

eligibility and application guidelines for studios and creative offices

Wasps is a charity that provides workspaces to support practicing visual and applied artists, designers and creative businesses. We look after 18 buildings across Scotland, from Shetland to the Borders, and our tenant community is made up of over 800 creatives working in a wide array of disciplines.

When assessing applications from prospective tenants for studios and offices, we consider:

- Type of practice
- Career stage (e.g. graduate, mid-career, returning to practice)
- Scale of work and space requirements
- Compatibility with neighbouring studios (noise, dust, fumes, etc.)

who is eligible for artist studio space?

Visual artists

Includes painters, sculptors, printmakers, installation artists, audio artists, filmmakers, fine art photographers, performance artists, multimedia and graphic artists. Eligibility depends on the nature and scale of your practice.

Applied artists

Includes jewellers/silversmiths, ceramicists, glass artists, weavers, textile artists and illustrators/cartoonists.

Designers/makers

Includes fashion designers, milliners, furniture designers/makers, creative metal workers and musical instrument makers.

To qualify for artists' studio space:

- Work must involve significant handmade input
- Items must be unique/bespoke or part of limited editions
- The work must not primarily be commercial production

Artist studio space is offered by Wasps at: The Old Library, Stromness; Inverness Creative Academy, Links, Nairn; Langstane Place, Aberdeen; Perth Creative Exchange; Meadow Mill, Dundee, The Steeple, Newburgh; St. Mary's Mill, Selkirk; Patriothall, Edinburgh; Granton Station, Edinburgh; Riverside House, Edinburgh; South Block, Glasgow; The Briggait, Glasgow; Hanson Street, Glasgow; The Courtyard, Irvine and Cannonwalls and Claverhouse, Kirkcudbright.

who is eligible for creative office space?

Wasps provides space to all kinds of designers and creative industry businesses across the following disciplines:

- advertising
- architecture
- design
- music production (in certain instances)
- photography (in certain instances)
- film and video production
- computer game design
- radio and TV
- writing and publishing
- software/electronic publishing
- cultural education

Creative industries spaces are available at South Block, Glasgow; The Briggait, Glasgow; Perth Creative Exchange and Inverness Creative Academy.

Grey areas in commercial practice

Wasps does not generally support primarily commercial practice within artist studios.

Examples:

- Photography: Commercial work (wedding, editorial, press, fashion) is not eligible for artists' studio space but may qualify for creative industries space.
- Fashion & millinery: Eligible only if work is small-scale, bespoke and handmade.
- Furniture/metalwork/musical instruments: Must be designed and handmade by you and produced as unique works or limited runs.

Large-scale commercial production is not eligible for artists' studios. Final decisions in grey areas are made by Wasps staff and, where necessary, the Chief Executive.

making your application

When you are applying for space with Wasps, you must demonstrate that you are actively making work or working in your respective industry at the time of application. Recent graduates or those returning after a break may be assessed at staff discretion. If you cannot demonstrate active practice, you may not be offered space.

Space allocation process

Allocation is based on:

- Budget
- Size of space required
- Type of space and features required
- Date of joining the waiting list
- Compatibility with neighbouring tenants

We aim to maintain a healthy mix of practices within each building.

Noise and disturbance

Practices that produce significant noise, dust or fumes may not be suitable for most studio spaces. Wasps may refuse a let if the practice is likely to cause disturbance to neighbouring tenants.

Former tenants and rent arrears

We may refuse registration if:

- You have outstanding rent from a previous Wasps tenancy
- You were persistently in arrears

Information sharing

Wasps is in contact with other studio providers. If concerns arise regarding an applicant's conduct with another arts organisation, we reserve the right to refuse registration.

Decision making

Because demand exceeds supply, it can take some time for eligible applicants to be accommodated. Waiting lists vary in length across different cities and towns where we have provision. There is the chance that a space that suits your exact needs becomes available quickly, but this is not always the case.

Decisions regarding applications are made by staff with professional arts backgrounds. Where appropriate, applications may be reviewed by the wider team or Chief Executive. Wasps reserves the right to refuse studio space at its discretion.

How to apply for a space

Submit an enquiry form via our website [here](#), and a member of our Lettings team will follow up with the online application form.

When applying for studio or office space on the application form, you will be asked for:

- Six recent images of your work (300dpi, jpeg) or portfolio examples
- An up-to-date CV detailing your creative career
- An artist/business statement

If you are refused

If you are unhappy with the decision, email: info@waspsstudios.org.uk and a member of the Wasps team will respond.