

# ACME

Artist Housing Programme

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I view the studios before applying?**

Normally yes, except those artists applying for Glassyard (2017-2022.) These units are being built and will be completed after allocation has taken place, therefore artists are provided with the plans and will be required to make a decision based on these. If you are offered a place on the programme there will be an opportunity to view the units before an agreement to occupy is signed.

### **What do you mean by UK based?**

You are resident in the United Kingdom.

### **Can Acme support visa applications to remain for the five years of the programme?**

No, unfortunately we are unable to support visa applications.

### **Can I apply for more than one building?**

Yes, however the units will be open for applications one building at a time and you will need to make a new application for each. Applications will open around six months before the move in date for each building.

The dates are:

Building	Applications open	Tenancy dates
Glassyard, SW9 9AW	April 2017	October 2017 - 2022
High House, RM19 1TT	March 2018	October 2018 - 2023
Fire Station, E14 6RH	September 2019	April 2020 - 2025

### **Can I send visual materials related to my practice?**

No, we cannot accept any supporting documentation. If you are shortlisted you will be asked to bring documentation of your practice to present to the interview panel.

### **Both myself and my partner with whom I live are artists, how should we apply?**

You should both complete an application form and email [lottie@acme.org.uk](mailto:lottie@acme.org.uk) to clarify that you would be applying for one unit together, we will consider your applications jointly.

**Can I bring my pet?**

Unfortunately we cannot have pets in the studios.

**How much deposit do I need to pay?**

One month's rent.

**Are there any extra fees or costs I may not have considered?**

On top of your monthly rent you will be required to pay electricity and council tax. You may also choose to pay for contents insurance, internet costs and a television licence. The studios are not furnished so you may need to budget for furniture. There are no administration fees.

**Does it help my application if I'm on the Acme waiting list for a studio?**

No

**Does it help my application if I'm a current Acme tenant?**

No

**I am a current Acme studio tenant – can I apply?**

Yes, however, applicants with a demonstrated need for studio space will be prioritised.

**Do I have to live in it?**

Yes, applicants with a demonstrated need for combined live/work space will be prioritised and therefore it is the expectation of Acme that the studio will be the primary residential address of the artist tenant.

**Why is the tenancy offered for five years?**

We wish to offer as many artists as possible this opportunity. This means limiting tenancies to a defined period. Building on Acme's experience of running the Firestation Residency Programme over the last 20 years, we have determined that five years is the optimum length of tenancy. This gives artists the stability and financial predictability to make mid-term plans for their practice.

**Can I apply for a shorter length of time?**

No, our aim is that artists plan for how they would build their practice over the five-year time-frame and commit to these intentions. There are also costs to Acme associated with renovating between tenancies which would increase the level of rents we would need to charge all artist tenants at each location. We want to avoid this. However we recognise that exceptional circumstances may arise which prevent an individual from remaining for the full five years and artists may contact Acme to discuss leaving earlier. A minimum of four months' notice will be required if you need to leave.

**Can I remain beyond the five years?**

No, the tenancy is fixed at five years. This is so Acme can offer the resource to as many artists as possible.

**Can I move in at a later date?**

No, we expect artists within a building to start and finish the programme at the same time.

**Can I sub-let or share?**

This will depend on individual circumstances. Any sublet will need to be agreed with and managed by Acme and cannot be organised directly by the artist-tenant. Sharing with established partners or dependents is anticipated and should be stated in your application.

**Why do you allocate by need/hardship firstly and not by quality of work?**

It is a core aspect of Acme's ethos that we are democratic and non-subjective. This means we are open to supporting all fine artists in financial need who can demonstrate a professional practice. This has been our approach since Acme's formation in 1972. It continues with the allocation process of our studio spaces for which we operate a waiting list open to anyone who can demonstrate they are a non-commercial fine artist.

We are including quality as the potential final criteria to be applied in the selection process for the AAH as we anticipate significantly greater demand than we will be able to accommodate.

**What outcomes do I need to deliver during the course of the programme?**

There are no defined outcomes other than the commitment to further your practice.

**Will I be required to open my unit up for events or Acme visitors during the course of the programme?**

No. The only visits to your unit that may be essential are for repairs and maintenance if something needs fixing and we would always contact you first. Occasionally Acme may have visitors we would like to show around the units in order to further our goal of creating more in future. In this case we would always seek your permission first: these visits would never be obligatory.

**Can I re-apply once my tenancy finishes?**

Once you have been successfully housed in an AAH unit you will not be eligible to apply again.