

# fabric

Residencies  
Open Call  
2026 - 2027

## About Fabric

Fabric is a dance development organisation based in the Midlands UK. Our work is shaped by our four cornerstones: Research, Engagement, Sector Development, Showcasing and Performance.

Our home cities and the communities we serve and collaborate with are constantly changing – they bring a diversity of practices and forms together to make this an extraordinary place for dance.

Our approach is informed by care, openness, and rigour, through our curatorial values of **Curiosity**, **Disruption** and **Joy**.

Through this approach our mission is to create the conditions for dance to flourish.



## Eligibility

- The lead applicant (whether an individual or part of a collective) must be an artist who works primarily in dance, movement or choreography
- The artist must be independent
- The artist must not be employed full time by a regularly funded arts, culture or heritage organisation in the UK
- Regularly funded organisations can not apply
- The artist must be 18 or over and live and work in the UK
- The artist must not be a full-time (undergraduate / Masters) student

**Please note:** Recipients of JCRP Phase 2 and Fabric Residencies 2024-2025 cannot apply. We will only accept one application per artist/collective/company.



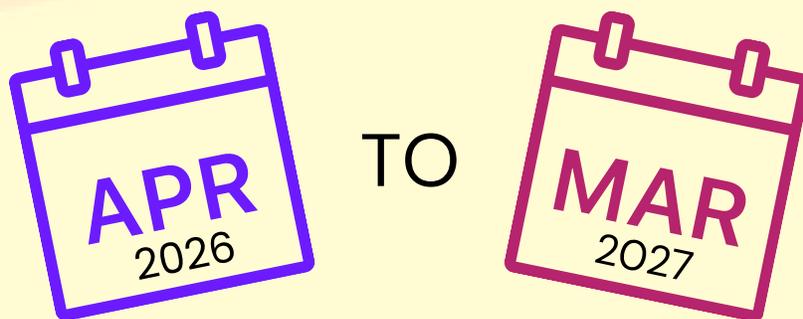
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# About the Opportunity

We are delighted to open the new round of applications for our Fabric residency programme. Open to artists based in the UK, we are offering money, space and staff time to explore new ideas and support the realisation of projects.

We have a total budget of £45,000 to distribute across approximately 6 projects. At least 2 residency places will be prioritised for artists that currently live and work in the Midlands.

Residencies will take place **between April 2026 and March 2027**. Delivery can be in consecutive blocks or individual days to work around other work/life commitments.



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## Key Criteria

- The research idea resonates with what is important to Fabric
- Bold ideas and projects that contribute to the artists' practice
- Projects that are well considered and manageable within the budget and timeline proposed
- The project engages with the public in some way
- An openness to collaborative working and developing shared learning with Fabric
- A commitment to mutual respect, care and kindness
- A commitment to an evaluation conversation to learn from each other and inform Fabric's future work

Fabric residencies are designed and resourced to take place without additional funding. We welcome successful applicants applying for additional funds to enhance the opportunity, but this residency should not be reliant upon or subject to additional funds, and the project as outlined should be able to be delivered regardless.



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## The Offer

### Space

Studio space provided in kind at Fabric Nottingham and/or Birmingham sites

A minimum of 5 days to a maximum of 10 days

We will consider residencies taking place in other spaces if there is a specific rationale (e.g. it takes place in your home, the work needs a messy space, it relates to a specific community located elsewhere, or it is site specific/outdoors).



Birmingham Studio



Nottingham Studio



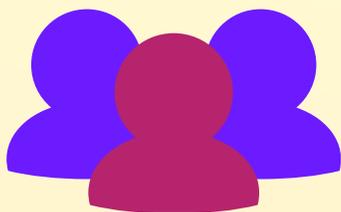
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## The Offer (CONTINUED)

### Money

A cash bursary – £1000–£8,000

We expect that time, expenses, & fees are considered and paid fairly & access is included where relevant



### Staff Time

Fabric staffing time is provided in-kind

We will support the management of the residency

We can provide advice on various aspects of the industry

Advice can include producing, community engagement, finance, marketing, research and international marketplaces.

### Fabric welcomes applications for residencies for work at various stages of development as follows:

- Research for a new idea where time and space are needed to explore, test and develop
- A project that has already undertaken a research and development process and could benefit from additional time to adapt, strengthen or finalise ready for touring
- A project interested in collaboration, co-creation and/or research with another artist living outside the UK. There should be a specific rationale and reason as to why this international collaborator is essential and brings something unique to the residency



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## Public Engagement

All residencies should engage with the public in the Midlands in some way (unless agreed to deliver remotely). This could be through Fabric's existing programmes and initiatives, through an artist's own connections, or a new invitation to the community, providing it is well considered and held.

### Examples include:

- Classes for dance professionals
- Writing to be hosted and shared publicly by Fabric online
- Podcasts to be hosted and shared publicly by Fabric online
- Workshops for Children's & Young People programmes where projects are suitable
- A Sneak Peek of what you are working on shared to a public audience
- A participation invite – for example, a community workshop, a conversation about your work over food with members of the community, or a co-creation opportunity with non-professionals
- An Open Studio to invite people in to see you live at work
- Photography
- A public resource for the sector

or something more imaginative, it's totally up to you to propose what you believe will connect your work to others in a genuine and mutually beneficial way with solid preparation.

Any proposed engagement will be discussed and agreed with Fabric to ensure that it works alongside our values, programmes and communities, and we will work with successful applicants to adapt where necessary.



## Access Support

At Fabric, we strive to make our artist residencies accessible and inclusive. We aim to create working conditions that centre the care and dignity of all.

Find details about the support available for artist residencies here:

<https://fabric.dance/access-support-for-artist-residencies/>

## Residency Administration and Meeting Time

As part of our offer, we expect the following commitment from you, which will need planning within your project and be included in your budget:

- Attendance at a minimum of 2 meetings to negotiate and confirm the residency details
- Completing a marketing form to provide text and images by an agreed deadline so that we can promote the residency and public engagement online
- There will be an invitation to create content (video/photo) for visibility on social media and a final sharing event
- Half a day's time to evaluate the process with Fabric



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## Budgeting and Planning Guidance

Rather than stipulating a budget amount, Fabric is committed to providing the funds needed to deliver the proposed project between £1000 to £8000 . We expect that time, expenses and fees are considered and paid fairly.

You will be asked how much cash you require and what for, to form a budget. A budget template is available on the webpage.

We imagine that the budget will primarily cover:

- Fees
- Travel
- Accommodation
- Per diems
- Small props, materials or consumables
- Time/expenses to deliver the outlined commitments

We will not cover costs for:

- Buying assets
- Space hire (outside of Fabric's free space)
- Flights for UK residencies

Support workers and/or access equipment/technology are intended to be funded via Access to Work for working disabled artists. It is your responsibility to apply for Access to Work funding if support is necessary and relevant to you. See [www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work). If you're unable to gain support from Access to Work or waiting on a response, then required access costs should be included and clearly outlined in your budget.



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# Budgeting and Planning Guidance (CONTINUED)

The residency could support a single artist or an artist working with collaborators.

You will need to balance the duration of your residency against the number of people being paid and your total budget request.

For example, one or two people might be able to be paid for 10 days (the maximum number of studio days available), so your residency could be 10 days in duration, whereas 4 people might only be able to be paid to work for 5 days and so the residency would need to be shorter in response.

Fabric recommends that you consider the following as a guide. These are based on [ITC and/or Equity rates](#). Other industry standard rates may apply depending on your collaborators.

If you are receiving Universal Credit and need to balance payments to align with your work allowance, we are happy to discuss how to make it work for you.

Remember to include Residency and Meeting time (see page 7) in your planning.



## Selection Processes

We will select and support as many possible projects that we can with the funds available and ideas presented.

We will offer at least 2 residency places to artists currently living in the Midlands.

The Midlands is Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Derbyshire, Dudley, Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Herefordshire, Northamptonshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire.

All applications will be checked for eligibility (see page 2 to reference eligibility) prior to the selection process. All eligible applications will be read/viewed in full by at least 2 members of the selection panel to shortlist.

### **Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:**

- The quality, strength and boldness of the artistic idea/vision for the project
- Alignment with Fabric's values
- The proposed project is well considered and manageable
- The project understands its audience and offers a connection to the public
- There is something exceptional in this project that has caught our attention



## How to Apply\*

Read the application guidance and ensure you are eligible and your project idea aligns.

**\*We will only accept one application per artist/collective/company**

Please note that the application form has no option to save your progress. A template version of the application questions (in Word) is available to download on our webpage to enable you to work offline and then paste it into the application form once you're ready to submit your online application.

If you prefer to answer in video or audio to the questions, you can upload within the Wufoo application form.

If you have any questions or would like support from someone in our team to help you complete your application, please get in touch by emailing:

[helen@fabric.dance](mailto:helen@fabric.dance)

**Deadline to apply: Wednesday 4 February 2026 10am**

Offers made by Monday 2 March

Delivery period: April 2026 to March 2027

**Please note:** that submitting an application in the final minutes can sometimes lead to technical difficulties, so we advise you not to do so.  
**Applications won't be accepted after the deadline.**



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