

## Venice Fellowships Programme

<https://venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org/fellowship/about>

#BritishPavilion #VeniceFellowships

# OPEN CALL FOR 2024 UK PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Published: 27 June 2023

Deadline for Applications: 10 August 2023

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## OPEN CALL FOR 2024 UK PROGRAMME PARTNERS

We are delighted that you are considering an application to join us as a Programme Partner for the 2024 British Council's Venice Fellowship Programme. [Our Fellowship Partners](#) are absolutely central to supporting emerging creatives and future talents, and we welcome both returning and new partners each year. Partners recruit and identify the best candidates from your organisation to participate in a one-month residency during the 60<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition – one of the world's most important art biennales.

We provide here details of the Venice Fellowship, our partnership structure and agreement, roles and commitment, timeline, costs, logistics, and vision. We also share our hopes for how we can best collaborate with you on this transformational initiative.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to be in touch, and please do consider joining us for one of our orientation/Q&A drop-in sessions. These will be recorded as well, and available on our website. Details are provided below.

### **Eligibility and Requirements**

*We ask that you ensure that your organisation meets the following criteria before applying to be a Programme Partner.*

- Your HEI/organisation needs to be a UK-based (England, Wales, Scotland, NI) and registered Higher Education Institution (HEI), arts organisation, cultural and creative Hub, social enterprise, charity, or CIC. *Please note we use the term 'institution/organisation' interchangeably in this document to describe all of the above types of organisations.*
- Your organisation will have a demonstrated commitment to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity, and fostering positive relations between people from different groups.
- Your organisation is required to measure and assess candidates in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
- You are committed to the social values and impact of the Fellowship and will encourage Fellows from your HEI/organisation to consider how best to apply those values when planning their own unique project and research, and when collaborating with their Fellow Fellows in the lead up to and during their time together in Venice.

APPLICATIONS FOR 2024 PROGRAMME PARTNERS CAN BE MADE THROUGH OUR [ONLINE FORM LINK](#) UNTIL THE DEADLINE OF THURSDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023, AT 23:59 BST.

| <b>Q&amp;A AND BRIEF SESSIONS</b>   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Please note these are open to all interested UK Institutions or Organisations that meet the Programme requirements mentioned above</i>   |   |
| <b>OPTION 1</b>   | <b>OPTION 2</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday, 04<sup>th</sup> July 2023, at 09:30am to 10:30am BST – Via Zoom link, register here:</b><br><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84918222838">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84918222838</a> | <b>Wednesday, 02<sup>nd</sup> August 2023, at 16:30pm to 17:30pm BST - Via Zoom link, register here:</b><br><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92342694272">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92342694272</a> |

For any queries or request for information, please contact Juliana Pepl - Venice Fellowships Programme Manager at [venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org).



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## 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 is a key part of the British Council's presence in Venice, supporting the exhibition programme as well as being a platform for the development of emerging creative professionals and future leaders.

The Programme offers a unique opportunity for emerging creatives to spend a month in Venice during the world's most important art and architecture biennials broadening their perspective, making new connections, networking and developing their creative practice.

As exhibition ambassadors at the British Pavilion, the Fellows enrich and activate our exhibition programme.

They engage visiting members of the public and expand the impact of the show. Alongside this practical residency, Fellows have the opportunity to develop their own research or practical creative projects and use the Biennale as a platform for artistic and professional development. Through these contributions, Fellows elevate the Pavilion to an important reference point for universities and creative organisations around the world.

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>

### 60<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition - curated by [Adriano Pedrosa](#).

**Locations:** Giardini and Arsenale, Venice, from 20<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (pre-opening 16<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> April).

**Information:** <https://www.labiennale.org/en>

### 2024 British Pavilion Exhibition - John Akomfrah RA



John Akomfrah at his London studio, 2016. © Jack Hems

Akomfrah, who was recently honoured with a knighthood in the 2023 UK Honours list, is known for his art films and multi-screen video installations, which explore major issues including racial injustice, colonial legacies, diasporic identities, migration and climate change.

The London-based artist initially came to prominence in the early 1980s as part of the Black Audio Film Collective (BAFC), a group of seven artists founded in 1982. The BAFC's first film was *Handsworth Songs* (1986) which explored the events around the 1985 riots in Birmingham and London. In recent years, his multichannel video works have evolved into ambitious, multi-screen installations shown in galleries and museums worldwide. In 2017, he won the Artes Mundi prize, the UK's biggest award for international art. He has previously participated in La Biennale di

Venezia with his piece Four Nocturnes, commissioned for the inaugural Ghana Pavilion in 2019.

On accepting the British Council commission, John Akomfrah said:

*'It is a huge privilege and an honour to be asked to represent the UK at the 60th Venice Biennale – it is without a doubt one of the most exciting opportunities that an artist can be presented with. I see this invitation as recognition of, and a platform for all those I have collaborated with over the decades, and who continue to make my work possible. I'm grateful to be given a moment to explore the complex history and significance of this institution and the nation it represents, as well as its architectural home in Venice – with all the stories it has told and will continue to.'*

More: <https://venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org/>

## Partnering with the British Council's 2024 Venice Fellowship Programme

### Target Partners:



2022 Fellows, November 2022 © anonymous

❖ **UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).**

❖ **UK Arts, Crafts, Design, Architecture, Cultural or Creative Organisations/Hubs/Charity/CIC or Social Enterprise** who work with/for young people (18 - 34 years old) from ethnically diverse groups, disabled, LGBTQIA+ and those facing social barriers to accessing the arts.

### Eligibility and Requirements:

- Your HEI/organisation needs to be a UK-based (England, Wales, Scotland, NI) and registered Higher Education Institution, arts organisation, cultural and creative Hub, social enterprise, charity, or CIC.



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- Your organisation will have a demonstrated commitment to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity, and fostering positive relations between people from different groups.
  - Your organisation is required to measure and assess candidates in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.
  - You are committed to the social values and impact of the Fellowship and will encourage Fellows from your HEI/organisation to consider how best to apply those values when planning their own unique project and research.

### **Partnership Organisations' Commitments:**

*If you are selected as a Programme Partner, we ask that you commit to the following:*

- Promote the Fellowship opportunity to your networks in September 2023 to ensure that a wide number of applicants can hear about and apply for the programme. We require that you post the call for a minimum of 48 days (promotion and open call for candidates to apply) from September to November 2023.
- Appoint the best candidates for the Fellowship. Programme Partners are invited to shortlist between 2-5 candidates; and British Council will ultimately appoint between 1-3 Fellows for your organisation.
- Commit to a minimum of 8 hours' time-commitment per Fellow from your Institution/Organisation to support and mentor them in the planning and development of their project/research before, during, and after their Venice residency. This will also require co-developing a clear vision and plan with them about how they will bring back their project/research findings to their peers and UK community groups in a mutual and collaborative approach.
- Proactively seek showcasing opportunities for each individual Fellow to promote and present their Venice residency and project/research outcomes – we encourage partners to look for ways Fellows can bring back their learnings/findings to their peers and local community groups.
- Provide financial support of £2,000 (two thousand British pounds) per Fellow. *Please note that this total amount goes entirely to your Fellow's travel grant and is matched by £1,000 the British Council.*

*British Council has a total of sixty (60) Fellowships places available.*

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## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **British Council:**

- Review the 2-5 shortlisted candidates from your organisation and appoint the final Fellows (1-3 per Partner organisation)
- Develop and deliver all programme logistics and administration, including issuing grant agreements and payments to Fellows.
- Facilitate the Online Induction Training for all Fellows to prepare them for their time in Venice.
- Deliver Induction Training in Venice and at the British Pavilion for each Fellow Travel Group.
- Publicise your Institution/Organisation name and involvement on the Venice Fellowships Programme website 2024 exhibition promotional materials.
- Co-ordinate Fellows groups and provide briefing materials to prepare all Fellows before their trip to Venice.
- Supervise and manage the Pavilion Operations team in Venice, to ensure that all Fellows are supported in their Residency at the British Pavilion and their individual project development.
- Support the showcase of the Fellows projects in digital and/or physical formats accordingly.
- Support each Fellow's individual access needs.
- Whenever possible, broker connections/introductions between Fellows and UK/ Italian organisations/individuals on a case-by-case basis and accordingly to each individual Fellow's need. Please note that this will not always be guaranteed due to British Council staff capacity and availability.

### **For your Institution/Organisation:**

- Sponsor £2,000 as a 2/3 contribution per Fellow for their travel grant.
- Advertise the opportunity internally for no less than 48 days during the months of September to November 2023.
- Shortlist up to 2-5 eligible candidates who meet the programme criteria and timeline provided by the British Council.
- During the year of 2024, actively seek opportunities within your Institution/Organisation and beyond to promote and present each Fellow's project development and experience.
- Work in partnership with the British Council to support the Programme through creative development opportunities in the UK and Venice.

- Provide mentorship support to each Fellow in order to develop their project/research before, during and after their trip to Venice (a total of 8 hours or more time-commitment per Fellow is recommended).
- Provide practical guidance to each Fellow pre-Venice trip to support language barriers, living abroad, making connections and how to make the most of their Fellowship.
- Be the main point of contact in the UK for the Fellow and the British Council.

### Timeline:

| DATE  | ACTIVITY   |
|---|--|
| <b>Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023, at 23:59 BST</b>  | Open Call for 2024 Programme Partners deadline to apply.   |
| <b>Before or by Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023, at 12pm BST</b>  | British Council will confirm Partners and share with them the 2024 Fellows Application Criteria and Guidelines.  |
| <b>From September to November 2023</b><br><i>(a minimum of 48 days is required)</i>   | Partners to promote the opportunity to their networks so a good number of applicants can hear about and apply for it.<br><br><i>Please note that a minimum of 48 days (promotion and open to candidates to apply) from September to November 2023 is required.</i> |
| <b>Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at 23:59 GMT</b>  | Deadline for partners to shortlist their candidates and submit to the British Council <i>(minimum of 2 and maximum of 5 candidates)</i> .  |
| <b>Before or by Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 23:59 GMT</b>   | British Council will communicate the final selected Fellow(s)  |
| <b>February - March 2024</b><br><i>Dates: 28<sup>th</sup> February, 06<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 03<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> April</i> | Online Induction School Training for all Fellows. <i>As a condition of their grant, Fellows are required to attend</i>   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 2024, from 5:30pm – 7:15pm UK time on Zoom   | every session, or the British Council has the right to revoke the Fellowship. |
| <b>13<sup>th</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>  | Travelling Groups Starts (one group per month) – Group 1                      |
| <b>60<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia: from 20<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b> |   |

**Overview of Process:**





**APPLICATIONS FOR 2024 PROGRAMME PARTNERS ARE THROUGH THE [ONLINE FORM LINK](#) UNTIL THURSDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023, AT 23:59 BST.**

For any queries or request for information, please contact Juliana Pepl - Venice Fellowships Programme Manager at [venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org).

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## Further Information

### **2024 Programme Criteria and Logistics for Fellows:**

The Fellowships Programme consists of a one-month residency during the 60<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition – one of the world’s most important art biennales.

Selected Fellows will spend one-month in Venice as part of their travel residency managing their time inside the British Pavilion exhibition, whilst also developing a proposed project or research of their interest. The time commitment inside the British Pavilion is approx. 23h per week (not including travel to/from the pavilion) during the period of one month.

Once Partners Institutions and Organisations are confirmed, British Council will share the Programme guidelines and information criteria for fellows, so partners can start their internal open call to shortlist up to 2-5 candidates – *minimum of 2 candidates and maximum of 5 candidates*.

**Deadline for Partners to shortlist their candidates: by Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at 23:59 GMT. Partners will then submit their shortlisted candidates to the British Council team who will communicate the final selected Fellow(s) before or by Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 23:59 GMT.**

60 Fellows will be selected and divided into 8 travelling groups. They will be required to attend the Programme Online Induction Training from February to March 2024. Fellows might also be invited to participate in a series of talks and workshops to network and build together a community of practice throughout the 2024 year.

Fellows will receive a grant agreement from the British Council along with the confirmation of their travel group and Online Induction Training dates.

**Who can apply to become a 2024 Fellow?** Any individual through a selected Programme Partner Institution or Organisation. We welcome creative individuals from all backgrounds, areas of knowledge and/or academic departments. We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups in the creative sector, including those from the following: global ethnic majority, disabled, LGBTQIA+, and those facing social barriers to accessing the arts and other economic opportunities.

We are looking for people interested and passionate about visual arts, performance, curatorial exhibitions, education, visitors’ engagement, architecture, design, crafts, culture and its social value. We are keen to work with people that are committed to collaboration and the sharing of ideas to redress society’s most complex challenges, including the climate emergency and/or other social/economical inequalities.

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

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**The Fellows' travel grant total is £3,000 (three thousand British Pounds): with £2,000 funded by their Institution/Organisation and £1,000 funded by the British Council.** This budget is set to support all travel costs, including outbound and return flight/train tickets, accommodation, living costs, travel and medical insurances, visa costs (if needed), and project/research development costs (if needed) for their full month (30 days) living in Venice.

**Access Needs:** we encourage applications from D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent individuals. We also recognise that applicants may need to put in place unusual/atypical childcare arrangements (beyond those used routinely).

British Council will work collaborative with your Institution or Organisation to meet any individual access requirements for extra budget and/or time-support allocation. Selected Fellows will have the opportunity to declare any access needs after they have been accepted onto the Programme. This information may need to be shared with staff responsible for delivering the Programme but will only be shared with other Fellows with permission.

### **Venice Fellowships Programme Impact and Outcomes:**

The Fellowships Programme is a key part of the British Council's presence in Venice, supporting the exhibition programme as well as being a platform for the development of new creative careers and future leaders. The Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for emerging creatives to represent the UK on an international level whilst broadening their perspective, making connections and developing their creative practice.

*'The programme offers a live space for fellows to learn and develop, be inspired through a groundbreaking opportunity where they get to invite dialogue with so many different cultures and walks of life and experience the power of creativity and the arts.'*

**Skinder Hundal Director Arts at British Council**

The Programme enables creative students and professionals to spend a month in Venice during the world's most important art and architecture biennials. As exhibition ambassadors at the British Pavilion, the Fellows enrich and activate our exhibition programme. They engage visiting members of the public and expand the impact of the show. Alongside this practical residency, Fellows have the opportunity to develop their own research or practical creative projects and use the Biennale as a platform for artistic and professional development. Through these contributions, Fellows elevate the Pavilion to an important reference point for universities and creative organisations around the world.

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Since initiating the Fellowships, the Programme has welcomed over 400+ UK-based participants, from which:

- **65% have gone on to work in the arts/creative/cultural sector.**
- **35% pursued/remained in the academic or researcher sectors.**

Through their training and experience in supporting the exhibition at the British Pavilion, Fellows learn techniques for enhancing a visitor's understanding and expanding their perspectives on the show. The stewarding experience provides them with valuable work experience and confidence in contributing to a gallery setting.

'The Venice Fellowship has allowed my creative world to expand. Collaborating with artists of many disciplines was an invaluable experience.'

**Past Fellow**

'This was an incredible opportunity that helped me develop a network and better understand my practice.'

**Past Fellow**

The programme also offers the opportunity for emerging artists, architects and creatives to develop their own practice and position their own work within an international context. There have been some incredible exhibitions and presentations of work made on the Fellowships Programme. Connections are formed which continue to this day, with Fellows interacting on creative and academic projects for years to come. Fellows also benefit from the nurturing and development of their own 21<sup>st</sup> century vital skills, including increased personal confidence, intercultural fluency, collaboration, resilience, new perspectives and more refined ambitions for their own career trajectories.

*'The Fellowships Programme was hugely significant part of my personal and professional growth; creating a springboard into my career which I will always be thankful for. Being surrounded by the energy of the Venice Biennale inspired me to challenge myself by undertaking the opportunities that were presented during this period. Engaging with the British Council created a foundation to take a step forward and realise my potential in the art world. It is a truly a programme that allows you to get out what you put into it!'*

**Past Fellow**



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## 2022 Programme Evaluation Report key highlights:

- 92% of Fellows believe their employability has been enhanced after participating in the Programme.
- 92% believe they are more likely to get work opportunities that would not have been open to them without the Fellowship.
- 71% believe that they will be able to secure greater remuneration in the short term when applying for jobs.
- The Exhibition Ambassador residency at the British Pavilion resulted in an extensive skills development for the Fellows, but most strongly in improving: “cultural awareness & understanding”, “communicating with audiences & exhibition interpretation”, “personal confidence & resilience”, “foreign language skill”, “team-work & problem-solving”, “time-management & planning”.
- The Fellowship has resulted in 75% of Fellows better prepared for designing future research; 75% of Fellows better prepared for professional/academic international collaborations; 71% better prepared for future creative practice; and 67% better prepared for personal international collaboration.
- On top of these developmental impacts, the Fellowship also has helped Fellows build a wider more diverse networks of contacts, which hopefully in the future will be source of support, inspiration and opportunity. Fellows have reported that new lasting relationships have been forged particularly within residency groups and new contacts have been made with speakers from the Online Induction Training and with those in Venice from outside the Programme.

To learn more about the outcomes of our Fellowships Programme have a [look through the 2022 Yearbook](#).

**Our Fellowships Partners are absolutely central to supporting emerging creatives and future talents. We welcome new partners each year – if you cannot become a partner now and are interested in becoming a future partner or would like to discuss further collaboration or partnership opportunities, please contact us at [venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org).**

**Thank you for your consideration.**