedures may be necessary for some workshop areas.

Equipment & Facilities

The following equipment and facilities are available to participants on the scheme and subject to availability around timetabled student use through negotiation with technical staff. If you have any specific queries regarding the facilities listed, please contact us for more information.

Library - on site specialist art, design & innovation library holding core texts and periodicals, access to full range of subject books at Seabourne Library on the Exton Park Campus

Lecture programme - including visiting lecturers, programme will be published at beginning of term. Invitation to the Division's "Creative Futures Week" series of professional talks.

Printmaking - etching, screen process, digital imaging, relief print, letterpress, photo process mono and colour

Wood construction - frame and stretcher making, bandsaws, large panel saw and circular saw, sanders and finishers, pillar drills. Range of cordless tools and traditional hand tools.

Metal casting - aluminium, sand casting

Mould making - plaster, silicone and alginate soft moulds, vinamold

Digital technologies - Mac and PC computers and scanners, Computer Aided Design, animation, time-based media, sound, colour and black and white laser printers, large scale inkjet printers, Web design, Internet access, Laser Cutter, 3D printing, 3D scanning, CNC prototyping

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

Photography - mono, film processing and printing, colour mini lab, studios and darkrooms, digital cameras and analogue cameras.

Textiles - sewing machines, digital textile printing, fashion garment making technology

Other equipment/facilities - bookbinding, Augmented and Virtual Reality software/tools

Exhibition Spaces – artwork can be displayed through the Division's CASC gallery including an end-of-placement exhibition.

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).