

AA2A

30 years of nurturing creative talent

University of Lancashire

AA2A 2026-27

Key Dates & Information

The University of Lancashire's specialist art studios and facilities sit at the centre of the Preston campus. Both Victoria and Hanover buildings offer relaxed creative spaces and professional expertise for artists to develop projects, offering multiple interdisciplinary studios, specialist research centres, exhibition spaces and extensive creative workshops.

Contact for enquiries: AAtOA@lancashire.ac.uk

Placements will be running from 2 November 2026 to 30 July 2027.

We welcome applications from creatives of all backgrounds and are particularly interested in candidates with experience in Printmaking, Ceramics and Animation.

Application key dates	Date
Application deadline	16th September
Shortlisted candidates notified by	9th October
Interviews & portfolio reviews	Week beginning 19th Oct (in person)
Formal offers issued by	26th October
Offer acceptance deadline	30th October
General induction session	Week of 2nd November on campus

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 (incl. intaglio, relief, lithography and screenprinting), Ceramics (inc. electric wheels and glaze room) Fashion & Textiles (incl. tufting gun, washing machine, laser cutting

& printing, embroidery), workshops associated with fine art practice. Animation (inc. 4 stop frame studios, 35mm digital cameras, rostrum cameras, multi plane and motion control rig. Workshop facilities for making sets and building puppets, two motion capture suits and a large high performance digital 3D scanner that can capture a person. 3D printers, Laser Cutters and a dedicated sound room.

List of 'extra' facilities/areas:

- Library (reference and lending rights)
- Fine art lecture programme (tbc)
- Social facilities, i.e., on campus refectory, coffee shops and bars
- Sports Centre – there is a monthly charge for these facilities if interested.

Workspace arrangements for AA2A residents: access to facilities without allocated space. If working in Print there is access to plan chest storage while on the residency.

Wheelchair access: Print, Ceramics and Animation are all accessible.

Access dates and holidays: Access to all studios and workshops is Monday – Friday during normal working hours (excluding weekends), in addition to bank holidays the university will be closed for Winter and Spring seasonal holidays. Please check university website for dates.

Access time: Unless by special arrangement, access will normally be during hours that the studios are open to students, which is normally between 9.00am - 6.00pm, Monday to Thursday and 9.00am - 5.00pm on Fridays

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 contact us for more information.

Booking arrangements and induction meetings will be necessary for most workshop areas. Necessary inductions and booking arrangements will be arranged for you where relevant.

Library - on campus library hub with lending & reference facilities. Access to Artlab Contemporary Print Studios specialist printmaking archive with print, books and periodicals for viewing and reference.

Lecture programme - including visiting lecturers dates tbc

Printmaking - Artlab Contemporary Print studios offer traditional intaglio as well as polymer gravure and digital print processes, relief, lithography and silkscreen.

Our Intaglio studios offer opportunities for etching aluminium, zinc and copper using metal salt. Our silkscreen studios are equipped to produce hand cut stencils, hand drawn autographic images and digitally produces photographic positives for screens.

Dedicated relief presses enable the production of traditional lino, wood and collagraph plates while our lithography studios are equipped for offset plate and direct stone lithography. Further details can be seen at www.artlabcontemporaryprint.org.uk

Textiles workshop supports processes such as Rug making and Dyeing. This resource has been designed so that wet processes can take place such as papermaking and felt making. The workshop includes the following equipment - Tufting Gun, Washing machines, Hot Plates, Liquidisers. The Fashion & Textile studios have domestic sewing machines, overlockers, industrial machines.

Digital print studio supports all subject areas and has the following equipment:

Epson Dye sublimation printer, Epilog legend Laser Cutter (Fusion M2 & Legend 36 EXT), Roland Versa Camm SG 540 Vinyl Printer & Cutter (wide printing and cutting up to 1320mm), domestic digital embroidery machines, Heat Press.

Digital Media - Autodesk software suites, Full Adobe Suite, Premiere Plus 2' digital embroidery software, Logic Pro etc.

Continuous lighting studio for using own cameras or camera phones to photograph/take videos. White, black and grey background available. There will be an induction at the beginning of November.

Media Stores - Canon DSLR Cameras, Video Cameras, Tripods, Sound Equipment, TV Monitors – this is bookable depending on availability.

Ceramics Studio - The Ceramics Studio includes plenty of desktop workspaces, and a throwing area with 6 electric wheels. Alongside the making area there are facilities for the preparation and processing of clay. There is a glaze room for the preparation of glazes and slips, including an extensive range of ceramic raw materials, pigments etc, electronic balances and spray equipment. The kiln room includes a range of electric kilns, gas kilns and test kilns. In a further workshop, there is a large trolley-kiln, a large flat-bed kiln and facilities for cutting, grinding and polishing ceramic work and plaster lathes.

Animation Stop Frame Studio and workshops – There are 4 stop frame studios equipped with Dragon frame and lighting rigs. There are 35mm digital cameras available as well as a range of prime lenses from 50mm, 24mm as well as several different sized zoom lenses. There are also workshop facilities for making sets and building puppets: moulds, armatures, spray booth and foam

latex puppets as well as two motion capture suits and a large high performance digital 3D scanner that can capture a person. There are several different 3D printers, as well as Laser Cutters and a dedicated sound room. There are also rostrum cameras, a multi plane and a motion control rig.

We also have the full Adobe Suite, Toon Boom and Storyboard Pro with Cintiq drawing tablets attached to every computer and two dedicated edit suites.

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).