

AA2A

30 years of nurturing creative talent

Buckinghamshire New University

AA2A 2026-27

Key Dates & Information

Our University offers the facilities to explore experimental and interdisciplinary practices, drawing on the rich intersections between analogue and digital approaches.

Contact for enquiries: messua.poulin-wolff@bnu.ac.uk

Placements will be running from 27th October 2025 to 12th June 2026

Application key dates	Date
Application deadline	21st September
Shortlisted candidates notified by	28th September
Interviews & portfolio reviews	30th September
Formal offers issued by	9th October
Offer acceptance deadline	14th October
General induction session	21st October, 1:30-4:30pm

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, letter press, wood, heavy metal, mould-making, plasterwork, plastics, dye lab, Stoll knitting machines, textiles, sewing and garment production, laser cutter, printing for fabric, heat presses, surface stitch machines, costume, fashion, 3D printing, CAD / CAM, model making, photography, illustration, graphics, product design

List of 'extra' facilities/areas:

- Workshop areas by prior arrangement

- Supporting areas by prior arrangement
- Library (reference and lending rights)
- Social facilities, i.e., onsite cafés

Access dates and holidays: In addition to bank holidays, the university will be closed from 14th Dec – 10th Jan and 22nd March – 11th April.

Access time: Unless by special arrangement, access will normally be during hours that the department is open to students, which is normally between 9am – 5pm 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.

Computer suites

- Adobe creative software in computer suites
- 2D and 3D CAD supported by industry-standard software for solid and surface modelling, digital manufacture, rendering and visualisation.

3D workshops

- 3D printing (ABS)
- Model making
- Mould making, glass fibre, resin work, silicone moulding, Jesmonite, modelling foam.
- Plastic: Vac forming, line bender.
- Wood: CNC Machine, Laminating and steam bending, planer/thicknesser, bandsaw, wood turning lathe, pillar drill
- Metalworking: Plasma cutter, MIG and spot-welding braising/forge hearth, lathes. Milling machine, pillar drill, cut-off saw

Red Shed workshops and studios

- Cornelly stitch machine
- Digital print and heat transfer printing
- Stoll knitting machine
- Large format laser
- Dye lab
- Industrial overlockers (4 thread and 5 thread)
- Pattern cutting tables
- Industrial Steam irons
- In house fabric and yarn store
- Knitting machines (electric and Domestic & Dubied)
- Screen printing
- Domestic and industrial sewing machines

- Intaglio & relief printing facilities
- Surface stitch machines
- Tufting gun
- Traditional etching, including acid etching
- Wood block and letter press printing
- Western press
- Garment press
- Mannequins
- Heat presses

Library

- Reference facilities

Media Resources

- Editing suites
- Audio suites

Photography

- Photographic studio
- B/W darkroom
- Scanning suite
- Digital suite

Other facilities

- Spray booths
- Large format printing.
- Large format vinyl cutter
- Risograph

Please note that the cost of any materials required will need to be covered by the artists.

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).