SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DANCE.

DANCE BASE

Paid artist residency programme

Tessa Stockwell at the All or Nothing Ensemble Dance Base Residency sharing 13 Feb 26. Image credit Marlous Lang-Peterse.

Autumn 2026 Call Out

Deadline: Wednesday 13 May, 11:00

Dance Base is Scotland's National Centre for Dance.

As a charity we are on a mission to help dance flourish and change lives in Scotland and beyond. We have four unique studios, over 60 classes a week, broad reaching support for dance artists, performances, international exchanges, community projects and more—all delivered by a knowledgeable and passionate team.

About the Artist Residency Programme

Throughout the year, Dance Base offer a series of paid residencies to professional dance artists, choreographers and companies who are based in Scotland to develop their work in a supportive, well equipped and welcoming space.

Each residency provides:

- A studio space at our home in Edinburgh on a weekly basis, Monday–Friday.
- Funds that cover the residency budget provided at application and an additional access budget to support any requirements.
- The opportunity to share and discuss your practice with the Dance Base team, your peers and the wider dance sector.

We strive to support artists at each stage of their career and welcome applications for proposals at all levels.

Please note that our Paid Residency Programme is specifically for artists who do not have the full financial support in place to develop their project. **If you are planning to apply to Creative Scotland or a similar funding body for the full costs of your project then please check out our In-Kind Studio Space offer instead.** Through this programme we can book you in to our space free of charge and write a letter of support for your application so that the funder can hopefully provide the full costs.
If you have funding already in place to cover part of your project but require additional budget for other artists fees etc. then you are welcome to apply for this through the Paid Residency Programme.

How it works

Our residency programme is structured around three terms:

- Spring (January-March)
- Summer (April-June)
- Autumn (September-December)

Our average annual budget is £24,000 and this will be split between each term with approximately £8,000 per term.

Applications are made three times a year through an open call process. All applications will be read by the Dance Base Artistic Director and members of the Artist Advisory Group—a group of artists who reflect the diversity of voices that make up the Scottish dance sector.

Please note that, while you are welcome to apply for a residency at any time, it is unlikely that the panel would be able to award an artist with more than one paid residency in a 12 month period.

Residencies for Black and People of Colour (POC+) and d/Deaf and disabled artists

Dance Base recognises that there are significant barriers to working in the dance sector and that these challenges are experienced more acutely by those facing marginalisation and deep-rooted systemic injustice. As part of our ongoing commitment to support artists who have this lived experience and ensuring that we support the full vibrancy of the dance sector in Scotland, we guarantee that at least one of our residencies each year will go to a lead artist who identifies as a member of the Black and People of Colour community, and that at least one will go to a lead artist who identifies as d/Deaf or Disabled. This is a minimum but not a limit. Artists are invited to identify if they are part of these communities in their application form and this will be brought into the decision panel making as the residencies are allocated.

What we are looking for

Our residency programme is open to artists at any stage of their career, and we welcome application for proposals for works at all levels.

Who is it for

The Paid Artist Residency programme is open to:

- Artists who are based in Scotland (this applies to the lead artist—you can welcome collaborators from outside of Scotland but please note we are not able to support international travel nor accommodation costs for these individuals)
- Artists who see their work as based in dance, movement and/or choreographic practices

The Paid Artist Residency programme is not open to:

- Artists who are based outside of Scotland
- Artists who are in full time academic study
- Artists who are already members of the DEBS scheme

If you are based outside of Scotland and therefore ineligible for the paid residency scheme, please see our In-Kind Studio Space programme.

What the Dance Base residency provides

- A clean, warm studio space Monday-Friday roughly 10:00-17:00 (times vary per studio).
- The full funding that the artist requires to:
    - Pay fair artist fees to themselves and their collaborators.
    - Cover travel and accommodation costs.
- Artistic mentoring from the Artistic Director (on request).
- Basic studio sound equipment (see our equipment list).
- Free wireless internet.

- Access to a shared Green Room, changing rooms (including showers and lockers) and kitchen.
- An additional access budget to support the artist and their collaborators as they require.

As part of the week, each residency artist will be invited to share their practice with their peers, the public and the sector. This could take the form of a taught company class, a structured work-in-progress sharing or anything that enhances the artists' experience.

We understand that each project will be at a different stage and the decision of if and what to share must be bespoke and beneficial to your project. This will be discussed with the artist once the residency has been offered.

The budget

Dance Base commits to providing the full funding that the artist requires to pay themselves and their collaborators to deliver their residency. Applicants are asked to complete the Template Budget and submit this with their application, detailing the rationale behind the request. Our producing team are on hand to support applicants who have questions about creating a budget.

Dance Base have a total budget of £24,000 for the annual Residency programme with approximately £8,000 per term, which will be used to fund a number of residencies.

We anticipate that the weekly rate for artists will be between £650 - £1,000, depending on experience.

For context, the average residency fee offered in 2025/26 was £2,073. The maximum awarded was £4,357 which supported a project with four artists and their travel, while the lowest fee awarded was £750 to support a solo Edinburgh-based artist for their fee.

Dance Base will support:

- Artist fees for those taking part in the residency
- Travel and accommodation expenses

Dance Base is unable to support:

- Additional set materials or technical hires
- Hospitality expenses
- Per diems
- Marketing or promotional fees

Budget to support access requirements

Dance Base is committed to providing an accessible programme.

Additional funds and provisions are available to support access requirements for artists and their collaborators. We ask that you identify potential costs in your budget in the section provided so that our producing team can anticipate the budget spend. This information will NOT have any impact on the panel's decision. Dance Base will endeavour to provide the support required and this will be agreed in

conversation between the Artist and Dance Base once the residency is offered. Access costs may include BSL interpretation, additional preparation time, childcare costs etc.

Submission Deadlines

The call out for our Autumn Residency Programme is now open and will close on **13 May 2013 2026, 11:00**.

Applicants will be informed of the panel members after the closing date, so that conflicts of interest can be declared and mitigated. The panel will meet in the w/c 18 May 2026 and all applicants will be informed of the decision the week of 25 May 2026.

Timeline

Application drop-in surgery Zoom | Wednesday 6 May, 11:00 – 12:00
Zoom registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/IV4I5sisSu-pNBs8CGnkzA

Deadline | Wednesday 13 May, 11:00am
Panel meet | 20 May 2026
Artists Informed | by 29 May 2026
Residencies | Term time 14 September – 18 December

The deadline to apply for our future residencies will be:

- Spring Residencies 2027 | January – March
  - Call out issued | w/c 6 July 2026
  - Deadline | Wednesday 30 September 2026, 11:00

How to Apply

Applicants are invited to complete and submit the following items:

1 – A Residency Application Form

The online application can be completed in written or video/audio recording format. Visual quality, camera and editing skills will not be taken into consideration for filmed submissions. Spelling and grammar will not form part of the consideration for written applications either – we are interested in your ideas! Each question has been allocated a maximum word count or duration but please note that these are maximums and not a goal or expectation.

The form will ask:

- How will you use this Artist Residency? Please include the following information (maximum 800 words/6 minutes):
  - Your proposed idea | For example: What theme, topic or question do you want to explore? Are you developing a new work or an existing one, or do you just want come exploration time?
  - Background/context (if relevant) | For example: Where does the idea come from? Why is it relevant to you, your work, or the wider arts sector/society?

    - Artistic process | For example: How will you approach this creative enquiry? What specific choreographic or embodied tools, processes or methodologies might you use to explore it? How will you spend your time in the studio?
        - We don't expect you to know everything you'll do at this stage, but a rough idea or some thoughts on what you might try is really helpful. The above examples are just prompts to help guide your answer.
- How might this residency affect your artistic evolution? (maximum of 500 words/4 minutes)
- Do you plan to work with any collaborators during the residency? If so, who? And what will they bring to the artistic process? (maximum 500 words/4 minutes).

2. A residency budget.

Please use the template provided and attach this to the application form in the section at the end. The template is just a guide so please do expand and edit as you need.

If you have any problems or require the application form in an alternative format please contact Marlous Lang-Peterse, Head of Professional Programme on Marlous.lang-peterse@dancebase.co.uk

How the decision is made

Applications will be read by the Artistic Director and members of the Artist Advisory Group—a group of artists who represent the diverse array of voices and lived experiences that make up the Scottish dance sector.

The decision of who the residency weeks are allocated to will be based on:

- If the artist meets all three eligibility criteria;
- The information provided in the application and how this gives a sense of the artistic process for the submitted idea;
- How the artist will use and ultimately benefit from the space and resources provided;
- The urgency of the project—this may be practically, socially or personally;
- Whether the scope of the residency is realistic and manageable in the time frame and resources available;
- The diversity of voices represented through the residencies;
- The distribution of opportunities across the sector.

The panel will create a shortlist and then the Artistic Director and the Head of Professional Programme will examine the budget, studio availability and dates. The Artistic Director will make the final decision.

Any questions or need some help with your application?

We will host an application surgery on Zoom on **Wednesday 6 May, 11:00-12:00**. Marlous Lang-Peterse will be able to answer questions about the application process and give general advice. You can register for this surgery here: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/IV4I5sisSu-pNBs8CGnkzA

Additionally, as part of our support for artists our team provides 1-1 Producing Surgeries to help you with any additional you have about the opportunity and your application. This could range from chatting through your idea to proofreading your application. **Please note that this is best done well in advance of the submission deadline**. Please contact our Head of Professional Programme, Marlous Lang-Peterse on Marlous.lang-peterse@dancebase.co.uk.