

AA2A

30 years of nurturing creative talent

Blackpool School of Arts

AA2A 2026-27

Key Dates & Information

We're proud to be part of a creative community that values collaboration, experimentation, and mutual learning. AA2A allows us to connect students with practicing artists, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences. Our well-equipped studios and specialist workshops provide the perfect environment for hands-on learning and professional practice.

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Placements will be running from 12th October 2026 to 21st May 2027

Blackpool School of Arts welcomes applications from creatives of all backgrounds and is particularly interested in candidates with experience in Photography, Ceramics, Fashion and textiles, Graphic design and Illustration, Fine art.

Application key dates	Date
Application deadline	14th September
Shortlisted candidates notified by	25th September
Interviews & portfolio reviews	28th September (online)
Formal offers issued by	2nd October
Offer acceptance deadline	8th October
General induction session	Week commencing 12th 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, metal, ceramics, laser cutting, 3D printing, fashion, costume, performance, theatre, film, video, sound, digital media, virtual reality, illustration, analogue and

digital photography, digital printing, graphics, painting, music facilities and recording studios, 111 seat theatre and rehearsal rooms

List of 'extra' facilities/areas:

- All workshop areas available to students
- Supporting areas, i.e., framing facilities and computer room
- Library (reference and lending rights)
- Visiting lecture programme
- Social facilities, i.e., canteen and coffee shop

Access dates and holidays: Access will be available from 12th Oct 2026 to 21st May 2027. In addition to bank holidays the university will be closed from 19 Dec 2026 – 5th Jan 2027 and may have reduced access between the 26th March and the 12th of April 2027.

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 - 5.00pm from Monday to Wednesday and 9.00am - 8.30pm on Thursday and Friday 9.00 am - 4.30pm

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.

PC/Apple Mac facilities

The college has a wide range of open access IT facilities, populated with industry standard PCs and Apple Macs. An extensive range of professional, industry standard software is also available to use.

Art Gallery

Large, Art Deco gallery space with ample wall space/floorspace to display artwork. This space is bookable throughout the academic year and is managed and curated by Aaron Tonks.

Library

On-site specialist art and design library with lending, reference facilities, computer suits & private study areas.

Printmaking Facilities (Traditional & Digital)

At BSOA we still retain a fully functioning printmaking studio, with both traditional printmaking equipment alongside state-of-the-art digital kit. This mix of traditional and digital equipment

nurtures experimentation and allows for not only the long-established printmaking methods to be used but also the freedom to develop more experimental techniques, using a fusion of digital technology. We are fully setup for all Etching/Intaglio processes, Screen Printing (Traditional & digital) & Relief (lino/woodblock) printing. We also have a digital positive printing facility with full UV exposure unit, laser cutters and a vinyl cutting machine. The printmaking studio has a dedicated skilled technician on hand and also has a specialist printmaking tutor for taught sessions.

1 x large, purpose built printmaking studio/class room space
Epson 4880 Digital positive system
2 x kippax printtech large format screen beds
2 x Harry Roach large format printing presses
1 x Fleet works 'Harold & sons' 1874 Albion Press
1 x AJ Morgan sheet metal guillotine
1 x Self contained eating studio
3 x Mobury Hotplates
1 x Richard's of Hull chemical extraction booth (all etching processes)
1 x Purpose built screen cleaning facility
1 x Richards of Hull, Large spray booth
1 x karcher jet wash
1 x Purpose built screen storage and UV exposure studio
1 x Natgraph self contained UV exposure unit
1 x large format drying cabinet
1 x Creative digital Laboratory
2 x Techsoft Lasercam laser cutters A2+
1 x Roland Camm-1 servo Vinyl cutter
Full Adobe Suite Available for use

Fashion & Costume Studios

16 X Zoje industrial flatbed sewing machines
3 X Zoje industrial zig zag sewing machines
3 X Zoje industrial overlockers
2 X Zoje industrial roll hem machines
1 X Zoje industrial cover seam machine
1 X Zoje industrial bias binding machine
1 X Brother industrial buttonholer
1 X Zoje industrial walking foot machine
1 X Brother 6 needle embroidery machine
2 X Comelux pressing station
1 X heat press
1 X Flashforge Adventurer 4 3D printer
Eyelet / Press stud machine
Variety of size 10/12/14 mannequins
Domestic Janome sewing machines
Janome embellisher
2 x Large purpose built studios kitted out with pattern/material cutting benches.

3D Studio – Ceramics

1 x Ceramics kiln (Small)
1 x Large ceramics kiln (tall 1250mm x wide 650mm x deep 900mm)

1 x Glass fusing/slumping kiln
3 x Potter's wheels for Manufacturing small hand built pieces, thrown pots, and large ceramic sculptural forms.
1 x Large bandsaw
1 x Bench saw
1 x Crosscut saw
1 x Pillar drill
1 x Terrier mechanical hacksaw (for metal)
1 x CNC router (bed size 1220mm x 1220mm)
5 x 3D printers capable of printing up to 220mm x 200mm x 250mm
Solidworks software (industry standard).
3 x Spot or resistance welders predominantly used for welding wire into 3D artworks.

Plaster Studio/Area

1 X Thermoforming centre, with vacuum forming, vinyl welding, plastic coating & plastic extrusion.
2 x Laser cutters capable of cutting wood, some plastics, etching glass.

Photography

The photography studio comprises of three separate rooms, two fashion/portrait studios and one still life studio for tabletop commercial pack shot work.
The two portrait studios are fitted with large white infinity coves together with a collection of Bowens flash heads and a selection of light modifiers. The still life studio is a large space and is usually set up as a collection of tabletop sets, but can also be converted into a larger space for room sets.
In addition to electronic flash all studio areas can be used with Bowens continuous daylight lamps.

Software : Lightroom and Capture One for shooting tethered.

Camera studio equipment

Sekonic light meters

Fuji GFX 50R medium format cameras with a selection of lenses

Nikon D800's full frame cameras

Nikon D7200's crop sensor

Nikon D7100's crop sensor

Canon 5D Mark 1, 2, and 3 full frame cameras

Canon 60D's crop sensor

Manfrotto tripods

We have available a full range of lenses for both Nikon & Canon systems

Film Cameras 35mm

Nikon FM3A

Pentax K1000

Pentax P30

Nikon F55

Canon EOS 3

Medium Format

Bronica

Mamiya RB 67

Pentax 67

Fuji GSW 69
Large Format
Sinar F1 5x4
Sinar 10x8
Traditional black & white darkroom with 12 Durst enlargers + digital timers
Black & white processing facility with tank system
C41 Colenta minilab
3 x Epson 4880 A2 banner inkjet printers
1 x Hasselblad FT646 large format film scanner
1 X Flextight X1 large format scanner

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).