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Eligibility for Wasps Artists' Studio Spaces

Wasps' studio spaces are provided to support visual and applied artists.

These spaces are provided at lower than market rents and, although we aim to be as inclusive as possible, given that spaces are limited and demand from artists is high, we want to ensure that space is leased to practicing artists.

In assessing eligibility, we take into account a number of different factors such as type of practice, what stage you are at in your career (for example, in assessing an artist's experience if he/she is a recent graduate) and the scale of your output (e.g. are you making one off pieces).

How we allocate studios

When allocating studio spaces we will try to match the studio available with the needs of the artists on our register for space, as well as the taking into account the date of application.

In matching artists to spaces, as well as considerations of budget and studio type/size, we will take into account the compatibility of an individual artist's practice with neighbouring spaces in terms of any noise, dust, vibration etc arising from that practice.

Visual Artists

Due to the diverse nature of contemporary visual arts practice, it can be difficult to categorise but we use the term 'visual artist' to describe painters, sculptors, printmakers, installation artists, audio artists, video and film makers, fine art photographers, performance artists, multi media and graphic artists.

Applied Artists

We use the term 'applied artist' to describe jewellers/silversmiths, ceramicists, glass artists, weavers and textile artists, illustrators/cartoonists.

Designer-Makers

These would include fashion designers, milliners, furniture makers/designers, creative metal workers, musical instrument makers (eligibility is dependant upon our judgement about your scale of work and other aspects of practice...see "Grey Areas" below).

Designers/Other Creative Industries

Wasps does support designers (graphic design, architecture, digital media, etc) and other creative industries (CI) companies (including framemakers and commercial photographers) in spaces which are designated for such uses. CI spaces will be charged at market rents and may be liable to pay Non-Domestic Rates to the local authority.

Grey Areas

Some practices (particularly applied artists and designer/makers) fall into a grey area and assessing whether these are within Wasps' remit can be more difficult without being overly prescriptive. In general terms, we do not intend to support commercial practice within our artists' studios.

From our experience, grey areas can arise within the following practices (though this is not an exclusive list and other practices may also fall into this category):

Photography: if your work is weighted towards commercial photography, wedding, editorial, fashion or press photography we would not classify you as a fine art photographer and you would not qualify for artists' studio space.

Fashion Designers and milliners: Wasps are able to support you within our studio spaces if you are designer with a small scale, bespoke output. Your work should have a high degree of handmade input.

Furniture Designers, creative metal workers and musical instrument makers: You must be producing objects with a high degree of handmade input; the object should be designed and created by you. Each item should be unique or part of a limited batch run.

If your practice falls into any of the categories but your output is on a large scale and not based on limited editions then you would be defined as a commercial creative business. In these cases, if your work falls outwith our remit for the artists' studios, you may be offered space on different lease terms (possibly at market rents and other varied terms) or you could apply for a commercial creative industries space (currently only at South Block Studios or The Briggait in Glasgow).

Other factors

Self-assessment criteria

In the application form applicants for space are asked to assess their practice as an artist against 5 simple criteria. If you are unable to say tick at least 3 of the 5 criteria, you will not be eligible for space. Whilst this is self-assessed on the form, staff members may ask for further information to confirm the statements.

Spaces are for practicing artists

Wasps artists' studio spaces are for creative people who can demonstrate that they are a practicing artist at the time of application and the information we ask you to provide is intended to allow you to demonstrate this. If you are unable to demonstrate that you are actively practicing as an artist, you may not be offered space until you are able to do so. For recent graduates or for those returning to practice after an extended break, eligibility may rest on the judgement of a member of Wasps' staff.

Noise and other disturbance

Due to the nature of studio buildings, some practices (e.g. working with some resins and fibreglass) cannot normally be accommodated in most studio spaces. If your practice is likely to cause disturbance to other studio holders, please discuss this with a member of Wasps team in the first instance. We may refuse to let a studio for use if this will, in our sole opinion, cause significant disturbance to other studio holders.

Former tenants and rent arrears

If an applicant for space previously had a Wasps' studio and there is an outstanding balance of rent remaining, or if in our sole opinion, you were persistently in arrears of rent, we reserve the right to refuse to accept you onto the register for space.

Information sharing with other arts organisations

Wasps is in active contact with other studio providers and if we are aware of any action on the part of an applicant for space in relation to another arts organisation which would cause us, in our opinion, concern, we reserve the right to refuse to accept an applicant onto the register for space.

Studio buildings and mix of practices

It is our experience that artists' studio buildings thrive when there is a good mix of artistic practices that make up its studio community. We will try to achieve this mix by balancing the different practices within any given building, for example between visual and applied artists.

A matter of judgement

Because space is limited and demand is high, we cannot support every artist who applies for space and choices have to be made. These choices are made by staff members who have a formal arts background themselves and therefore have an understanding of arts practice. We do all we can to ensure that these choices and decisions are made fairly and openly.

Sometimes assessing whether an applicant for space falls into our remit for the studios, is a matter of judgement on the part of Wasps Artists' Studios. Where someone's practice is in a grey area, the application may be discussed by the staff team as a whole, or referred to the Chief Executive for a decision.

In all cases, we reserve the right – at our sole discretion – to refuse to offer an artists' studio to any individual who in our opinion falls outwith the core remit for studio provision, or is ineligible for any other reason. We will communicate as clearly as we can the reasons why we have reached this decision.

How to register

If you have checked your eligibility and would like to apply for a studio, please complete the application form which can be downloaded from our website ([insert link](#)).

Once you have completed your application form please attach it to an email, along with six images of your recent work and an artists' CV and email it to info@waspsstudios.org.uk.

Alternatively you can post it to [Studio applications, Wasps Artists' Studios, The Briggait , 141 Bridgegate, Glasgow G1 5HZ.](#)

What to Include in an Artists' CV

An artists' CV should include up-to-date information on your arts practice. It should cover all exhibitions you have taken part in, residencies you have participated in, details of galleries that stock your work and any other information about your career as an artist that you think may be of interest to us or is relevant to your application.

Format of Images

All images that you submit to support your application must be in Jpeg format and 300dpi. Poor quality images will not be accepted and you will be asked to resubmit these.

If you are refused entry to the register for studio space

If you have been refused entry to the studios register and are unhappy about the reasons given, please email info@waspsstudios.org.uk providing details and a member of Wasps' staff team will get back to you.