

Eligibility for Wasps Artists' Studio Spaces

Wasps artists' studio spaces are provided to support visual and applied artists at our locations across Scotland.

These spaces are leased at affordable rents, and we try to be as inclusive as possible when considering applicants. Spaces are limited and demand can be very high, so we want to ensure that studios go to practicing artists.

In assessing eligibility, we consider several different factors such as type of practice, what stage you are at in your career (e.g. recent graduate, retired, mid-career), the physical scale of your output and what equipment you may require to work.

How we allocate studios

When allocating studio spaces, we try to match the studio available with the needs of the artists on our existing register of interest. We consider their budget, size requirements, studio type, when they applied for a studio and the compatibility of the artist's practice with neighbouring spaces in terms of any noise, dust, etc. arising from their making work.

Visual artists

Due to the diverse nature of contemporary visual art practice, it can be difficult to categorise. At Wasps, we use the term 'visual artist' to describe painters, sculptors, printmakers, installation artists, audio artists, film makers, fine art photographers, performance artists, multimedia and graphic artists. Eligibility is dependent upon our judgement about your scale of work and other aspects of practice (see 'Grey areas' on the next page).

Applied artists

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

Designers/makers

This would include fashion designers, milliners, furniture makers/designers, creative metal workers and musical instrument makers.

Designers/other creative industries

Wasps supports designers (graphic design, architecture, digital media, etc.) and other creative industry companies (e.g. frame makers and commercial photographers) in spaces which are designated for such uses. Creative industry space rent is charged at market rents which are subject to separate service charges and Non-Domestic/Water Rates to the local authority.

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Grey areas

Some practices (particularly applied artists and designers/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. You would however be eligible for a creative industries office.
- Fashion designers and milliners: Wasps can 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 above 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 outside 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 Creative Industries space (available at South Block Studios and The Briggait in Glasgow, Perth Creative Exchange or Inverness Creative Academy).

Self-assessment criteria

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

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

Because of noise, dust, fumes, etc. some practices cannot normally be accommodated in most studio spaces. If your practice is likely to cause

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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 the surrounding 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 mix of artistic practices that make up its tenant community. We try to achieve this by balancing the different practices within any given building, for example between visual artist 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 must be made. These choices are made by staff members who have a formal arts background themselves and therefore understand contemporary art 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 studio space is a matter of judgement on the part of Wasps Artists' Studios. When someone's practice is in a grey area, the application may be discussed by the Wasps team as a whole or given 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 outside the core remit for studio provision or is ineligible for any other reason. If you are not added to the register, 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 online application on our website here: waspsstudios.org.uk/apply-now. You will be asked for six images of recent work and an artists' CV. Alternatively, you can post it to: Studio Applications, Wasps, The Briggait, 141 Bridgegate, Glasgow, G1 5HZ.

Writing an artists' CV

An artists' CV should include up-to-date information on your art practice. It should cover all exhibitions you have taken part in, residencies you have participated in,

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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.

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.