



VENICE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME OPEN CALL FOR FELLOWS 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.

The [19th International Architecture Exhibition](#) will take place at the Giardini and Arsenal, Venice, from Saturday 10 May to Sunday 23 November 2025 (pre-opening 8 May and 9 May).

British Council has a total of forty (40) places available for the 2025 Venice Fellowships programme. Fellows will be selected and divided into Travel Groups, travelling to Venice between the months of May and September.

Applications for the 2025 places are now open. Candidates must be enrolled or connected to a selected 2025 Programme Partner.

Please see the Guidance Notes for more details and a link to the Application Form.



'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 Fellowships 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.

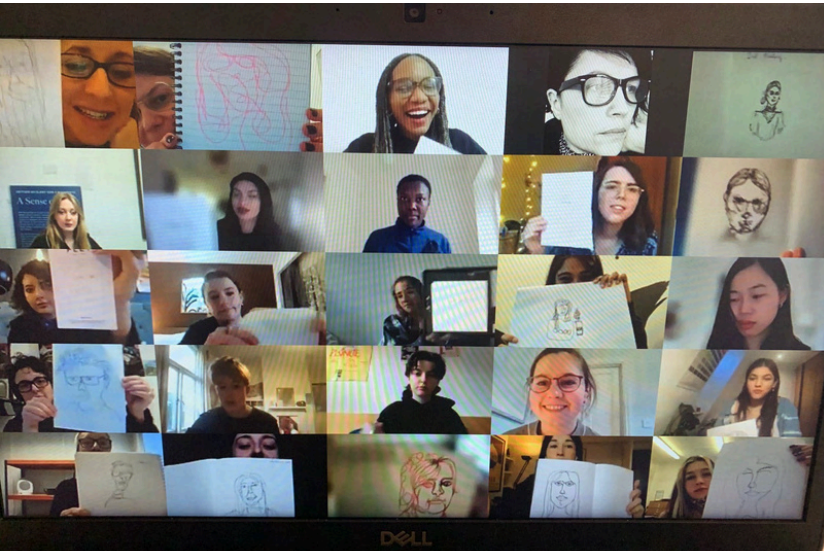
2. Research or creative project: Fellows will undertake fieldwork in Venice to inform their creative practice, research and/or academic interests. This fieldwork should be connected to the themes of the Biennale and/or the British Pavilion exhibition.

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

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.



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

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 VENICE FELLOW

- Candidates must be over 18 years old and based in the UK.
- Candidates must be enrolled or connected to a selected 2025 Programme Partner Institution or Organisation
- The British Council welcomes creative individuals from all backgrounds, areas of knowledge and/or academic departments, and 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, the creative industries and other economic opportunities.

Please refer the Guidance Notes for further details and a link to the Application Form.

The deadline for applications is set by the Programme Partner and will be a date between the period of 19th September - 29th November 2025.

We ask candidates to check the specific date directly with their Programme Partner.

Thank you for your interest in the Venice Fellowships Programme.

