

West Dean College Artist-in-Residence Open Call

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find out more about West Dean College of Arts and Conservation?

Set within the historic and atmospheric West Dean House, West Dean College of Arts and Conservation provides an immersive environment with a forward-thinking approach, strong professional connections and a rich heritage of creativity.

Edward James, the founder of the College, was a poet, artist, designer and patron of the Surrealist movement. During his lifetime he sponsored numerous artists and writers including Salvador Dalí, Leonora Carrington, Leonor Fini, René Magritte and John Betjeman. Today, the College continues this work by supporting people to realise their creative potential and ambitions.

For more details please visit the college website <https://www.westdean.org.uk>

What are the teaching responsibilities of the residency and what level are the programmes?

Selected artists will deliver one public lecture at West Dean College during the residency and deliver one teaching session. This can be one-to-one tutorials, group critique sessions, a workshop or seminar. Other formats can be discussed with academic staff.

The Fine Art department supports students studying at Graduate Diploma and MFA level, with options to specialise in Painting and Drawing, Sculpture, Tapestry and Textile Art, or to focus on interdisciplinary practice. All of the Fine Art programmes are validated by the University of Sussex. The department currently has an average of fifteen students across all levels and subjects.

What are the benefits of the residency programme?

The residency provides a relaxing environment in which to develop both research and studio-based work. Each resident is provided with a studio space and is able to access various facilities at West Dean College by appointment, enabling them to develop new skills with the support of expert technical staff. In addition to the workshops, residents can also negotiate access to the West Dean Collection and Archive, as well as the College library. Residents are also able to work in the College's award-winning gardens and have access to the wider West Dean Estate.

What facilities are available?

The College has a range of facilities, including a stone carving workshop, ceramics studio, and dedicated print room. Resident artists will have access to facilities within full-time departments by negotiation – including Conservation programmes in books, metals, furniture, ceramics and clocks, as well as the facilities within Fine Art. Applicants should indicate the facilities they require access to in their application.

Am I eligible to apply for the residency?

The Open Call is open to all artists living within the UK and the European Union. Applicants must hold a British passport or one from a country within the EU. The residency is not available to full-time students, although PhD candidates can apply.

What hours can I access the studio and grounds?

The Fine Art studios are open from 8am to 10pm. The college grounds and wider estate are accessible 24-hours a day.

Can I live in the studio or stay overnight?

No, residents and students must leave the studio by 10pm.

Can I send a hard copy of the application form rather than submitting online?

No. We only accept applications sent via the online form. Hard copies will not be considered.

I have already completed a residency at West Dean, can I still apply?

There is a lot of demand for the West Dean College Residency Programme so we restrict the residencies to one slot per artist. However, we are passionate about supporting previous residents so if you have previously done a residency at West Dean please do get in touch if you would like to propose something.

Can two or more individuals apply to work on a collaborative project?

No. This is a single occupancy residency.

Does the artist have to contribute costs?

No. The Residency includes room and board and covers all travel within the UK. A material budget of £200 is available.

What is the policy on bringing spouses, partners or children?

This is a single occupancy residency and spouses or partners are unable to accompany the artists.

Where would I stay?

Residents are accommodated in a historic house in the village of West Dean. The room is ensuite and has a space to work and relax. The accommodation sits adjacent to the award-winning West Dean Gardens that lead straight to the College.

Can I request special meals?

All dietary requirements can be catered for by our in-house team of chef's provided prior notice is given with details of any specific diets or allergens.