

60th International Art Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia

2024 Venice Fellowships Programme

<https://venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org/fellowship>
#BritishPavilion #VeniceFellowship

The Venice Fellowship Programme

The Venice Fellowships Programme is a unique opportunity for creative individuals, students, researchers, artists and professionals at the early stages of their career, to spend a month in Venice during the world's most important art and architecture biennales.

The Fellowship has two major components:

Exhibition ambassador: invigilating the British Pavilion, engaging with the public and being the public face of the British Council and its commission.

Research or creative project: undertaking fieldwork in Venice to inform your creative practice, research and/or academic interests. This should be connected to La Biennale and/or British Pavilion exhibition themes

Fellows are required to attend an Online Induction School Training from February to April 2024 so they can prepare for their Venice trip and participate in a series of talks and workshops to network and build together a community of practice throughout the 2024 year.



Fellows Group 1, May 2023 © Juliana Peppi



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 at <https://www.labiennale.org/en>

www.britishcouncil.org



60th International Art Exhibition - curated by Adriano Pedrosa

Venice Arsenale and Giardini venues, from 20 April to 24 November 2024 (pre-opening on April 17, 18 and 19)

THE TITLE AND THEME OF BIENNALE ARTE 2024

Stranieri Ovunque - Foreigners Everywhere, the title of the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, is drawn from a series of works started in 2004 by the Paris-born and Palermo-based collective Claire Fontaine. The works consist of neon sculptures in different colours that render in a growing number of languages the words “Foreigners Everywhere”. The phrase comes, in turn, from the name of a Turin collective who fought racism and xenophobia in Italy in the early 2000s: *Stranieri Ovunque*.

More information at <https://www.labiennale.org/en/art/2024>



2024 British Pavilion artist

British Council have commissioned the artist and filmmaker **John Akomfrah RA** to represent Great Britain at the 60th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia.

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.

More information at
<https://venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org/john-akomfrah-ra>



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



2024 British Pavilion curatorial team

British Council have announced **Tarini Malik** as the Shane Akeroyd Associate Curator of the British Pavilion at the 60th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia..

Tarini Malik is a curator and writer based in London. Previously, she was a curator at the Whitechapel Gallery and responsible for the planning and delivery of the artistic programme, as well as at the Hayward Gallery where she organised a number of landmark group exhibitions as well as the first solo presentations in the UK of various artists.

Malik was also Head of Exhibitions for artist Isaac Julien, research curator on several major touring international exhibitions and contributed to the main exhibition at 2015's Venice Biennale. She has held curatorial posts at Fiorucci Art Trust, Frieze Projects and Serpentine Galleries, published her writing in various magazines and journals and lectured widely on cultural studies and curating.

More information at
<https://venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org/tarini-malik-announced-shane-akeroyd-associate-curator>



Tarini Malik © Sarah Bates

The Venice Fellowship and its two major components:

Exhibition Ambassador

A **one-month group residency inside the British Pavilion:** invigilating the Pavilion, engaging with the public and being the public 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.

This is a **capacity building** opportunity so you can develop your skills, collaborate and learn with others, and be a welcoming face of the British Council exhibition commission in Venice.

Requested time commitment will be of approx. 23h per week (not including travel to/from the pavilion) during the period of one month. The British Pavilion rota system will be set out by a contracted Venice Delivery Partner and will vary from half to full day shifts throughout the week and weekend, as the Biennale is open to public from Tuesdays to Sundays, from 10am to 6pm or 11am to 7pm.

Research or Creative Project

Fieldwork to inform your creative practice, research and/or academic interests. This means any proposed idea that you would like to develop into a small sized project or research during your one-month period in Venice. **Skills developed:** time-management & planning, personal confidence & resilience, flexibility & collaboration, creativity & problem-solving, collaboration & communication, project planning & management, testing ideas.

The Project or Research must be aligned with the **programme criteria**. With this we aim to help support creative or academics individuals to develop and test ideas that are aligned with **our values and themes**.

British Council together with your Partner Organisation/Institution will seek collaborative ways to **showcase** your project findings, outcomes and learnings.

To see previous Fellows Project examples, please have a look through [the 2022 Yearbook](#).

Fellows Eligibility and Requirements

We are seeking individuals that meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Candidates must be over 18 years old and based in the UK.
- ❖ Candidates must be enrolled or connected to a selected 2024 Programme Partner Institution or Organisation.
- ❖ We welcome 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.
- ❖ Candidates must commit to and attend in full all of the Induction School Training dates: 28 February, 06 March, 13 March, 20 March, 27 March, 03 April and 10 April 2024, from 6:30pm – 8:15pm UK time on Zoom.
- ❖ Candidates must be able to manage, handle and book all the requirements for their own trip to Venice (including travel and finding accommodation), as well as develop their project/research.
- ❖ Candidates must be available to travel and live in Venice for a full month period (30 days) from April to November 2024 – The designated period will be confirmed/assigned after final selection.
- ❖ Candidates must demonstrate experience of and/or confidence and/or interest in working with people from the most diverse settings and have (emerging) confidence approaching and engaging with them, including (for example) through public speaking and presenting experiences.
- ❖ Cont.

Fellows Eligibility and Requirements cont.

- ❖ Candidates will share our Programme values and ways of working, including collaboration, generosity, kindness, camaraderie and flexibility. We are seeking people who are people-concerned, team-oriented and active listeners and demonstrate a commitment to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality and fostering positive relations between people from different groups. Candidates must develop/explore a creative project/research that has a social value and social impact to contribute to fairer and inclusive societies and world.
- ❖ Candidates should already have an idea of a potential project or research proposal connected to the Programme values and ways of working described above as well as with 2024 La Biennale/British Pavilion theme, including racial injustice, colonial legacies, diasporic identities, migration and climate change, to be developed while in Venice and back to the UK.
- ❖ Please note: We also arrange for access costs to be covered. Further details are provided in the application form.

How to apply to become a Fellow

This opportunity will suit a proactive, flexible, generous, people-concerned, team-oriented, active listener who is collaborative, inclusive, reliable and positive. We are looking for people who are:

- interested and passionate about visual arts, performance, curatorial exhibitions, education, visitors' engagement, architecture, design, crafts, culture and its social and educational value.
- keen to collaborate, network and share ideas with others through a horizontal learning approach – *"I know something you don't know, and you know something I don't know"*.
- willing to experiment and try things (but not necessarily succeed, as failure is part of experimenting, trying, learning, and adapting).

Please note that applicants must be enrolled or connected to a selected 2024 Programme Partner Institution or Organisation.

To apply for a position, please [download the application form here](#), complete and send it via email in Word doc format to your Institution or Organisation partnering with the British Council – from whom you heard about this opportunity.

Please also complete our [equality and diversity monitoring form here](#) - this is voluntary and anonymous.

Deadline to apply: from Monday, 04th September to Wednesday, 08th November 2023 (*please note that the Partner Institution/Organisation is responsible for deciding the final deadline date for the application, but they must open the public application process for a minimum of 48 days*).

Timing & Logistics

Fellows are responsible for managing and arranging all the logistics and requirements for their trip to Venice: finding and booking their accommodation, flight or train tickets, travel and medical insurances, visa (if required), and further requirements that emerge, as well as developing their project/research.

Fellows are required to attend an **Online Induction School Training** so they can prepare for their Fellowship - **Dates:** 28 February, 06 March, 13 March, 20 March, 27 March, 03 April and 10 April 2024, from 6:30pm – 8:15pm UK time on Zoom .

Fellows receive a grant from the British Council approx. 60-70 working days in advance of their traveling date.

The total travel grant is £3,000 (three thousand British Pounds), with £2K funded by the Fellow's Institution or Organisation and £1K funded by the British Council.

Applicants should indicate three separate months in which they are available/prefer to travel and they must be available to travel to Venice in the groups and time windows indicated. 60 selected Fellows are allocated into 8 traveling groups from April to November 2024 and with a total of 8-7 Fellows per group.

Notes:

- For Fellows traveling in the first two groups April/May and May/June, the grant will only be paid approx. 35 to 45 working days prior to their travel date because British Council's vendor set up system might take some time.
- All Fellows must be aware and compliant with Covid-19, UK and Italian Government travel advice for travelling abroad and to VENICE. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Total grant suggested costs breakdown:

FOR PARTICIPANTS FELLOWS (30 days) - 1 person	total days/ hours	total
Outbound and Return Travel (flight, train)	n/a	250 GBP (an estimate, depending on month period and including 23kg luggage)
Accommodation	30	1,150 GBP (an estimate for 1 bedroom studio, depending on month period)
Per diems/Living costs	30	1,050 GBP (an estimate of approx. £35 per day)
Local Transport & Visa costs (if needed)	30	400 GBP
Travel / Medical Insurance	n/a	150 GBP
Induction training and workshops	16h	British Council
Project planning & developing support and coaching	8h	Partner Institution/Organisation
TOTAL		3,000 GBP

Fellows travel groups division:

Group 1: April/May	Arriving in Venice on Saturday, 13 April 2024	Training on Sunday, 14 April at the British Pavilion	Leaving Venice on Tuesday, 14 May 2024
Group 2: May/June	Arriving in Venice on Sunday, 12 May 2024	Training on Monday, 13 May at the British Pavilion	Leaving Venice on Tuesday, 11 June 2024
Group 3: June/July	Arriving in Venice on Sunday, 09 June 2024	Training on Monday, 10 June at the British Pavilion	Leaving Venice on Tuesday, 09 July 2024
Group 4: July/August	Arriving in Venice on Sunday, 07 July 2024	Training on Monday, 08 July at the British Pavilion	Leaving Venice on Tuesday, 06 August 2024
Group 5: August/September	Arriving in Venice on Sunday, 04 August 2024	Training on Monday, 05 August at the British Pavilion	Leaving Venice on Tuesday 03 September 2024
Group 6: September/October	Arriving in Venice on Sunday, 01 September 2024	Training on Monday, 02 September at the British Pavilion	Leaving Venice on Tuesday, 01 October 2024
Group 7: September/October	Arriving in Venice on Sunday, 29 September 2024	Training on Monday, 30 September at the British Pavilion	Leaving Venice on Tuesday, 29 October 2024
Group 8: October/November	Arriving in Venice on Sunday, 27 October 2024	Training on Monday, 28 October at the British Pavilion	Leaving Venice on Monday, 25 November 2024

Access Requirements

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).

Please submit the format of application which is most accessible to you (either written, audio or by video) using your support workers as necessary, to ensure we receive it in written or spoken English. Please email us at venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org if you need additional support for your video submissions.

Important note: we will work collaborative with your Institution or Organisation to meet any individual access needs that require an extra budget or time-support allocation. However, it is each candidate's responsibility to inform and anticipate all of their individual access requirements after receiving the final selection confirmation.

Once the final Fellows are selected, they receive an access form from the British Council. This is to be completed if the Fellow has access requirements for participating in the programme. We also recommend that Fellows discuss their access necessities with their Institution/Organisation main contact lead in advance of applying.

All Fellows will receive information that will help them support each other to fully participate in the programme.

Venice and La Biennale Motor/Mobility access information:

VENICE:

The city was built long before equal access became part of the architect's vocabulary, and the city is dotted with hundreds (approx. 465) of bridges that require climbing and descending steps. Currently, 50% of the city is accessible.

To visit Venice by wheelchair, for example, is not easy due to the fact that usually the pavement is in "pavé" style, the sidewalks are narrow, there are several bridges and only main streets have slipways. It is recommended to wheelchair users to have a non-disabled companion carer with them during all time and their stay in Venice.

For people with visual impairments, some crossings, in central locations are equipped with acoustic signals.

Suggested webpage: https://europeforvisitors.com/venice/articles/accessible_venice.htm

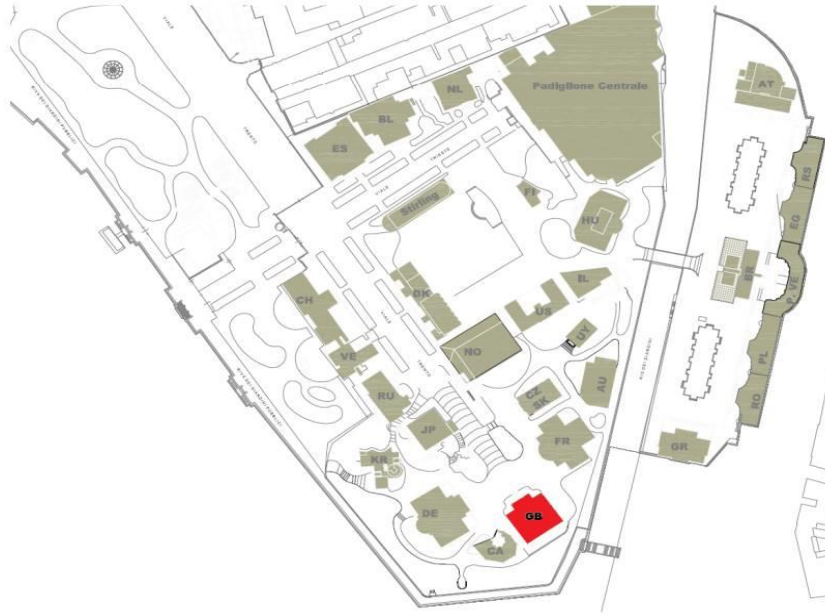
GIARDINI, LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA:

All Pavilions have ramp, stairlift or assistance procedure.

Giardini and Arsenale floor pavements are covered with gravel rocks, which makes the mobility access difficult. For this, La Biennale has to offer to the visiting public an electric golf buggy so people can access the national Pavilions and exhibitions spaces. Buggy need to be solicited every day at the Giardini entrance.

Important to note that there's no provisory pathway beyond the Giardini gravel rocks from its entrance to the British Pavilion. So, La Biennale golf buggy will be recommended for any visitor and Fellows who have access needs.





British Pavilion Motor/Mobility access information:

The La Biennale Giardini pathway towards the British Pavilion as all other Pavilions is covered with gravel rocks. For wheelchair users is recommended to use La Biennale electric golf buggy, that can be requested at the Giardini entrance.

The British Pavilion is accessible to wheelchairs and mobility scooter users via a wheelchair lift located at the Pavilion back.

Guide dogs and hearing dogs are welcome at the Pavilion.

Large print exhibition guides in English and Italian are available at the Pavilion, and online

All films produced by the British Council for the Venice Biennale are captioned.

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

If you have any specific questions regarding access, please don't hesitate to contact us at venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org.



Exhibition Ambassador main responsibilities

- Being an exhibition ambassador at the British Pavilion and offering a warm and friendly welcoming approach to all visitors.
- Handing out guides and supporting visitors with exhibition information.
- Supporting the Pavilion invigilation and care – this will include moving from time-to-time between the galleries, and the internal and external Pavilion spaces.
- Supporting and ensuring COVID-19 safety measures are being adhered to by all.
- Reporting any issues and/or risks to the Venice Steward Manager and British Council team.
- Reporting and capturing visitors' feedback through the British Council feedback form.
- Monitoring the visitor numbers.
- Supporting the visitors access to the Pavilion when required (including via chairlift).
- Monitoring and reporting the conditions of the exhibition space and installations.
- Providing feedback to the Programme team: completing British Council's online feedback form before and after your Fellowship.
- All fellows are responsible for their shifts once confirmed and shared by the Steward Coordinators and must be always respected. *Steward Coordinators assign the number of weekly/monthly hours equally to all fellows, and good team practices and collaborations are requested.*

Research or Creative Project Commitments

- Proactively plan for your project/research and communicate via email in advance with the British Council and your Institution/Organisation partnering with us.
- While in Venice, actively seek any further support and collaborations for your project/research development, always in consultancy with the British Pavilion Steward Coordinators.
- Before, during and after your Fellowship in Venice, actively seek any further support and guidance from your Institution or Organisation partnering with British Council.
- Align your ideas with the programme values and themes.
- Share with and showcase to (via email) the British Council the findings and learnings of your project or research while back in the UK and if any continuation - we recommend within/after 60 days of your return to the UK.
- Showcasing: British Council together with your Institution/Organisation will seek opportunities to promote and present your involvement with the Programme, as well as to showcase your project/research outcomes, experience and/or learnings via digital or other formats.
- You might also be invited by the British Council to attend sharing sessions, talks or conferences to share your experience, programme learnings and recommendations, as well as your project/research showcasing via online gatherings and/or face-to-face.
- Please note that British Council cannot provide any creative materials, electronic, gadgets or media devices for your project/research development.
- We also don't possess any physical workshop space for you to conduct your project/research, including with members of the public.

Q&A sessions - Online and Open to all Interested Candidates

- The British Council team will host two online Q&A sessions for interested candidates from any of our Partner organisations.
- The content will be the same for the two sessions, so we encourage applicants to choose the date that best suits them.
- The sessions will cover: 1) Overview of the 2024 Fellowships Programme Application Guidelines; 2) Experiences from two of our 2023 Fellows 3) Support guidance for completing our 2024 application form.

Wednesday, 4 October 2023

6.00 - 7.00pm BST

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82347302130?pwd=RGNmczRLcTNSaIBYOUZwY3ZOZVhuZz09>

Thursday, 19 October 2023

6.00 – 7.00pm BST

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84791952305?pwd=NG5NZHJMeEM4SzJYcINuVktzR3g3UT09>

Any further comments, thoughts, suggestions or questions?

Please contact us at venicefellowships@britishcouncil.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND ATTENTION!

Venice Fellowship Programme Impact and Outcomes

'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.

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 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

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

Past Fellow

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.

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

Past Fellow



THANK YOU!

