Venice Fellowships Programme 2027

Open Call

Application Deadline: 17 December 2026, 11:59pm GMT

Interview Dates: 19 & 22 December 2026

British Council Information Session: 18 November 2026, 12pm-1pm GMT



Venice Fellowships Programme 2027

esea contemporary is delighted to announce its partnership with the British Council for the 2027 Venice Fellowships Programme.

The Venice Fellowships Programme offers emerging creatives a unique opportunity to represent the UK at the Venice Biennale while broadening their perspectives, building connections and developing their creative practice. Fellows will travel to and live in Venice for one month (30 days) between May and November 2027.

The Programme has two components for each Fellow:

1. Exhibition Ambassador: Fellows participate in a one-month group residency inside the British Pavilion. They will be asked to invigilate exhibition spaces, engage with the public, lead tours and act as the face of the British Council and its exhibition commission.

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 20th International Architecture Exhibition, the British Pavilion and/or the 2027 commissioned exhibition.

Two Fellowship places are available to applicants through esea contemporary.



What is the Venice Architecture Biennale 2027 and the British Pavilion?

The 20th International Architecture Exhibition of the 2027 Venice Biennale runs from 8 May to 21 November 2027 (pre-opening on 6 and 7 May) at the Giardini, the Arsenale and various locations across Venice. It brings together an international community of researchers, designers, architects and institutions around the unifying theme *Do Architecture — For the Possibility of Coexistence Facing a Real Reality*, examining new approaches to architecture that blend local cultures with contemporary practice.

The 2027 British Pavilion exhibition will be a UK-Malaysia collaboration marking 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Led by UK-based curators Dr Guan Lee and Mike Lim, alongside a UK curatorial team including Maria McLintock and Ben Swaby Selig, the team's commission will explore impermanence in architecture, diaspora culture and how migration transforms living traditions present in Malaysia and the world today.

Read more about the British Pavillion at the 20th Venice Architectural Biennale.

What the Fellowship Involves

Fellows are required to commit to all of the following conditions. The complete list is set out in the Venice Fellowship Application Guidance Notes.

Exhibition Ambassador

Fellows will undertake a one-month group residency at the British Pavilion, where they will act as invigilators and public-facing representatives of the British Council and its exhibition commission. Responsibilities include:

- Welcoming visitors and distributing exhibition guides
- Providing support to visitors with access requirements
- Delivering public tours and talks
- Collecting visitor feedback and monitoring visitor numbers
- Monitoring and reporting the condition of the exhibition spaces

The expected time commitment is 28 hours per week, excluding travel to and from the Pavilion. The Biennale is open Tuesday to Sunday, and shifts range from half to full days across weekdays and weekends. Fellows are responsible for arranging any shift changes among themselves.



Research or creative project

Fellows will develop a small-sized research or creative project in Venice, connected to Venice, La Biennale, the 20th International Architecture Exhibition, the British Pavilion and/or the 2027 commissioned exhibition.

The project must be collaborative, feasible alongside the weekly invigilation commitment, and demonstrate the value it could bring to its audience or community. Fellows will submit a final project proposal one month prior to departure for Venice and deliver a 5–10-minute overview to their Travel Group on the final day of their residency. The British Council is unable to provide studio space, materials or additional funding for projects.



Online Induction

Fellows are required to attend every session of the six-week online Induction series (March to April 2027), participate in an evaluation of the series, and book a 15-minute introductory meeting with the Induction facilitator before 26 February 2027.

After Venice

Fellows are required to share and showcase their findings and learning in the UK within 12 weeks of their return, and to participate in an evaluation of the Venice Fellowship experience. Fellows may also be invited to contribute to sharing events, and a final showcase event will take place in February 2028.

Conduct

Fellows are required to comply with the British Council's Code of Conduct. The British Council reserves the right to terminate a Fellow's grant in cases of persistent absence or late arrival at the Pavilion, or in the event of misconduct.

Funding

Each Fellow receives a £3,300 grant from the British Council towards travel, accommodation and living costs. Support is available for Fellows with access needs, subject to assessment by the British Council. Please discuss any access needs with us before you apply.

Timeline

17 November 2026: Open Call launches.

18 November 2026, 12pm-1pm GMT: Information session with the British Council. Teams Link.

17 December 2026, 11:59pm GMT: Deadline for applications to the Fellowships programme.

19 & 22 December 2026: Interviews with Shortlisted candidates.

January 2027: British Council confirms selected Fellows.

March – April 2027: 6-week mandatory online induction.

May – November 2027: Venice travel groups. Each Fellow's designated period will be confirmed after final selection.

By February 2028: Final Showcasing event.

How to apply

Eligibility

1. Candidates must be over 18 years old and based in the UK.
2. Candidates must be available to travel to and live in Venice for one month (30 days) between May and November 2027.
3. Candidates must commit to and attend in full approximately 15 hours of compulsory online training across 6 weeks (March – April 2027).
4. Candidates must be able to arrange and book all aspects of their own trip to Venice, including visas, travel and accommodation.

5. Candidates must be fluent in English. Fluency in other languages is not required.

6. Candidates must demonstrate an interest in one or more of the following: Venice; La Biennale; the 20th International Architecture Exhibition; the British Pavilion; Malaysia, and/or the 2027 commissioned exhibition.

7. Candidates must demonstrate a passion for one or more of the following: visual art, architecture, design, craft, performance, curatorial practice, exhibition interpretation, education, audience engagement and/or culture and its social value.

8. Candidates must have previous experience in a public-facing role.

9. Candidates must outline an idea for a research or creative project that can be developed during the Venice residency month.

For a full list of Eligibility and Requirements, please refer to the Venice Fellowship Application Guidance Notes.

Application Process

1. Read the Venice Fellowship Application Guidance Notes

2. Download the Application Form as a Word document and complete.

3. Complete the Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form. This is voluntary and anonymous.

4. Record a short video of yourself explaining why you wish to be considered for this fellowship. This is optional but strongly recommended (max. 5 minutes).

5. Send your CV (no more than two pages), completed application form and video to programme@eseacontemporary.org with the subject line: VFP27 Application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

6. Interviews will take place on 19 & 22 December 2026. Please let us know your availability for these dates when you apply.

Application Deadline

The deadline for applications is **17 December 2026, 11:59pm GMT**

Please note that we will not be able to accept any late applications. Please allow plenty of time to prepare and submit your application, making sure you send your completed application form to the correct email address well before the deadline.

Privacy: Your application, CV and video will be used only to assess your application. If you are shortlisted, they will be shared with the British Council for final selection. Any access information you give is used only to arrange support. See our Privacy Policy.

Selection Process

A panel from the esea contemporary team will review all applications against the questions in the application form.

All applicants will be informed as to whether or not their application was shortlisted by esea contemporary. Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications expected, we will not be able to provide individual feedback on applications.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a short online interview and the candidates selected through the interview process will have their applications sent to the British Council for the final selection process. The British Council may also request an interview.

Interviews are scheduled to take place 19 & 22 December 2026.

The British Council will review the shortlisted applications and notify the final candidates by 1 February 2027.

Further information

Please read the Venice Fellowship Programme Guidance and the Venice Fellowship Application Guidance Notes for detailed information about the programme and to download the Application Form.

General information about the Venice Fellowship is available on the British Council's website. Candidates are also encouraged to join the British Council's information session on 18 November before applying.