

2023 Venice Fellowships Programme

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/venicebiennale>

[#BritishPavilion](#) [#VeniceFellowships](#)

Open Call for Partners

July 2022



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Open Call for 2023 Partners

British Council is currently looking for partners from the:

A) UK Arts, Architecture and Humanities Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or Schools/Departments.

B) UK community-based Arts, Crafts, Design, Architecture, Cultural or Creative Organisations who work with/for young people specially from socio-economic disadvantaged groups and backgrounds, and/or minorities groups, such as: ethnicity (ethnic minority), race (racial minority), religion (religious minority), sexual orientation (sexual minority), or disability.

More information on how to partner for the 2023 Venice Fellowships Programme below at pages 08-11.

The deadline to apply is by Thursday, 25th August 2022, at 23:59 BST.

If your Institution/Organisation is interested in becoming a partner for the 2023 Venice Fellowships Programme – Architecture Biennale, please complete and submit the following online form by Thursday, 25th August 2022, at 23:59 BST:

<https://forms.office.com/r/eQcu2dNSnw>

For any queries or request for information, please contact Juliana Pepl - Venice Fellowships Programme Manager at venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org.

Introduction

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language.

For more information about the British Council, please find out here: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/>

The Venice Fellowships Programme



Fellows Group 1, 2022 © Francesca Vason

The Fellowships Programme was initiated in 2014 by the British Council to strengthen the Great Britain Pavilion contribution as a platform for ideas and research.

The Programme is an exciting opportunity for creative individuals, students, researchers, artists and professionals at the start of their careers, to spend a month in Venice during the world's most important art and architecture biennales.

Fellows will then embark on a one-month residency at the British Pavilion to engage and support the visiting public while also developing a proposed project or research of their interest.

Fellows are required to attend an Induction School Training in March/April 2023 and will be invited to

participate in a series of talks and workshops to network and build together a community of practice throughout the 2023 year.

More information here: <https://venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org/fellowship>



British pavilion © John Riddy

UK at the Venice Biennale

Since 1937 the British Council has organised the Pavilion exhibition, overseen the selection process of artists and architects, and preserved the historic building itself.

The selection process for the British Pavilion

Many people are curious about how the artists are chosen for the Pavilion. The Visual Arts team at the British Council work with a committee of professionals from the UK's contemporary art sector to choose an artist to exhibit at the Art Biennale.

The process for the Architecture Biennale is a little different. The British Council's Architecture Design Fashion team commission the Pavilion exhibitions. Each year the team runs an open call encouraging multi-disciplinary teams to submit proposals, which are reviewed by a selection panel of design industry professionals.

More information here: <https://venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org/about>



La Biennale di Venezia

The Venice Biennale (*Italian: La Biennale di Venezia*) is an international cultural exhibition hosted annually in Venice, Italy by the Biennale Foundation.

The biennale has been organised every year since 1895, which makes it the oldest of its kind.

The official Biennale exhibition is spread across two venues in the east of the city: the Arsenale and the Giardini. The Giardini, an area of parkland, houses the Central exhibition Pavilion and 29 national pavilions. Each of them, including the British Pavilion, presents its own showcase from a particular country or region.

More information here: <https://www.labiennale.org/en>



18th International Architecture Exhibition, *The Laboratory of the Future*, curated by Lesley Lokko.

Locations: Giardini and Arsenale, Venice, from 20th May to 26th November 2023 (pre-opening 18th and 19th May).

“New technologies continuously appear and disappear giving us unfiltered glimpses of life in parts of the globe we will likely never visit, much less understand. But to see both near and far simultaneously is also, as Du Bois and Fanon famously put it, a form of ‘double consciousness’, the internal conflict of all subordinated or colonised groups, which describes the majority of the world, not only ‘there’, in the so-called Developing-, Third-, and Arab Worlds, but ‘here’ too, in the metropolises and landscapes of the global North. In Europe we speak of minorities and diversity, but the truth is that the West’s minorities are the global majority’ diversity is our norm. There is one place on this planet where all these questions of equity, race, hope and fear converge and coalesce. Africa. At an anthropological level, we are all African. And what happens in Africa happens to us all” *Lesley Lokko*.

More: <https://www.labiennale.org/en/news/biennale-architettura-2023-laboratory-future>



2023 British Pavilion curatorial team and exhibition

The curatorial team selected is Jayden Ali, Joseph Henry, Meneesha Kellay and Sumitra Upham.

The exhibition will explore non-extractive material culture - revealing how diasporic craft and material

cultures can help foster a more sustainable future for British architecture, built on principles of care and equity over extraction and exploitation.

The curators will transform the British Pavilion into celebratory spaces, collaborating with architectural practitioners, researchers, and makers. The exhibition design intends to embrace collective construction methods and processes that avoid exploiting people and the planet.

More information here:

<https://venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org/about/press/british-council-announces-team-british-pavilion-2023>

How to Partner with British Council

Target Partners:

- UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- UK community-based Arts, Crafts, Design, Architecture, Cultural or Creative Organisations who work with/for young people specially from socio-economic disadvantaged groups and backgrounds, and/or minorities groups, such as: ethnicity (ethnic minority), race (racial minority), religion (religious minority), sexual orientation (sexual minority), or disability.

Eligibility and Criteria:

- If you are a UK (England, Wales, Scotland, NI) based Higher Education Institution or community-based Arts, Crafts, Design, Architecture, Cultural or Creative Organisation.
- If your Institution or Organisation are able to demonstrate and provide clear vision committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) measures and principles to shortlist your candidates for the 2023 Fellowship Programme.
- If your Institution or Organisation is committed to social values and able to demonstrate it.
- If your Institution/Organisation staff is able to commit with a total of 8hours or more of time-commitment per Fellow of your Institution/Organisation to support them to develop their project before, during and after travelling to Venice. *Please note that this is the total time recommended per fellow and that British Council will not seek any further proof of your time-commitment beyond this open call acknowledge and partnership agreement.*
- If you are able to seek opportunities for each individual Fellow from your Institution/Organisation to promote and present their involvement with the programme as well as to showcase their final project and/or experience/learnings.
- **If your Institution/Organisation is able to commit and pay the total of £2,000 (two thousand British pounds) per each Fellow place. Please note that this total amount goes entirely as contribution to your Fellow travel grant.**

Please note that British Council has a total of 60 Fellowships places available.

Roles and Responsibilities

British Council:

- Will make the final selection of your Institutional/Organisational shortlisted candidates for the 2023 Fellowship Programme.
- Will provide all programme logistics and administration including issuing grant agreements and payments to Fellows.
- Will provide an online Induction Training for all Fellows to prepare before travelling to Venice.
- Will provide an Induction Training in Venice and at the British Pavilion for each Fellow Travel Group.
- Will publicise your Institution/Organisation name and involvement in the [Venice Fellowships Programme website](#) and also, all the digital/printed exhibition materials, [Sonia Boyce example here](#) > page 30.
- Will co-ordinate Fellows groups and provide briefing materials to prepare all Fellows before their trip to Venice.
- Will provide Supervision and Team Management in Venice to all Fellows and to support their Residency at the British Pavilion and individual Project development.
- Will support the showcase of the Fellows projects and experience in digital and/or physical formats accordingly.
- Whenever possible, will broker connections/introductions between Fellows and UK/ Italian organisations/individuals in a case-by-case basis and accordingly to each individual Fellow need. *Obs. Please note that this will not always be guaranteed due to British Council staff capacity and availability.*

For your Institution/Organisation:

- Advertise the opportunity internally for interested candidates to apply within a period of no less than 48 days during the months of September to December 2023.
- Shortlist up to 2-4 eligible candidates following the programme criteria, timeline and materials provided by British Council on Monday, 29th August.
- During the year of 2023 actively seek opportunities within your Institution/Organisation and beyond to promote and present each Fellow project development and fellowship experience.

- Provide support to each Fellow before, during and after their Fellowships to help support their project development and Venice residency (a total of 8hours or more time-commitment per Fellow is recommended).
- Provide pastoral care to each Fellows throughout the duration of their Fellowship (for example: being also their main point of contact when in Venice).

Timelines

DATE	ACTIVITY
Thursday, 25th August 2022, at 23:59 BST	Deadline for Partnering with British Council for the 2023 Fellowships Programme, 18th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia
Monday, 29 th August 2022, at 6pm BST	Deadline for British Council to share 2023 Fellowships Application Guidelines for Fellows so Partners can advertise internally in their Institutions/Organisations for potential interested candidates
From September to December 2022 (Partners to decide dates, but must follow 48 days of internal open process for all interested candidates)	Internal Open Call for Fellows - Interested Candidates to Apply for the 2023 Fellowships (partners internal open call process)
Tuesday, 31st January 2023, at 23:59 UK time	Deadline for partners to shortlist their internal candidates (up to 2-4 candidates) and submit to British Council
Friday, 24 th February 2023, at 23:59 UK time	Deadline for the British Council to make the final decision of selected Fellows for the 2023 Fellowship Programme
From 27 th February to 03 rd March 2023	British Council will communicate with Partners and selected Fellows candidates about the selection process outcome
March-April 2023	Induction School Training for all Fellows
13th May – 13th June 2023	Fellows Group 1 - Travelling Group Starts

**18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia 2023:
From Saturday 20 May to Sunday 26 November 2023**

Want to Partner with British Council for the 2023 Fellowships Programme? Apply here:

If your Institution/Organisation is interested in becoming a partner for the 2023 Venice Fellowships Programme – Architecture Biennale, please complete and submit the following online form by **Thursday, 25th August 2022, at 23:59 BST:** <https://forms.office.com/r/eQcu2dNSnw>

Deadline to complete is by Thursday, 25th August 2022, at 23:59 BST.

For any queries or request for information, please contact Juliana Pepl - Venice Fellowships Programme Manager at venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org.

Further Information:

2023 Fellowships Programme Experience and Logistics

The Fellowships Programme consists of a one-month residency during the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – one of the world's most important architecture biennale.

Selected Fellows will spend one-month in Venice as part of their travel residency splitting their time inside the British Pavilion exhibition, while also developing a proposed project or research of their interest during that period. The time commitment inside the British Pavilion is approx. 27h per week (not including travel to/from the pavilion) during the period of one month.

Once the Partners Institutions and Organisations are confirmed, British Council will share the Programme guideline, eligibility and criteria so Partners can start their internal open call to shortlist up to 2-4 candidates. Deadline for Partners to shortlist their candidates is by Tuesday, 31st January 2023, at 23:59 UK time. Partners will then be requested to submit their shortlisted candidates to British Council so the team can make its final selection and decision.

60 Fellows will be selected and divided into 7 travelling groups and will be required to attend the online Induction School Training in March/April 2023. Fellows will also be invited to participate in a series of talks and workshops to network and build together a community of practice throughout the 2023 year.

Fellows will receive a contract from the British Council for their travel grant, along with the confirmation of their travel group and Induction School Training dates.

The 2023 Fellowships application form, criteria and guidelines for Fellows will be shared by the British Council to the Programme Partners by Monday, 29th August 2022, at 6pm BST.

Who can apply to be a Fellow? Any individual through a selected Programme Partner Institution or Organisation. We welcome people from all backgrounds, areas of knowledge, academic departments, and life experiences. We are looking for creative individuals, interested and passionate about architecture, design, crafts, culture and its social value through collaboration and the sharing of ideas to address the world most complex challenges, like for example climate, or social/economical inequalities action.

Fellows are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements after receiving their travel grant from the British Council.

Travel grant total is £3,000 (three thousand British Pounds): being £2K funded by their Institution/Organisation and £1K funded by the British Council.

Travel grant helps support: flight costs, accommodation, living costs, travel and medical insurance, visa costs (if needed) while in Venice for the full month, and project/research development costs (if needed).

Interested candidates will need to indicate in their application form three preferable travelling groups they are available to commit to: *Group 1 – May/June, Group 2 – June/July, Group 3 – July/August, Group 4 – August/September, Group 5 – September/October, Group 6 – October/November and Group 7 – November.* British Council will then accommodate the travelling groups accordingly to the numbers needed for each month: approx. a total of 8 Fellows per travelling group.

Please note that all Fellows must be aware and compliant with Covid-19, UK and Italian Government travel advice for travelling abroad and to VENICE. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

2022 Applicants aims and motivations

“This opportunity combined my interests in art and architecture in a very exciting way”

“It’s an experience of a lifetime, travelling to a beautiful city, meeting talented people and learning from them.”

“I’ve never studied abroad or had a job abroad, so it sounds like a great experience.”

2022 Fellowships Programme Impact and Outcomes:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI):

Overall EDI Increase of 12% compared to other programme year’s (2016-2019).

Quality of the programme:

Extremely High Positive Ratings (94%) and Feedback from Fellows about programme and experience.

Induction School Training Feedback by Fellows about the overall content: 94% gave positive ratings (5-4) and 6% rated as average. None rated as poor.

Extremely High Positive Ratings (92%) and Feedback from Visiting Public about quality of Fellows engagement and knowledge.

Impact:

60 Fellows connected and sharing practices throughout a year in the UK and Venice.

64% of Fellows from British Nationalities; 18% of Fellows from European Nationalities and 18% of Fellows from Overseas Nationalities.

26 UK Higher Education Institutions and 4 UK Arts and Cultural Organisations connected and sharing practices throughout a year.

2022 Fellows Statements:

“Thank You for this amazing opportunity. This experience has affected me more than I realised now that I am in London and looking back at it. It has sparked lots of new interests and seeing how the British Pavilion functions has been very great! I even consider working/moving to Italy/Venice for a while once I finish my MA :)” **Fellow 1**

“I’ve had the best time and it’s been so great to meet everyone and get to know you all” **Fellow 2**

“This fellowship is an incredible experience that I will never forget” **Fellow 3**

“The opportunity to engage so deeply with an exhibition of international acclaim was hugely rewarding” **Fellow 4**

“I was most excited about the opportunity to experience Venice as someone who is living there and being exposed to its culture for such a long time. Furthermore, I think one of the main reasons why this experience was so great was because of the other fellows and the British Council Team presence. Thank you!” **Fellow 5**