



# Venice Fellowships Programme

Call for Programme Partners 2027

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 Venice Fellowship Programme. We welcome applications from new and returning institutions and organisations.

**Applications for Partners for the 2027 Fellowships Programme are now open.**  
The deadline for applications is Friday 4th September 2026, 23:59 BST.

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

Thank you for your interest in the Venice Fellowships Programme.



“The Venice Fellowships Programme was a hugely significant part of my personal and professional growth; it created a springboard for my career for which I will always be thankful. 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.”

*Past Fellow*

“The Venice Fellowships Programme has allowed my creative world to expand. Collaborating with creative individuals 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*





## 2027 British Pavilion Commission

“As we celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations between the UK and Malaysia, we are excited to work with a curatorial team whose proposal brings together architecture, ritual and cultural memory. Drawing on Malaysian traditions of paper structures created for the Festival of Hungry Ghosts, the exhibition will explore how acts of making and remaking can shape our relationships with nature, place and one another.

Building on the success of the UK–Kenya collaborative exhibition for the British Pavilion 2025, I am thrilled to continue using the Pavilion as a space for cultural connection and collaboration, which lies at the heart of the British Council’s mission.”

*Sevra Davis, Director of Architecture Design Fashion at the British Council*

The project will be led by UK-based curators Dr Guan Lee and Mike Lim, alongside a UK curatorial team including Maria McLintock and Ben Swaby Selig. They will collaborate closely with Penang-based artisans Ng Chi Wang and Lee Shao Chin.

The Venice 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 UK-Malaysia collaboration for the 2027 British Pavilion, we particularly welcome applications for Programme Partners from organisations that have strong links to Malaysia and its diaspora.

# 2027 Venice Fellowships Programme

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

The Fellowships Programme has two major components:

## 1. Exhibition ambassador:

Fellows 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: team-work and problem-solving; personal confidence, resilience and adaptability; public speaking; public engagement; exhibition interpretation; communication and foreign language; cultural awareness and understanding; time-management.*

Time commitment for invigilation is 28h per week during the period of one month.



## 2. Research or creative project:

Fellows undertake fieldwork in Venice to inform their creative practice, research and/or academic interests. This fieldwork should be connected to the themes of Venice, La Biennale, the 20<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition, the British Pavilion and/or the 2027 commissioned exhibition.

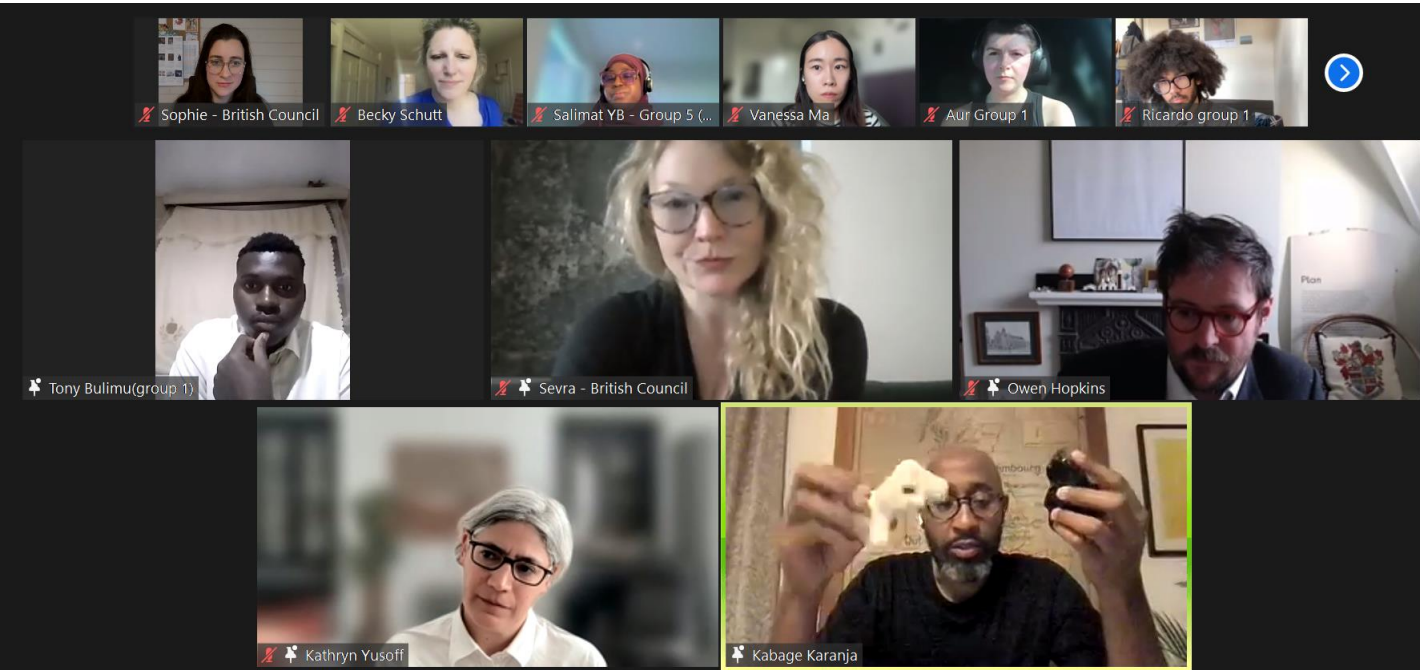
*Skills developed: time-management and planning; personal confidence and resilience; flexibility and collaboration; research, mapping and testing ideas; creativity and problem-solving; communication; audience engagement; project management.*

Previous project examples can be found in the [Yearbooks](#).



# Induction

Fellows are required to attend a six-week online Induction. The design of the online series is based on initial 1:1 conversations with each Fellow. The Induction enables Fellows to prepare for their Venice trip, connect with alumni Fellows, hear from the curatorial team, lead talks and workshops with their peers, and build together a community of practice throughout the 2027 year.



*2025 Fellows in conversation with the Architecture Commissioner and 2025 creative practitioner team*

"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."

*Past Fellow*

## Programme Impact

Since its start in 2014, the Venice Fellowships Programme has welcomed over 500+ UK-based participants, from which 65% have gone on to work in the arts/creative/cultural sector, with 30% remaining in the academic/research 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 programme was an inspiring and enriching experience. The combination of structured sessions, direct engagement with curators, and hands-on activities in Venice provided a unique opportunity for learning, reflection, and professional growth. I especially appreciated the supportive community of Fellows and the chance to collaborate and exchange ideas.”  
*2025 Fellow*

### Highlights of the 2025 Programme Evaluation

100% of Fellows stated that they gained key skills from their time onsite at the Pavilion.

88% of Fellows stated that their employability is enhanced after participating in the Programme; with 81% of Fellows recognising that they can now access work opportunities that would have been less accessible before their Fellowships experience.

95% of Fellows stated that they established lasting relationships with Fellows in their Travel Group, with 85% of Fellows establishing lasting relationships with people from other nations.

[Read the full Impact Report](#)



## **Case Study: Sandy Britton University Of Liverpool, School Of Architecture**

*As Senior Lecturer at the School of Architecture, Sandy Britton has been instrumental in developing and strengthening the partnership between the School and the British Council via the Venice Fellowships Programme since 2018.*

*Her studios focus on lived experience, social responsibility, and fragile futures; she sees the Venice Fellowships Programme as an extension of this ethos. In Venice, students are immersed in a global ecosystem where architecture, culture, politics, and lived realities intersect. “The Fellowship remains with them as a pivotal experience. Students frequently refer to ideas, encounters, and questions first formed during the Fellowships, and embed this learning directly into dissertations and research projects.”*

*Sandy has been determined in her championing of the programme within the university: “I’m continually in awe of the privilege of being part of this,” she says, “and conscious of how fragile that access can be.” She is mindful of broader questions of accessibility, observing that while La Biennale is a global public event, it can feel disconnected from everyday life in the city. “It can feel like its own world speaking to itself,” she reflects, expressing a hope that the knowledge and value generated there can be shared more widely.*

*Sandy highlights the importance of induction, pastoral care, and the sense of safety that the programme provides: “The students feel very well looked after. They feel safe and supported.” This strong foundation allows students to engage confidently and openly with the experience.*

*Looking ahead, Sandy sees opportunities to strengthen the programme further through greater encouragement to Fellows to explore the wider Biennale. Underpinning all her reflections is her deep commitment to students and to the values that guide her teaching:*

**“The Venice Fellowships Programme is such a gift to young architects – one of the rare times in life where they are truly able to explore and think freely.”**

# Open Call For 2027 UK Programme Partners

The British Council is looking for organisations and institutions to join the 2027 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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*

Potential organisations must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible to participate in the Programme:

- Are either:
  - a UK-based (England, Wales, Scotland, NI) and registered Higher Education Institution or
  - a UK-based Creative (Arts, Craft, Design, Architecture) Organisation, Cultural/Creative Hub, Social Enterprise, Charity, or CIC
- Have a demonstrated commitment to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity, and fostering positive relations between people from different groups.
- Commit to the social values and impact of the Fellowships Programme and encourage Fellows from your organisation to consider how best to apply those values when planning their residency month and project.

The full list of Partner commitments can be found in the Guidance Notes.





## **Additional Opportunities for Collaboration and Networking**

### *For Partners:*

The British Council extends an invitation to Programme Partners to join various launch events at the British Pavilion during the Vernissage days.

### *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 2027 Guggenheim Fellows
- *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



# Apply To Be A 2027 Programme Partner

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