Guidance Notes for Artists and Creative Practitioners
BACKGROUND
In 2020, the British Council in partnership with Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridgeshire, and Digital Arts Studios, Belfast, will select mid-career artists and creative practitioners to participate in Net//Work residencies.

The Net//Work residencies will offer space for reflection, research, practice, skills exchange and professional networking opportunities focused on digital artistic practices and technologies.

Each four-week residency is open to mid-career visual artists and creative practitioners based in or from the UK, Egypt, Jordan, Syria or Uganda whose practices engage with digital technologies (work that is made or presented using digital technology). The residencies will consist of site visits, independent studio time, group crits, peer-to-peer mentoring and workshops.

At the end of each residency, participating artists will be invited to submit a funding proposal for the creation and/or research and development proposal of an independent and/or collaborative digital work.

We are looking for a diverse range of artists and creative practitioners. Net//Work is a fully accessible programme, and we encourage disabled and/or D/deaf artists and creative practitioners to apply. Access provision and costs will be met in addition to fees. D/deaf and/or disabled candidates who wish to should identify as such in the artist application form. Please note we cannot use the information provided on your Equality and Diversity form to inform the application process.

ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL
The British Council was founded in 1934 and is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with more than 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, the English language, education and civil society. Last year, we reached more than 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall, including online, through broadcasts and publications.

Arts is a cornerstone of the British Council’s mission to create a friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and the wider world. We find new ways of connecting with and understanding each other through the arts, to develop stronger creative sectors around the world that are better connected with the UK.

The British Council Visual Arts team are committed to promoting the achievements of the UK’s best artists abroad. We connect the UK’s visual arts sector with professionals internationally, focusing predominantly on staging and supporting contemporary art projects in areas of the developing world.
ABOUT THE RESIDENCY PARTNERS

Wysing Arts Centre

Wysing Arts Centre is a thriving cultural campus of ten buildings across an 11-acre rural site in Cambridgeshire which hosts experimental and thematic residencies for UK and international artists and delivers a critically acclaimed public programme of gallery exhibitions and events.

Wysing supports artists to make new work, explore new ways of working and make new collaborations. Residencies have emerged from ongoing artistic enquiry focusing on Wysing’s position at the geographic margins of two major cities, Cambridge and London, and at its origin as a space for artistic experimentation and innovation. Across 2020 Wysing is putting broadcasting and digital technologies at the centre of all its activity.

The programme will be delivered with Artist Advisor David Blandy and Wysing Curator John Eng Kiet Bloomfield and based on the research interests and skills of the selected artists and creative practitioners. David Blandy’s artistic practice draws on a series of investigations into the cultural forces that inform and influence him, in recent works examining a world after the Anthropocene era. His works slip between performance and video, reality and construct, using references sampled from the wide, disparate sources that provide his (and our own) individualist sense of self. John Eng Kiet Bloomfield works on Wysing’s programme of residencies, exhibitions, events, partnership projects and an annual music festival. At Wysing, he has curated the exhibitions All His Ghosts Must Do My Bidding, more of an avalanche, Warm Worlds and Otherwise and All Channels Open, working with a range of artists including Helen Cammock, Jesse Darling, Isaac Julien, Imran Perretta, Laure Prouvost, Elizabeth Price and Tai Shani. John also manages the Syllabus programme, a collaboratively produced alternative learning programme that supports ten artists each year.

During the residency, guest artists and technicians will be drawn from Wysing and Blandy’s networks and will include contributors working across digital moving image, sound and other media.

Facilities: Wysing Farmhouse, a range of studios, Wysing Polyphonic recording studio

For more information about Wysing Arts Centre: [www.wysingartscentre.org](http://www.wysingartscentre.org)

Digital Arts Studios

Digital Arts Studios (DAS) is based in Belfast’s City Centre, in the Cathedral Quarter. Within walking distance of the many distinctive cultural zones of Belfast including the Titanic and Linen Quarters, DAS provides artists with a dynamic central hub from which to work and be inspired by Belfast’s industrial character and heritage.

DAS has hosted hundreds of local and international artists since 2008, attracting a diverse range of artists to its residency. The programme offers support to artists working with digital media and technology from production stage to presentation; providing training during the development of new work and support with problem solving for installation. DAS also delivers
an exciting programme of workshops for artists working with new and emerging technologies via the *Future Labs* Programme.

The programme will be delivered by DAS Residency coordinator Dr Catherine Devlin and Director Dr Angela Halliday. A visual artist/photographer with over twenty years’ experience, Catherine studied photography at Edinburgh College of Art and has a PhD from Ulster University. Her practice crosses between photography, video and sculpture, and is largely installation based. Angela Halliday has worked with audio/video installation for over 15 years, completing a practice-based PhD in 2011 that focused on large-scale installation. She has worked widely with the moving image from short-film production and video editing to gallery installation. Angela will provide mentoring for each artist in one-to-one sessions, based on artists’ individual needs. Both Catherine and Angela will provide ongoing technical support and assistance, with additional training for artists provided via the *Future Labs* Programme.

DAS has partnered with Golden Thread Gallery for its Net//Work residency and Gallery Director Peter Richards will offer mentoring for the selected artists and creative practitioners. He has over twenty years’ experience in the arts, both as a curator and an artist.

**Facilities:** Open-plan studios, a wide range of audio/visual and digital production equipment.

For more information about DAS: [www.digitalartsstudios.com](http://www.digitalartsstudios.com)

For more information about Golden Thread Gallery: [www.goldenthreadgallery.co.uk](http://www.goldenthreadgallery.co.uk)

**KEY INFORMATION**

- **Artist Grant Fee:** £1000
- Travel, accommodation, access and subsistence costs will be covered on top of the above

- **Residency Dates:**
  - Residency One: 1 June – 26 June 2020 at Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridgeshire
  - Residency Two: 7 September – 2 October 2020 at Digital Arts Studios, Belfast

**Note:** Applicants may participate in one residency only and will be asked to identify their first choice on the application form. We cannot guarantee that artists will be given their first choice.

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:**

1. Must be a mid-career artist/creative practitioner with a proven track record of exhibitions or projects. Applicants must be based in or from the UK, Egypt, Jordan, Syria or Uganda

2. Must submit the application in English. By this we mean written English if you are submitting a written application or spoken English if submitting by video recording.

3. Provide evidence of English language proficiency (this will be assessed if you are shortlisted, as part of the interview conversation.)
**Note:** We welcome and encourage applications from candidates who use access workers to support their application, such as sign language interpreters, PA support, communication support workers etc. Please submit the format of application which is most accessible to you using your support workers as necessary, to ensure we receive it in proficient written or spoken English.

There is a section in the application where you have the opportunity to let us know about the kind of access support you may require during the residency: this could include a translator to ensure smooth communication in English with the residency host organisation. It is important that you complete this section in order to provide us with the information we need to support you with access, should this be required.

**WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR WITH THIS OPEN CALL?**

Applications will be assessed against the three essential criteria outlined above and the two questions below. They will be reviewed by a selection panel, including representatives from the British Council, Wysing Arts Centre and Digital Arts Studios.

1. Submission of EITHER a critical review of your work (at any level and including any links) OR contact details of someone who will support your application (e.g. someone you have worked with, or for, professionally or a tutor, but NOT a family member or friend)

2. Why you want to participate in this residency, including why you will benefit from working alongside other artists and creative practitioners using digital technologies.

**HOW TO APPLY**

- The deadline for submitting applications is **12:00 midnight (GMT), Monday 24 February 2020.**
- Applications may be submitted through the online application form or as a Video Submission (please see instructions below)
- For applications to be considered you must ensure you submit the following in full and in written English:
  - Completed All Sections of the application either through the Online Form or through Video Submission and the Video Submission Supplement Word Document
  - Completed Equality and Diversity monitoring form (please note this is anonymous and won’t be used to assess your application but will be used for monitoring purposes) and email it to visual.arts@britishcouncil.org with the subject heading ‘Equality and Diversity form’
VIDEO SUBMISSIONS
Should you want to submit your application in video format please read the following. Note: along with the video submission you must also complete the Video Submission Supplement Word Document and email to visual.arts@britishcouncil.org

Video Format:
- Five minutes maximum in length *(The selection panel will only watch the first five minutes of any longer videos)*
- Clearly show your face
- Be a clear recording – no distracting background noise etc.
- As a mp4 or mov file
- No more than 20MB (please note you may need to compress your file to do this - as long as it is a clear recording the production quality does not matter)

Video Instructions:
- Applicants must be prepared to answer the questions in Section 3 of the Video Submission Supplement Word Document as part of their video
- Applicants must clearly state the section number (Section 3) and question before responding to the specific questions in that section
- Must be delivered in English and/or with an interpreter for deaf/sign language-using candidates
- For your application to be considered you must send the following to visual.arts@britishcouncil.org:
  - o Video application by WeTransfer
    - Title your file: Full Name_Residency First Choice
  - o Maximum of 3 portfolio examples by WeTransfer
    - Title your files: Net//Work_Full Applicant Name_Submission Number (e.g. 1, 2 or 3)
    - Each file must be under 1MB in size
  - o Completed Video Submission Supplement Word Document. Title your file: Full Name_Video Submission Supplement

Notes
- It can be shot on your phone – it does not need to be professionally recorded!
- Your video won’t be shared publicly outside of British Council, Wysing Arts Centre and Digital Arts Centre

SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL NEED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR A FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION BETWEEN 27 FEBRUARY AND 3 MARCH 2020.

WE REGRET THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO INFORM UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES OR PROVIDE FEEDBACK. IF YOU HAVE NOT HEARD BACK FROM US 2 WEEKS FROM THE DEADLINE PLEASE ASSUME YOU HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

For any questions please email visual.arts@britishcouncil.org. We look forward to receiving your applications.
ACCESS

What is disability?

We define disability based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. “Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”

'Impairments' can be sensory (e.g. hearing), recurring (e.g. ME), organ-specific (e.g. asthma), mental health conditions (e.g. anxiety and phobias) or mental illnesses e.g. depression, intellectual (e.g. dyslexia) and neurodiverse (including autistic spectrum). There is a huge range of impairments and long term health conditions and this list is not intended to be exhaustive. Drug and alcohol addictions are not regarded as impairments.

For any queries or if you are unsure about disability and access, or related terminology, and would like to discuss them informally before submitting your application, please contact visual.arts@britishcouncil.org