



THE
KING'S
FOUNDATION



BUILDING ARTS PROGRAMME 2025

PROGRAMME
INFORMATION



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ABOUT

The King's Foundation provides holistic solutions to challenges facing the world today. We champion a sustainable approach to how we live our lives and build our communities. We run a diverse programme of education and training for all ages and backgrounds, and we regenerate and care for places where communities thrive and that visitors enjoy.

We work nationally and internationally but at the heart of our organisation is the heritage-led regeneration of the Dumfries House estate and its wider community, where our principles and philosophies are explored and put into practice.

The work of The King's Foundation is inspired by His Majesty The King Charles's philosophy of harmony: that by understanding the balance, the order and the relationships between ourselves and the natural world we can create a more sustainable future.

For more than 40 years His Majesty has been at the forefront of championing sustainability. During the last decade the impact of natural resource depletion, climate change and rapid urbanisation has become evident and widely understood. The work of The King's Foundation is inspired by the belief that only by taking a holistic view can we create a sustainable future to meet the needs of our world.





ABOUT

QEST is a national grant-giving charity that transforms the careers of talented and aspiring craftspeople. Over the past 34 years, through the generous support of its donors, QEST has been able to award some £7 million to fund the training and education of over 800 individuals practising traditional and contemporary craft skills - enabling them to excel in their chosen field and make a vital contribution to the British craft industry. The craft sector is an integral part of the UK's creative industries, which contributes more than £3.4 billion to the UK's economy and QEST is proud to play its part in strengthening that sector.

Alongside the support of individual makers at various stages of their career through its existing Scholarship, Emerging Maker and Apprenticeship Programmes, QEST has been developing new programmes and partnerships to inspire and engage the next generation of professional makers. QEST is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the craft sector; building a pipeline of creative and craft talent by removing barriers, broadening access and opportunities, particularly for those from disadvantaged and under-represented communities.

QEST was founded in 1990 by the Royal Warrant Holders Association in the name of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother – hence QEST. His Majesty The King is the Charity's Patron.



BUILDING ARTS PROGRAMME 2025



THE BUILDING ARTS PROGRAMME WILL INSPIRE A FUTURE GENERATION OF ARTISTS, CRAFTSPEOPLE, DESIGNERS AND MAKERS TO CREATE A BUILT ENVIRONMENT WHICH DRAWS ON A VAST ARRAY OF DIFFERENT SKILLS, MATERIALS AND PROCESSES. THROUGH PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING, PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPLORE THE PHYSICAL, TEMPORAL AND EVEN SYMBOLIC CONNECTIONS WHICH CAN BE CONVEYED THROUGH OUR BUILDINGS AND PLACES.

INTRODUCTION

Launched in February 2020 the Building Arts Programme is delivered through a collaboration between The King's Foundation and QEST (Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust).

Over a period of around 6-months students from a broad range of discipline areas will learn together, exploring both the interdisciplinary nature of architecture, the decorative arts and traditional craft, and the role that these practices can continue to play in shaping the world around us.

Through a programme of practical workshops, group discussion, collaborative projects and industry placements the Building Arts Programme aims to provide a platform for students to explore and challenge the preconception that 'craft' within our built environment is something which is purely confined to our past.

The Building Arts Programme aims to nurture those who think with their hands and inspire students to utilise these skills through the creation of our built environment. Ideas are nothing without the ability to give them shape, and it is through the Building Arts Programme that students will expand both their understanding of our built environment, but also enhance their practical skills in order to realise their ideas. Projecting these above the commonplace.

At the heart of the Building Arts Programme is the idea that our built environment is a collaboration between a vast array of different discipline areas which are all fundamentally linked and interrelated. Current practice, both educationally and vocationally, is to separate and teach these principles independently – the Building Arts Programme will look to provide a space for rediscovering shared learning and practice, enabling students to explore the multifaceted nature of the built environment and their role within it.

Throughout the 6-month programme students will take part in a series of lectures, visits and practical workshops which will demonstrate the holistic nature of our built environment, as well as expanding their hand skills, and ultimately refining their practice. Students will engage with the built environment from the perspective of the urban form and the people that occupy it, right down to the materiality and symbolism of its decoration and ornament. During a period of industry placements students will have the opportunity to learn first-hand from master craftspeople and leading practitioners from across the UK, learning new skills and expanding their network as they carve their own path within the sector.

Through working collaboratively and learning alongside other like-minded people, students will acquire a dialogue which reaches across disciplines. The programme will culminate in the realisation of a real-life brief developed in collaboration with a clients/organisations from the UK. This final project will be an opportunity to work both together and independently in order to truly demonstrate the interdependent nature of the building arts.

BUILDING — ARTS — PROGRAMME

Refers to the built environment, the human-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity. Examples would include cities, buildings, interiors, urban spaces, walkways, parks, etc.

Creative works that are primarily visual in nature, bringing together elements of line, shape, colour, value, form, texture, and space, covering subject areas such as fine art, applied or decorative arts, crafts, design and architecture.

A full-time course of study and activities driven towards achieving a particular long term aim.

AIMS

- To provide a space which celebrates the diversity of skills and knowledge integral to the creation of the built environment.
- To demonstrate the value of traditional craftsmanship within the built environment both historically and in the creation of new spaces and places.
- To build connections throughout the craft sector which broadens understanding and supports interdisciplinary practice.



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



INTRODUCTORY PROGRAMME

1 WEEK

This one-week programme introduces the fundamental underpinnings of The King's Foundation and QEST's approach to craft and the building arts. Delivered as a series of talks, visits and workshops the introductory course will focus thinking and frame conversations within the context of the built environment. You will explore and discuss the value of craft today and the role that traditional craftsmanship has played throughout history. As well as theory and discussion you will take part in various workshops which encourage you to observe and analyse the world around you.

The Introductory Programme will take place on the **Dumfries House estate in East Ayrshire**, with visits taking place across Scotland



INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOPS

8 WEEKS

This element of the course consists of a series of intensive practical workshops, taught by leading practitioners. Within this aspect of the programme you will explore ideas surrounding ornamentation, decoration, structure, form and function. Discussion will be layered throughout to build upon technical understanding of processes and materials.

Interdisciplinary Workshops will be delivered in three blocks..The first block will be delivered on the **Dumfries House estate in East Ayrshire**, the second block of four weeks will be delivered at the **Barley Court Workshops on the Highgrove estate in Gloucestershire** and the final block will be delivered on the **Dumfries House estate in East Ayrshire as part of the annual Summer School**.



INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

9 WEEKS

Industry Placements are a chance for you to hone your skills within your individual areas of expertise and interests within the context of the built environment sector. Placements are arranged by The King's Foundation and QEST using our network of practitioners and we encourage you to work collaboratively with the programme manager to identify placements that best suit your interests.

Placements are typically on an individual basis and **will take place across the UK**.

Participants will typically take part in two to three separate placements.



FINAL PROJECT

6 WEEKS

The programme will culminate with a Final Project which will encourage you to showcase the role of your craft within the creation of the built environment whilst working collaboratively the group and with other discipline areas.

The Final Project will focus on a location within the UK. Depending on the focus of your project you may need to access specialist facilities and expertise further afield.

BUSINESS SKILLS

During the last stage of the Final Project you will join students on The King's Foundation Building Craft Programme and participate in a week-long Business Skills course. This course will introduce you to many of the core skills required to set up and run a business within the built environment sector.

PROGRAMME
DATES
2025

[Subject to change]

START	31 ST MARCH 2025
INTRODUCTORY PROGRAMME	31 ST MARCH - 6 TH APRIL DUMFRIES HOUSE ESTATE, EAST AYRSHIRE
INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOPS	7 TH APRIL - 17 TH APRIL DUMFRIES HOUSE ESTATE, EAST AYRSHIRE
BREAK 1	18 TH APRIL - 5 TH MAY
INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS	6 TH MAY – 30 TH MAY VARIOUS LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK
INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOPS	2 ND JUNE – 20 TH JUNE HIGHGROVE ESTATE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS	23 TH JUNE – 4 TH JULY VARIOUS LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK
BREAK 2	7 TH JULY – 12 TH JULY
SUMMER SCHOOL	13 TH JULY – 2 ND AUGUST DUMFRIES HOUSE ESTATE, EAST AYRSHIRE
INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS	4 TH AUGUST – 22 ND AUGUST VARIOUS LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UK
FINAL PROJECT	25 TH AUGUST – 3 RD OCTOBER LOCATIONS TBC
BUSINESS SKILLS	6 TH OCTOBER – 10 TH OCTOBER DUMFRIES HOUSE ESTATE, EAST AYRSHIRE
END	10 TH OCTOBER 2025



“ WORK PLACEMENTS ARE BY FAR THE BEST WAY TO INTRODUCE A STUDENT INTO A SPECIFIC SPECIALITY / CAREER - OFFERING HANDS ON EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE WORKPLACE. ”

- THE MOSAIC RESTORATION COMPANY

FURTHER INFORMATION

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The King's Foundation and QEST welcome applications from individuals working across a broad range of craft disciplines. However please note that the Building Arts Programme **is not an entry level training course** and therefore applicants must be able to demonstrate a high level of proficiency in their individual area of practice to date.

Each year the programme hosts up to a **maximum of eight participants**. Participants are selected via a process of application, shortlisting, and interview. Within each cohort we are looking to bring together a diverse range of backgrounds and disciplines and are seeking applications from candidates working in areas such as:

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN - Interiors, Structures, Engineering, Landscape Design, Planning, Product Design

BUILDING CRAFTS - Carpentry, Joinery, Stonemasonry, Plasterwork, Metalwork, Brickwork, Natural Building

DECORATIVE AND APPLIED ARTS - Glasswork, Ceramics, Painting, Print, Illustration, Sculpture, Textiles

(Please note this list is not exhaustive)

Fundamental to your application is being able to demonstrate an aspiration to explore and develop your role as a craftsperson within the creation of the built environment.

To be considered for a place on the Building Arts Programme 2025 applicants must be able to demonstrate the following within their application form and/or portfolio :

- **At least 3 years' experience of practicing your discipline post training/education.**
- **Demonstrable experience of working within the built environment, and a desire to develop this further.**
- **Demonstrable experience of working collaboratively with others.**
- **Demonstrable experience of working to project briefs independently.**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The King's Foundation is proud to offer educational opportunities to students from all around the world. Should you require a visa to study or work in the UK, it is important to note that whilst The King's Foundation is a licensed student sponsor, this sponsorship **does not** extend to those undertaking the Building Arts Programme. Therefore, acceptance onto the Building Arts Programme alone is not sufficient to obtain the appropriate visa. Please note that The King's Foundation and/or QEST cannot assist in obtaining a visa.

In most cases you will be required to hold one of the following in order to be eligible for the Building Arts Programme:

- **UK Passport Holder**
- **Settled Status / Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK**
- **Pre-settled Status**

If you require a visa to work or study in the UK, please contact the Programme Manager prior to submitting an application.

FUNDING & BURSARIES

The Building Arts Programme is a fully funded course supported by The King's Foundation, QEST, and with donations from charitable trusts, foundations, and individuals.

All participants of the Building Arts Programme 2025 will be awarded a full scholarship covering the course fees, as well as being provided with a monthly bursary of £1,500.

Participants will be required to arrange and pay for their own travel, accommodation and living costs while on the course. The majority of materials needed for the course will be provided.

The Introductory Programme, Interdisciplinary Workshops, will primarily be delivered via the Dumfries House estate, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, Scotland, and Barley Court Workshops on the Highgrove estate in Gloucestershire.

Please review the course timetable for further details on the dates which apply to each location.

Participants will be required to arrange and pay for your own accommodation within daily travelling distance from the Dumfries House estate and Highgrove estate as per the course timetable. Short term accommodation may also be required in other areas of the UK.

During the Individual Placement period, participants will be based at various locations around the UK for a period of weeks (generally 2-3 weeks at each location). Participants will be required to arrange and pay for their own accommodation, travel and living costs during the placement period. Specific placement locations cannot be guaranteed, and therefore you may be required to travel to any part of the UK.

On the rare occasion that accommodation is arranged on your behalf, these costs may be deducted from your monthly bursary.

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

As part of a participants attendance on the programme, feedback and evaluation will be required at various points in the course. These reports should reflect the tasks that have been performed and the knowledge acquired.

Reporting and evaluation is a vital part of our agreement with many of the programme sponsors and funders. Each evaluation will be accessible online, and should be completed within the time requirements as set by the Programme Manager, this is typically within one week.

A number of our sponsors and funders may nominate specific students on the programme that they would like to follow more closely during their time on the course. We will inform participants if this is the case and may look to introduce participants to a key contact within the organisation. As part of this nomination participants may be required to provide additional information, complete additional feedback forms, attend specific events, or be featured in specific publicity material.



ATTENDANCE

The Building Arts Programme is a full-time course, commencing on 31st March 2025, and concluding on 10th October 2025.

Breaks are scheduled throughout as per the course timetable. Please note that no holiday leave can be taken outside of this period.

The Building Arts Programme is generally delivered Monday – Friday, 9am - 5pm, however, you may be required to attend additional hours during particular aspects of the course such as the Introductory Programme and Interdisciplinary Workshops.

Individual placement providers will advise on your hours of attendance during your Industry Placements.


INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

A key aspect of the Building Arts Programme will involve participation in up to 9 weeks of Industry Placements with craftspeople and traditional construction companies around the UK.

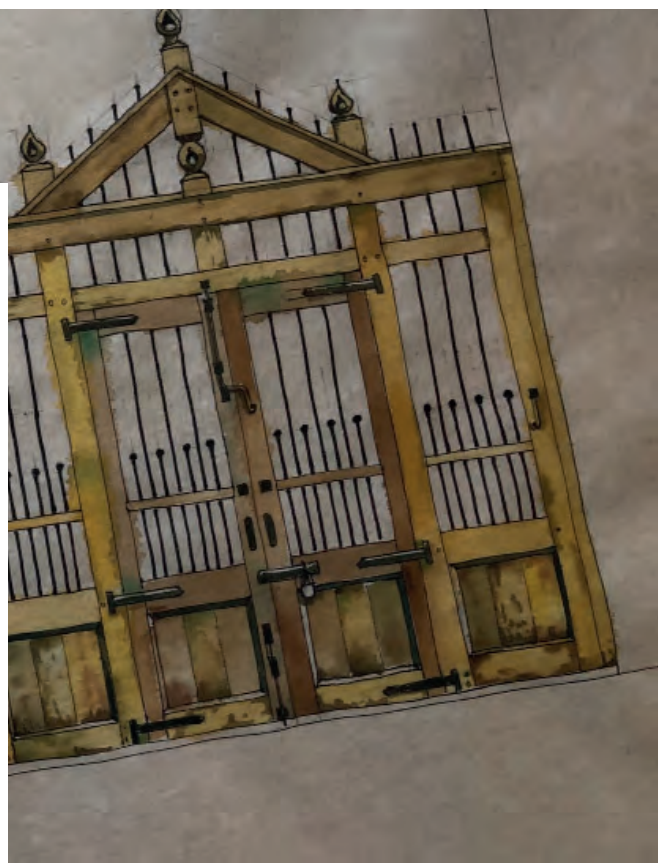
Industry Placements are arranged on your behalf by The King's Foundation drawing on an extensive network across the sector. There are a number of factors which need to be considered when arranging and confirming placements. Examples of some considerations include:

- **Relevance of work in-line with the ethos of the programme.**
- **Relevance of the work in line with funding requirements.**
- **Your prior experience.**
- **Placement providers workload.**
- **Placement providers insurance provision.**
- **Placement providers capacity to monitor a student.**
- **Location of placement provider and projects.**
- **Duration of placement**

In general placements will be at least 2-3 weeks in duration as this ensures that you have enough time to settle into a new environment and fully engage with the tasks at hand. You should therefore expect to undertake 2-3 different placements.



“ BEING TAUGHT BY SO MANY TALENTED CRAFTSPEOPLE AND WORKING ALONGSIDE SUCH A SUPPORTIVE AND TALENTED GROUP OF PEERS HAS BEEN A GREAT EXPERIENCE. ”





“ I FOUND IT REALLY VALUABLE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THESE AREAS THAT I HAD PREVIOUSLY NOT HAD THE TIME OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PURSUE. ”



APPLY NOW

Applications for the Building Arts Programme 2024 are now open. To apply please use the link on the website or email: kasia.howard@kings-foundation.org

For your application to be considered please ensure you send your completed application form, completed reference and accompanying portfolio in the correct format via email (preferred) to:

KASIA.HOWARD@KINGS-FOUNDATION.ORG

Please include the following reference in the subject line:
BAP 2025 - [YOUR FULL NAME]

We do not accept applications via post.

Deadline for receipt of applications:

THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 2025 by 5PM

Please note that applications received after this time will not be considered.

Interviews will take place at the Dumfries House Estate, Cumnock, Scotland, KA18 2NJ or at Highgrove Traditonal Crafts, Barley Court, Doughton, GL8 8TQ on either 30th or 31th January 2025.



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