

ARTSPACE

STUDIO PROGRAM
APPLICATION GUIDELINES





ABOUT THE STUDIOS

Residency length

Over the next two years, Artspace will move towards a two-year residency term for the Studio Program, with a renewal process after 12 months (also known as a 1+1 residency model).

The contracted residency period is from June to June each year. **From June 2025 to June 2026, we will support five two-year residencies and four one-year residencies.** From June 2026 onwards, there will be an intake of five two-year studio residencies each year.

One-year studio residencies are only available for the 2025 intake. From 2026, one-year residencies will no longer be offered.

Cost

Studios are provided to successful applicants completely free of charge. Successful applicants will be responsible for all other costs associated with the residency including living expenses, travel costs, materials and equipment. Artists are required to obtain Liability Insurance. Artspace recommends the policy offered by the National Association for Visual Arts (NAVA) Liability Insurance.

Location

The studios are located at Artspace, on the second floor of The Gunnery building, 43-51 Cowper Wharf Road, Woolloomooloo. There is lift access from the ground floor.

The Gunnery building is on the 311 bus route and a short walking distance from Kings Cross Station, St James Station and the Sydney CBD. Nearby galleries and peer institutions include the Art Gallery of NSW, Museum of Contemporary Art, Firstdraft, National Art School and UNSW Art & Design. Artspace is also within a 10-minute walk of Potts Point, a central hub for eateries and bars. There are a number of easily accessible grocery stores within walking distance.

(Front page and above) 2024 One Year Studio Program Artist Gemma Smith in her studio, Artspace, 2023;
(next page) Artspace studio. Photos: Katherine Lu



Studio features

- Flexible working space with 24/7 individual access
- Each studio is approximately 45 square metres with air conditioning, electricity, wifi, natural light, internal sink, large work desk, good ventilation, slip-resistant vinyl linoleum flooring, plasterboard walls backed by plywood
- Accessible by lift, with universal access across the entire building
- Shared toilet (including an accessible bathroom), kitchen and shower facilities are available on level 2
- A communal kitchen and breakout space is shared with Artspace staff
- Access to Artspace's Multipurpose Space and Franco Belgiorno-Nettis Archive to support research and new work in development

Community guidelines

The artist must adhere to Artspace's Code of Conduct and [Community Guidelines](#), agreeing to behave respectfully to other residents and the staff, and to respect all people, their rights, culture and heritage.

Eligibility

- Applicants can be working across all art forms
- Applicants can be from all career stages, from emerging through to established, who have been professionally active for at least the past twelve months
- Applicants across all generations over 18 years of age
- Applicants can be an artist duo or collective
- Applicants must live within or be willing to relocate to the Sydney region
- Applicants identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and/or linguistically diverse, LGBTQIA+, and/or living with a disability are strongly encouraged to apply
- Full-time undergraduate students are not eligible to apply
- Masters and PhD students are eligible to apply
- Alumni of the Studio Program are eligible to reapply after seven years
- Non-Australian applicants will need to fulfil the Australian Government's visa requirements

Minimum occupancy

Applicants must be able to occupy the studio for a minimum of 46 weeks in the year. For absences of four weeks or longer, the studio can be sublet in close discussion with and approval from Artspace.



PROGRAMS

In addition to a rent-free studio, the Artspace Studio Program offers a series of activities to support artists' creative practice and career development. These include:

- Studio visits with leading international curators visiting Sydney through the Artspace and The Keir Foundation International Curators Program
- One-on-one crits with Sydney-based curators, writers, or artists of the studio artists' choosing
- A commissioned long-form essay on artists in the two-year residency, printed in a series of limited-edition publications for commercial distribution and archived in the Franco Belgiorno-Nettis Archive
- Two open studio events with benefactors
- A regular series of public programs where studio artists discuss a key reference, research question, or approach that shapes their practice
- Studio visits from academics and students from across Sydney's universities
- All artists are offered a seat at Artspace's biannual gala (valued at \$1000). In return, they are expected to donate an artwork to the auction.

Additional curatorial support

- Individual studio visits from Artspace curatorial staff throughout the duration of the program
- Curatorial advocacy, including introductions to local and international curators through Artspace's peer network
- 'Stop-work lunches' hosted by Artspace, which bring together all the studio artists with the Artspace team and visiting national and international peers
- Informal excursions to exhibitions and events in Sydney, led by the resident artists

Art Gallery of NSW & Artspace annual co-commission partnership

The partnership supports an artist or collective from Artspace's Studio Program to develop a new work for presentation at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, as part of the Contemporary Projects series, in collaboration with curators from both institutions.



SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on:

- A demonstrated commitment to practising as a professional artist, which aligns with their relevant stage of career; this may include exhibition history, published writing, education, residencies, awards or prizes
- The strength and potential of the artist's practice, as indicated by visual support material
- A strong vision for participating in the Studio Program at this moment in time, including the impact that the studio residency will have on the artist's work and career
- Willingness to participate in the expanded Studio Program including studio visits, public programs, benefactor events and learning and outreach initiatives

As well as assessing the quality of applications in line with the selection criteria, the selection panel will consider the cohort as a whole and aims to reflect the diversity of artistic practice across generations, career stages and art forms.

The selection panel includes all members of the Artspace team and the artist representatives from the Board of Directors. One external panel member from a peer institution may also be present.

The call out is an important opportunity for Artspace to get to know a broad range of artists and their practices. We urge non-successful applicants not to be discouraged and to apply for future opportunities with Artspace. Many artists have been accepted to the Program on subsequent application.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the Studio Program are submitted via the online Application Form. Please upload all the support material outlined below. Applications in flexible formats will be accommodated wherever possible. If you have accessibility requirements, please get in touch with us to discuss alternative submission options: email studios@artspace.org.au or call us on + 61 (2) 9356 0555.

Applications close Wednesday 2 April 2025, 11.59pm (AEDT)

Register for an online [information session](#) on 18 March 2025, 2pm (AEDT)

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in early May 2025

[Application form here](#)

1. Artist bio, artist statement and CV

One PDF document which includes:

- An artist biography in paragraph form of no more than 250 words, including recent key achievements such as exhibitions, awards, grants, residencies, prizes, press coverage or education
- An artist statement of no more than 250 words outlining your material practice and artistic concerns
- A copy of your current artist CV of no more than two pages

2. Vision

One PDF document which includes:

500 words or less outlining your vision for occupying a studio at Artspace, and how the studio will assist in the development of your practice. You should be able to demonstrate how you will regularly use the studio and your capacity to contribute to the culture and community of the organisation and the visual arts sector more broadly. Please include information regarding any upcoming grants, residencies or intention to travel within the residency period.

As part of your Vision statement, please consider:

- What are the expected outcomes of your residency? These could include the development of a new line of research, experiments in a new medium, the creation of works for an upcoming project, a publication, or another targeted way in which you will develop your practice.
- What would you like guidance on during the residency? This could include but is not limited to:
 - exposure to curators in Sydney and internationally
 - commercial representation
 - media training
 - writing about your work
 - building a bibliography on your work
 - accessing collections
 - public speaking
 - critical engagement with a new idea or line of enquiry / building research skills
 - preparing for studio visits with curators
 - other

If you are an alumni of the Studio Program eligible to reapply, please include a statement outlining why a second residency with Artspace would be beneficial to your practice at this particular stage of your career.

Video submissions: As an alternative to a written response, you may submit a URL link to one video file of no more than 5 minutes, which addresses the above vision criteria.

3. Visual support

One PDF document of no more than 10MB and 5 pages that includes:

- Up to 10 images of your work including at least two views of your work installed in an exhibition, public space or other presenting space.

Each image must be labelled with the following details:

Your name, artwork title, year produced, materials, dimensions, exhibition title (if applicable), name of gallery where artwork was installed (if applicable)

Note: When compiling your PDF, please ensure that your images are saved at 150dpi (best for viewing on screen).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

I am an interstate or international applicant, can I apply for a studio?

Yes. However, all successful applicants must be willing to relocate to the Sydney area or outer regions for the duration of the residency, at their own expense, in order to fully participate in the program.

I am not an Australian citizen or a permanent resident. Can I apply for the program?

Yes. Non-Australian applicants will need to fulfil the Australian Government's visa requirements.

I am currently studying, am I eligible to apply?

Full-time students studying at an undergraduate level are not eligible for the Studio Program. We accept applications from Masters and PhD students who can address the selection criteria.

I am a prior recipient of an Artspace One Year Studio, am I eligible to reapply?

Alumni of the Studio Program are eligible to reapply for the program after seven years. For example, an artist who was part of the 2018 Program would be eligible to reapply in 2025. This ensures that the Studio Program will continue to benefit the greatest number of artists possible, while recognising the importance of durational relationships and supporting artists across the various stages of their careers.

Residency length

Why is Artspace moving to a two-year residency model from 2026?

In 2023, the Studio Program expanded with the transformation of The Gunnery, increasing the number of artist studios from seven to ten. With this development, we believe Artspace must move beyond simply providing rent-free spaces to become a place for deepened reflection, critical feedback, sustained curatorial advocacy and visibility within the Australian and international arts sector, thereby enabling artists to financially sustain a practice into the future.

For the first time, the Studio Program includes a set of structured programs accompanying the working spaces and a dedicated curator (Associate Curator - Programs). A 1+1 residency model (two years with a review process after the first year) gives adequate time for this expanded program and for each artist to develop their practice within the studio. Staggered cohorts ensure that the studios remain dynamic, with five new artists entering the program each year.

What is the difference between a one-year and two-year residency in this callout?

Artspace is offering one-year residencies for the 2025 intake only. This is to establish a cycle of staggered two-year cohorts. One-year residencies will not be offered in 2026.

One-year and two-year residents will receive the same access to Artspace facilities, curators, and professional networks, and will participate in most of the programs outlined above, with the exception of the essay commission, which is only offered to two-year residents. A one-year residency is best suited to artists who are working on a specific project or towards an upcoming deadline.

Can I apply for both a one year and two year residency?

No. On the application form, you will be asked to state your preference for either a one-year or two-year residency. However, selecting a preference does not limit your eligibility for the other option. For example, if you choose the two-year residency as your preferred option, you may still be considered for a one-year residency.

Application and application process

How many applications do you receive on average?

In recent years we have received over 170 applications for the Studio Program.

What can I do to make my application stand out?

Competitive applicants will be able to demonstrate a commitment to their art practice, and address why the Studio Program will be of benefit to them at this moment in their career. The selection committee will look for artists with a strong practice, ambition and initiative, as well as a clear and specific vision for what they would like to gain from the residency. Strong visual support and articulation of your practice will assist the panel in considering your application.

When will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

Early May 2025.

Will I receive feedback regarding my application?

Due to the high volume of applications, we are unable to provide applicants with individually tailored feedback. We understand the important role that feedback plays in growth and development, and will provide all applicants with feedback regarding general trends and the quality of submissions.

I am part of an artist collective. How should I present my application?

Artist collectives should submit one application that demonstrates your collaborative practice. On your application, please nominate one person as the key contact for the group.

Support, access and infrastructure

Who will be the main point of contact while I'm in the studio?

The Associate Curator - Programs is the main point of contact.

Can I live in my studio?

No, you are not permitted to live in the studio. Studios are provided expressly for use as working studio spaces.

Are there any restrictions around the way I use my studio?

You can use your studio however you choose—to create new work, to research and test ideas in development, as a rehearsal space, a gathering place, and more. There is no prescriptive use of the space other than to take advantage of your time there. You will need to provide all practice-specific materials, tools and related safety equipment and be conscious of sharing the building with other artists and Artspace staff. There will periodically be noise restrictions in place during events and public programs, which will be communicated with ample lead time. We ask that you keep noise to a minimum to create a quiet and respectful work environment for neighbouring artists.

Will I get to exhibit my work at Artspace?

There is no dedicated Studio Program exhibition. However, studio artists may be included in Artspace's exhibition program where relevant, and may be considered for future projects depending on curatorial objectives and research.

Will there be potential for events to be held in the studio such as a screening, performance, workshop or artist talk?

Yes. Along with scheduled studio visits, open studios, and learning and outreach initiatives, the Associate Curator - Programs can work with you to support any other events you may wish to host.