

Watershed Winter Residencies 2022

Call for applications

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OVERVIEW

An opportunity for creative practitioners to develop ideas that blend art and technology.

— When

At least 14 flexible days between January and March 2022

— Where

Watershed's Pervasive Media Studio + Online

— Application Deadline

Monday 8th November 2021, 10am GMT

— Call

Watershed's Winter Residencies programme is a fantastic opportunity to develop and share ideas, to meet incredible people, to experiment, make and think. It is open to creative practitioners of any discipline, career stage and background, who have ideas for projects that blend art and technology. We have two residencies available. Each comes with a structured programme, work space at the Pervasive Media Studio, a network of peers, plus financial, technical and critical support. The programme will take place in early 2022 (Jan to Mar) and we're flexible about how you structure your time. This is a remarkable opportunity to have time, resources and freedom to get an idea off the ground. <http://www.watershed.co.uk/studio>

MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Our Winter Residencies 2022 call has a pretty open brief. We're looking for ideas that blend art with technology on any theme you want to explore. The call is open to all artforms and we're most interested in ideas that you feel would benefit from being developed within the Pervasive Media Studio community.

We are pleased to offer two 14-day residencies between Monday 10th January and Friday 30th March 2022. The time structure is flexible and we'll discuss what would suit you best in the run up to the programme start.

During your time with us, we will encourage you to experiment, think, share and discuss your idea as it evolves. We offer a supportive space for this, with help from a Watershed Producer and Creative Technologist.

This is a research and development programme, so we'll support you to develop a concept rather than design a finished work. It is likely you will have a good story about the journey you've been on, some well-formed ideas and interesting experiments. Towards the end of the residency we will invite you to share your 'work-in-progress' with the public. We'll work with you to find the right frame for your ideas and design an event that will help you move forwards.

We aim to be as inclusive as possible and work to accommodate all access requirements. We will openly discuss and tailor how we do things to support you as best we can.

At the end of the residency we will actively listen to your feedback, reflect on your journey and think about what your next steps could be.

— **We offer**

- Time in residence at Watershed's Pervasive Media Studio + online
- A bursary of £2800 (tax inclusive) plus £500 for materials
- A travel bursary to support temporary relocation to Bristol
- The opportunity to focus intensively on the development of an idea
- Tailored support to help you get the most out of your time with us
- A hand-picked mentor drawn from the Studio community
- A structured process featuring research blogs, regular catch ups, discussions and sharing events
- A peer community of potential collaborators for current and future projects

— **What do we expect of you?**

- Enthusiasm and ambition to grow and develop your practice.
- An open, curious, experimental approach
- Dedicated research time at the Pervasive Media Studio / remotely
- Regular online documentation of progress and ideas
- Participation in critiques, discussions and meetings
- Meeting with a mentor
- A willingness to contribute to the Studio community
- A sharing of ideas towards the end of the residency
- Some reflection and feedback on your time with us

ABOUT YOU

- You have a great idea and want to explore how to make it a reality.
- You have an open and curious approach to your own work and to the work of others in the Studio network.
- Your idea will significantly develop through inclusion in the programme.
- You may be well versed in using technology, have tinkered, or have some great ideas but need help with technical possibilities, any approach is fine.

We feel that creating the conditions for amazing work to thrive is to bring together people who are different from one another, so we welcome applications from everyone. You could be just starting out, mid or late career, you could be pivoting in a creative direction or returning from a career break. All career stages, creative disciplines and backgrounds are welcome.

We ask for one project idea per application. You can make multiple applications if you have more than one idea. You can also apply as individuals or groups.

You reside (or are planning to reside) in the UK.

We recognise the creative industries are majority white, cisgender and non-disabled. We believe our work will be stronger with greater diversity and welcome applications from those who bring difference.

The scheme is not aimed at undergraduate students, students in full time education, or those living outside of Bristol.

WHERE WILL IT TAKE PLACE?

Practitioners gain the most from our residencies by spending time working at the Pervasive Media Studio, so we are keen for this to happen where possible.

However we recognise that how we are able to work together remains unpredictable and differs from person to person, so we've consciously designed a flexible programme to accommodate in-person and online working. We have measures in place to ensure any time spent in our building is safe and productive. Our spaces are wheelchair accessible, we have a quiet room and we will discuss access requirements with you. We will monitor circumstances relating to Covid-19 and chat with you should guidelines change.

During the first lockdown the Pervasive Media Studio community moved online and now thrives both on and offline. So whatever the situation, we will invite you to join, contribute to and learn from our resident community of creative practitioners, who work on new and emerging ideas. Ideas span gaming, projections, location-based media, city intervention, connected objects, tangible interfaces and expanded performance. Some are cultural, some are commercial. Run in partnership with UWE Bristol and the University of Bristol, the Studio has great workspace, an open ethos and a can-do attitude.

MAKING YOUR APPLICATION

We receive a lot of applications for our funded Residency programmes, so to make sure we really understand your proposition, we suggest you:

- Contact us if forms or recordings are not your thing, please don't be afraid to do this, we are happy to discuss alternatives that would work better for you
- Create a biography that summarises your practice, experience and any recent relevant projects
- Create a realistic proposal. It's quite a short residency, so have a good think about what you would do with the time and how this residency might help you move forwards
- Be as concise as possible
- Be sure to explain what difference this would make to you and why you need to be at the Pervasive Media Studio to make it happen
- If you're planning to send links to share examples of work, please choose examples that are most relevant to your proposal
- Ask us questions if you need to

Assessment Criteria

When assessing proposals we score each application against the following questions:

- Does the proposal meet the brief?
- Does the proposal do something new & different?

- Will this person make a valuable contribution to the Pervasive Media Studio community?
- Will this make a difference to the person applying?

— **How to apply**

We know it takes a lot of time and effort for people to apply to opportunities, so each year we explore ways to further refine and adjust our process. This year we've added two Zoom drop-ins prior to the application deadline. During each session a member of our team will be online to informally chat through any questions or concerns you may have relating to the call or your application. No need to book, just rock up and we will do our best to answer your queries. Times and joining links are in the Timeline section below. You can also email queries to residencies@watershed.co.uk

Stage One

If you are interested in applying, please send either 2-3 sides of A4 OR a video or audio file (max 10mins in length) to residencies@watershed.co.uk telling us:

- Your name
- Your postcode
- Your email
- Your phone number

- A short biography
- What is the idea you want to develop?

- Why do you need to be resident at the Pervasive Media Studio to make this work?
- Any relevant links (optional)
- Please complete an inclusion survey (this is anonymous and not part of the application process): <https://wshd.to/opportunitiessurvey>

The deadline for submissions is **Monday 8th November 2021, 10am GMT**

We realise that text or recorded applications don't suit everyone, so if you would like discuss a different format or way to apply, please get in touch (details on page 11).

Stage Two

If you reach Stage Two, you will be asked to join us for a short Zoom conversation. This will be an opportunity to discuss your practice and proposal. If you have access requirements there will be an opportunity to discuss this at the time. To help you prepare, we will send the interview questions in advance and provide a £100 stipend (inclusive of tax) for your time.

TIMELINE

22 September 2021 - Open for applications (Stage One)

08 October, 10:00-12:00 - Zoom drop-in session one: [Join Here](#)

Meeting ID: 811 7720 2954 / Passcode: 213151

01 November, 15:30-17:30 - Zoom drop-in session two: [Join Here](#)

Meeting ID: 867 1139 2149 / Passcode: 853993

08 November - Deadline for application forms, 10am GMT

19 November - Applicants shortlisted for Stage Two notified

30 November or 01 December - Zoom calls (Stage Two)

09 December - Applicants notified

January – March 2022 - Residency period

Optional Covid-19 Conversation

We recognise that as individuals, we carry varying levels of concern and anxiety relating to the current public health crisis. We invite an open dialogue around this. If you have any concerns you would like to discuss, you can talk with a Watershed Producer about the programme and the measures that are in place in relation to Covid-19. This is not part of the selection process and will have no bearing on your application. Contact residencies@watershed.co.uk if you would like to discuss any concerns or requirements.

TALK TO US

If you have any questions about the residencies or application process, please join one of our open Zoom drop-ins (details on page 10) or message us at residencies@watershed.co.uk

If you would like to find out more about the Pervasive Media Studio and what we do, you can:

— **Visit** <https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio>

— **Join us** at our lunchtime talks on [Watershed's YouTube channel](#)

Talks happen live every Friday at 1pm and you can watch past talks too.

— **Watch** a short film about the space: <https://youtu.be/f5Gtc9B-z-U>

Please bear in mind that our film was made pre-Covid-19, so some of the things it mentions such as weekly Studio tours are not available at the moment. The Studio layout is also a little different, it has for example a new entrance, but the film should give you a jist of what we're about.

And if there is anything else that we haven't covered do let us know.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Victoria

Victoria Tillotson,

Talent Development Lead, Watershed

SOME OF THE CREATIVES CURRENTLY RESIDENT AT THE PERVASIVE MEDIA STUDIO

Anagram

<http://weareanagram.co.uk>

Victoria Melody

<https://victoriamelody.com>

Sleepdogs

<http://sleepdogs.org>

Fozia Ismail

<https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/residents/fozia-ismail>

Alec Stevens

<https://www.alecstevens.co.uk>

Duncan Speakman

<https://duncanspeakman.net>

Jonny Cotsen

<https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/residents/jonny-cotsen>

Action Hero

<http://www.actionhero.org.uk>

Lily Green

<https://www.nobindings.co.uk>

Hellion Trace

<http://www.helliontrace.com>

Joe Hill

<https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/residents/joe-hill/>

Ella Good and Nikki Kent

<http://www.ellaandnicki.com>

Trigger

<https://www.triggerstuff.co.uk>

Robbie Thompson

<https://robbiethomson.co.uk/about>

QUOTES FROM PREVIOUS RESIDENTS:

“Watershed’s Winter Residencies programme accelerated and expanded my project hugely. The support I’ve received from the residency team has been instrumental in giving me the space and new ideas the project needed to progress. It let me explore lots of different facets to my practice in a supportive and non-judgemental space.”

Xavier Velastín, Winter Residencies 2019/20

“The residency has been so valuable. It encouraged me to think at my own pace, to develop my initial ideas into a living proof of concept, whilst building my confidence in the development of the work. There was a genuine recognition of the pressures and difficulties around lockdown, and despite the fact that we didn't meet in person until almost the end of the residency, I felt encouraged and very supported by the Watershed team. When restrictions eased there was real care and sensitivity around how to safely share work with the public in person, which led to fantastic conversations.”

Katy Connor, Winter Residencies 2021

“There’s so much knowledge and experience in the Studio community. During the residency I was introduced to people working at the top of their fields and was blown away by the generosity I received from folk who took time to have a conversation and share their perspectives. Pervasive Media Studio is a very open and welcoming place to come and work.”

Robbie Thomson, Winter Residencies 2019/20

“When I work with people I often have to remind them that I am deaf and rely on lip-reading which can be quite difficult for me. However throughout my residency, Watershed always put me first - a quiet space, clear communication, good lighting. I massively respect them for that.”

Jonny Cotsen, Artist in Residence 2018

— About Watershed

Watershed’s mission is to develop cultural engagement, imagination and talent. We are recognised for an internationally distinctive programme of invention and talent development; as a leading centre for film culture and as Bristol’s city centre cultural meeting and debating place of choice.

<http://www.watershed.co.uk>

— About Arts Council England

Watershed is supported by Arts Council England. Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people’s lives. They support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections.

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk>



WATERSHED



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