



# VENICE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME OPEN CALL FOR PARTNERS 2025

## VENICE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME

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.

The [Venice 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 Fellowships 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.

Our Programme Partners are central to the Fellowship Programme. We welcome applications from new and returning institutions and organisations.

Partner applications for the 2025 Fellowships are now open. The deadline for applications is Friday 30th August 2024, AT 23:59 BST.

Please contact **Sophie Lucas, Venice Partnerships and Programme Manager**, at [venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org) for Guidance Notes and a link to the Application Form.

Thank you for your interest in the Venice Fellowships Programme.



**'The Fellowships Programme was a 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***

**'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***

## 2025 BRITISH PAVILION EXHIBITION

The British Council Commission at the Venice Architecture Biennale aims to create debate that both challenges and influences the future of British and global architecture.

The 2025 British Pavilion exhibition will be a high-profile installation as part of British Council's focus year of collaboration between the UK and Kenya that will foster, celebrate and showcase the connections between the two countries.

**“Our UK and Kenya combined team intersects multiple disciplines and geographies, with a critical perspective on how to use this unique platform. The exhibition will map architectures from across the world defined by an embedded relationship to the ground, which are resilient in the face of climate breakdown, social, economic and political upheaval; and that offer refuge and empowerment for the most climate exposed communities. To frame this, we intend to conceptually reinscribe the British Pavilion by turning it inside out and unearth what these acts of repair might look like when framing a planetary vernacular.”**

***Appointed curatorial team***

The collaborative UK-Kenya curatorial team is:

- Owen Hopkins Director of the Farrell Centre, Newcastle University
- Dr Kathryn Yusoff Professor of Inhuman Geography, Queen Mary University
- Kabage Karanja Co-founder & Director of Cave\_bureau, Nairobi, Kenya
- Stella Mutegi Co-founder & Director of Cave\_bureau, Nairobi, Kenya

The Fellowships Programme offers a unique opportunity for emerging creatives from UK-based organisations to spend a month in Venice. In addition, as part of the British Council's focus year of collaboration between the UK and Kenya in 2025, we particularly welcome applications for Programme Partners from organisations that have strong links to Kenya, Sub-Saharan Africa and its diaspora.





Images credit: Youssef ElNahas

## 2025 BRITISH PAVILION EXHIBITION

Each Fellow will receive a Travel Grant of £3,300 (three thousand and three hundred British pounds).

The Fellowship has two major components:

**1. Exhibition ambassador:** Fellows will participate in a one-month group residency inside the British Pavilion: invigilating the exhibition spaces, engaging with the public, leading tours and acting as the face of the British Council and its exhibition commission.

*Skills developed: cultural awareness & understanding, team-work & problem-solving, public speaking & adaptation, communicating with audiences & exhibition interpretation, personal confidence & resilience, foreign language, time-management & planning.*

Requested time commitment for invigilation is 23h per week during the period of one month.

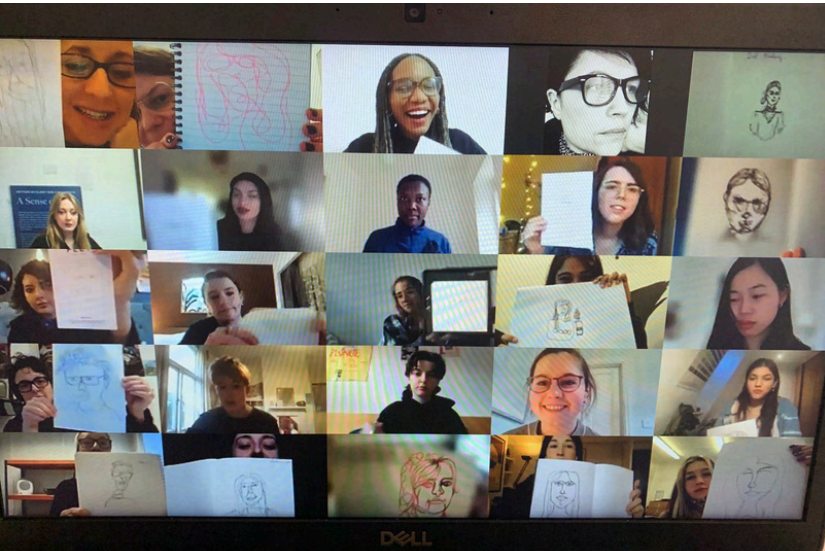
**2. Research or creative project:** Fellows will undertake fieldwork in Venice to inform their creative practice, research and/or academic interests. This fieldwork should be connected to the themes of the Biennale and/or the British Pavilion exhibition.

*Skills developed: time-management & planning, personal confidence & resilience, flexibility & collaboration, creativity & problem-solving, collaboration & communication, project planning & management, testing ideas.*

Previous Fellows' project examples can be found in the [2022](#) and [2023](#) Yearbooks.

# INDUCTION

Fellows are required to attend an Online Induction School Training from February to April 2025 so they can prepare for their Venice trip, participate in a series of talks and workshops and build together a community of practice throughout the 2025 year.



“It was magical to see how we came together in such a short period - I did not think this could be possible in an online environment. I was nervous but the small group discussions and the warmth in the room put me at ease. Meeting Becky before the Induction was very helpful because she listened to my story and ideas, and talked about how I could be comfortable in an online space with so many people that I did not know. Now I feel I know them all and we are connected even if different.”  
2024 Fellow

2024 Induction, designed and facilitated by Becky Schutt with and for the 2024 Fellows

	PRE-INDUCTION MEETINGS & CONTRACTING	SESSION 1 THE SELF 28 FEB	SESSION 2 THE OTHER & LIVING IN VENICE 6 MAR	SESSION 3 TOGETHER & COLLABORATION 13 MAR	SESSION 4 THE PUBLIC & THE PAVILION 20 MAR	SESSION 5 THE PROJECTS & MENTORS 27 MAR	SESSION 6 LISTENING ALL NIGHT TO THE RAIN 3 APR	SESSION 7 CARING & ADVENTURE 10 APR	8 GROUPS ON THEIR WAY!
<b>2024 FELLOW FACILITATORS</b>		<b>POLY-VOCALITY &amp; PLAY</b> CAITLIN MCHUGH, TEESIDE UNIV  <b>THE POETRY OF MIGRANT IDENTITY</b> SHANICE MARTIN, COVENTRY UNIV  <b>THE DATA OF SELF</b> ALKESTIS TERJID, UNIV. BRADFORD	<b>MELODIES, MOVEMENT, MIGRATION</b> HARMEET RAHAL, NEW CONTEMPORARIES  <b>ACTIVE LISTENING</b> KELLY RAPPELVE, GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART  <b>THE NATIONAL SELF</b> JACK FRY, DURHAM UNIV	<b>COOKING &amp; COLLABORATION</b> MARIAM OSMANI, DURHAM UNIV  <b>THESE SOUNDS OF STORIES</b> ISAAC GIBSON, QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST SARC		<b>THE CREATIVE PROCESS</b> THOMAS GIBBS, ST ANDREWS UNIV  <b>INTUITIVE WALKING</b> JULIA FRY, OUTSIDE IN	<b>LISTENING ALL NIGHT TO THE RAIN</b> CURATOR TARINI MALIK  <b>WELCOME COMMITTEE</b> MARCIO JUNJI SONO, RAY SIMS, MRS. BLUES, ANNA JANE HOUGHTON, KELLY RAPPELVE & LASZLO MOLNAR	<b>THE ART OF SELF-CARE</b> CYLENA SIMONDS, ARTS UNIVERSITY PLYMOUTH  <b>ACCESS &amp; SOUND</b> HANNAH KEMP-WELCH, LONDON COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION	<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Post-survey</b>  <b>CARE, EMOTIONS &amp; THE BODY</b> NELL HARDY, ARTS & HOMELESSNESS INTL, ARTS & HOMELESSNESS INTL
<b>2024 FELLOW COMMENTATORS</b>		<b>LASZLO MOLNAR, NAHO MATSUDA, VIKTORIE BREZINOVA &amp; CELESTE CELESTE MACLEOD-BROWN</b>	<b>CARLOS FERRARA, BELLA PAXTON, YOUSSEF EINHAS &amp; ISABELLA SO</b>	<b>MILLIE SANDERS, LISA OGUNY, SIMONE MARCONI &amp; RIZ ALI</b>	<b>SABRINA SUDOL &amp; MILLIE NICHOLSON</b>	<b>TONYK EKIENE &amp; DANIELLE HEWITT</b>	<b>SARA DOWNHAM-LOTTO, BUKKY TJANI &amp; SOFIA MARIA GERACI</b>		
<b>GUESTS</b>	<b>M+B RESIDENCY</b> SALMA MOHAMEDOSHAN, ABDELRAHMAN 2023 BRITISH COUNCIL VENICE FELLOW	<b>M+B RESIDENCY</b> MATTED SPIGA & MEGAN WILLOW HACK 2023 FELLOWS	<b>M+B RESIDENCY</b> FRANCESCA VASON MARIE THERESE SHORTT GREETINGS: CULTURAL HIERARCHIES & TOUCH	<b>2024 MENTORS:</b> ANTONIA BECK, LEO BURTON, BETH KNOWLES CASAS, JOSEPH LOYEMH, LISON SABRINA MUSSET, JOHN ORRAN, SVETLANA PANOVA, JAJET SIMPSON, RICHARD WARING, JEAN WAINWRIGHT	<b>TARINI MALIK</b> SHANE AKEROYD ASSOCIATE CURATOR 2024 BRITISH PAVILION	<b>BEN STREET</b> THE ART OF VENICE	<b>YOHAN SOLIS</b> SAFEGUARDING & RISK COUNCIL		

## PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Since its start in 2014, the Fellowships 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 invigilation experience provides them with valuable work experience and confidence in contributing to a gallery setting.



### Key Highlights of the 2022 Programme Evaluation Report

- 92% of Fellows believe their employability is 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 can 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.

## OPEN CALL FOR 2025 UK PROGRAMME PARTNERS

The British Council is looking for organisations and institutions to join the 2025 Venice Fellowships Programme as Programme Partners.

The Partners are 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 their organisations to participate in the one-month residency during the 19th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice.

**Each Partner contributes £2,300 per Fellow. This is matched by £1,000 from the British Council. The Fellow receives a total Travel Grant of £3,300.**

### *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 or Creative (Arts, Craft, Design, Architecture) Organisation, Cultural/Creative Hub, Social Enterprise, Charity, or CIC.
- 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.







## **ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING**

### **For Partners:**

Partners are invited to join monthly online group calls and a shared Whatsapp group to build a community of practice over the Fellowship year.

The British Council extends an invitation to Programme Partners to join various launch events at the Pavilion during Pre-Opening week.

### **For Fellows:**

There are additional opportunities for Fellows to attend cultural events and network with creative individuals during their month in Venice.

Subject to availability, these events may include:

- Private tours of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, led by the 2025 Guggenheim Interns
- Art Night Venezia, organized by Ca' Foscari University and the City of Venice
- Feast of the Redentore
- Private Exhibition Tour at Ocean Space
- Events at National Pavilions within the Biennale

Fellows are offered opportunities to lead public tours in the Pavilion.

## PAST PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Thank you to our past Programme Partners who have supported the Fellowships so far.

Here are a few from recent years:



## APPLY TO BE A 2025 PROGRAMME PARTNER

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