

# Invigilator + Open Call 2026

International development  
for early-career practitioners  
working in the visual arts

 Cymru yn Fenis  
Wales in Venice  
Il Galles a Venezia



## Accessibility

Arts Council of Wales is committed to making information available in large print, braille, audio, Easy Read and British Sign Language and will endeavour to provide information in languages other than Welsh or English on request.

If you have any access needs and are thinking about making an application, we can help to make sure that you're supported during the application process. Please contact us at [grants@arts.wales](mailto:grants@arts.wales) to discuss how we can help.

Arts Council of Wales operates an equal opportunities policy.



Cover: Cleave 03 (Transmission: Visions of the Sleeping Poet), Cerith Wyn Evans, 2003. Image: Polly Braden © the artist.

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## About the Programme

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Invigilator + is a flagship professional development opportunity from the Arts Council of Wales. It forms a key part of Wales' presence at the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, running from 9 May to 22 November 2026.

Deadline for applications  
Wednesday 10 December 2025 at midday

This funded opportunity supports a travel grant for early-career practitioners to:

- Gain international experience
- Grow professional networks
- Develop their creative practice in a globally renowned art context

This opportunity is for:

- Artists
- Curators
- Writers
- Creative Producers working in the visual arts

You will spend at least one month in Venice, acting as an ambassador for the Wales in Venice exhibition. You'll engage with visitors, support the exhibition's impact, and immerse in the wider Biennale environment.

We're looking for individuals with a strong commitment to the visual arts in Wales —confident communicators who can engage diverse audiences and represent the exhibition with professionalism.

We will offer 11 places, through this open call.

In addition, 7 places will be recruited through a separate process with university partners in Wales.

## About Venice Biennale

The [Venice Biennale](#) is the world's leading international exhibition of contemporary art. Founded in 1895, it now attracts over 700,000 visitors, including 27,000+ curators, critics, collectors, and artists during the preview alone.

Wales has participated as a Collateral Event since 2003 at the International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. Collateral Events are selected and recognised by La Biennale di Venezia and independently organised outside the main institutional venues of the Biennale (Giardini and Arsenale).

The overarching curatorial theme for the 2026 Biennale, conceived by the late Koyo Kouoh, is “In Minor Keys.” The 61st edition of the Biennale Arte is grounded in a deep belief in artists as the vital interpreters of the social and psychic condition and catalysts of new relations and possibilities.

Helen Sear, Caetera fumus, ....the Rest is Smoke (2015)



## 2026 Exhibition

Artists [Manon Awst](#) and [Dylan Huw](#) will lead the 2026 Wales in Venice project.

This exciting collaboration is a partnership between the two artists and their collaborators, [Oriol Davies](#) in Newtown and [Oriol Myrddin](#) in Carmarthen.



(Image: Dewi Tannatt Lloyd)

Based in Caernarfon, Awst's sculptures and site-specific artworks are woven with ecological narratives, which focus in particular on the tension between human and more-than-human structures. The way materials transform locations and communities is at the forefront of her creative research.

A writer, convenor, and collaborative practitioner, Huw's work spans publishing and curatorial projects, essays and art criticism, and long-term collaborations with artists. It is guided by interdisciplinary, translingual and site-responsive methodologies, approaching writing and research as "time-based media."

Rooted in Welsh traditions of 'liveness' including cyghanedd and site-specific performance, the collaboration promises to invite audiences into a dynamic, evolving space of artistic exchange, while embodying the principles of sustainability, inclusivity, and cultural democracy.

The exhibition will offer visitors a powerful and engaging experience. It will explore ideas around material, language, and ecological resilience from a unique perspective that will resonate and contribute meaningfully to the wider discourse of the 2026 Biennale.

## The opportunity

In this open call, 11 individuals will be selected to join the Wales in Venice 2026 team and gain international experience.

At any time, a team of three will be in Venice:

- 2 individuals selected through this open call.
- 1 Student selected separately with university partners.

## What you'll gain

- Raised ambition through immersion in a world-class creative environment.
- Expanded networks and future collaboration opportunities.
- First-hand experience of the Venice Biennale.
- Stronger communication and public engagement skills.
- Confidence in delivering international cultural programmes.

James Richards, Migratory Motor Complex, six-channel audio installation, Music for the gift, 2017 (Image: Jamie Woodley)





## Opportunities

### 8-week Invigilator

Individuals with up to 5 years of professional practice and 3 months or more experience of working in visual arts organisations in Wales (e.g. interns, volunteers, front of house staff).

### 4-week Invigilator

Individuals with up to 5 years of professional practice in the visual arts.

## Key responsibilities

- Open and close the venue (keyholder duties).
- Monitor and care for artworks, reporting the conditions of the exhibition space and installations.
- Keep the space clean and welcoming.
- Engage visitors in conversations about the exhibition and Welsh visual arts.
- Monitor visitor numbers.
- Provide tours of the exhibition.
- Support online content creation.

## Who should apply?

We welcome applications from individuals who are:

- Experienced in invigilation or similar roles in the visual arts.
- Confident communicators in English, Welsh or other languages.
- Knowledgeable about contemporary Welsh art.
- Passionate about promoting Welsh visual arts.
- Self-motivated and keen to build international connections.

These are the criteria we will use to assess your application.

We strongly encourage applications from underrepresented groups, including global ethnic majority, disabled, LGBTQIA+, and those facing social or economic barriers. Formal education is not required.

## Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- Be 18+.
- Not be in full-time education at school, college or university.
- Be based in Wales or show strong commitment and knowledge of the Welsh visual arts sector.
- Be available for training days in March 2026.
- Be able to arrange and manage their own travel to Venice.
- Commit to a minimum 4-week stay in Venice between May–November 2026 (availability to be indicated on the application form).
- Be confident engaging with diverse audiences, including public speaking.
- Have a research idea or area of interest related to their creative practice (this will be discussed at interview stage).

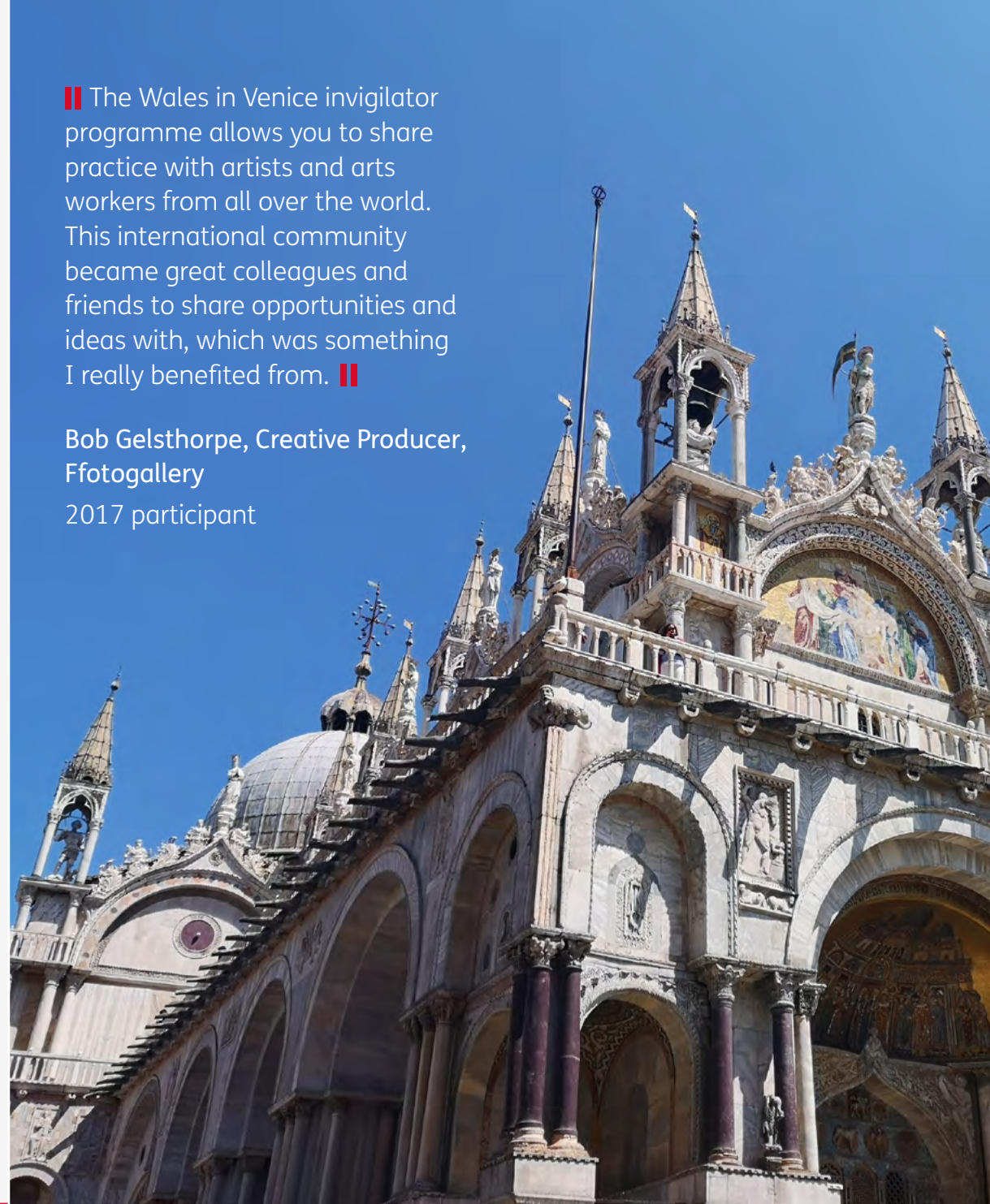
Previous invigilators, including former student Invigilator + may apply, but priority will be given to new applicants.

■ Participating in the invigilator programme was a transformational experience. A decade ago, my time in Venice connected me with an international participant of peers, expanded my understanding of artist practice, and gave me the confidence I needed to pursue a curatorial practice. ■

Louise Hobson, Co-Director: Operations  
& Programme, Peak Cymru  
2015 participant

■ The Wales in Venice invigilator programme allows you to share practice with artists and arts workers from all over the world. This international community became great colleagues and friends to share opportunities and ideas with, which was something I really benefited from. ■

Bob Gelsthorpe, Creative Producer,  
Ffotogallery  
2017 participant





■ ■ Taking part in Wales in Venice was a truly formative experience during my time as an art student. Invigilating Sean Edwards' exhibition not only gave me a deeper appreciation of his work and artistic journey, but also helped me develop professional skills that I continue to draw on in my own practice today.

Being part of the invigilation team for Wales's national presentation also created valuable opportunities for exchange and collaboration. I formed close working relationships with invigilators from the Scottish and British pavilions, which led to lasting connections across the UK's creative communities — some of which have since evolved into professional collaborations. ■ ■

Melissa Rodrigues, Artist  
2019 participant

■ ■ Working as an invigilator was one of the most transformative experiences of my life. Being an ambassador for Welsh art on the world stage, as well as creating lifelong connections with other artists from Wales and beyond, made the experience unique and unforgettable. ■ ■

Esyllt Lewis, Artist  
2019 participant



## Support provided

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The grant has been calculated to cover:

- Cost of return travel and transfers.
- Per diems.
- A contribution towards local travel and tickets for the Biennale.

Shared accommodation will be provided in Venice.

### Access Support

Please let us know about any access requirements and/or reasonable adjustments required at the application stage by responding to the question in the application form. If you are shortlisted for the opportunity, we will provide further details about the opportunity to help assess your needs and requirements to help clarify where reasonable adjustments are possible. [You can provide this information via an Access Rider.](#)

It is also important to understand the access information and facilities of traveling from Wales to Venice and staying in the city.

If you are awarded funding, we will work closely with you to understand and respond to your individual access requirements. We're committed to making any necessary adjustments and providing support, including covering reasonable additional costs, to ensure you can fully participate. While we will do everything, we can to meet your access needs, please note that in some cases, requests may be affected by factors beyond our control.

## How to apply

You'll need to use our online 'portal' to make an application.

If you haven't done so already, you'll need to register for access to the portal. [You can find out how to register online.](#)

If you're unable to access the online form or require further assistance, please contact us at: [grants@arts.wales](mailto:grants@arts.wales)

1. Complete an Invigilator + application form on the portal.
2. Upload your CV. This should include the following details:
  - Education and qualifications.
  - Employment history.
  - Invigilation/front-of-house experience.
  - Exhibitions or curatorial projects.
  - Language skills (including Welsh).
  - Your website/social media channels about your creative work, if you have them.
  - Other relevant experience.
  - Contact details of a referee (to be contacted if shortlisted).

Your CV should be a maximum of 2 sides of A4.

Applications must be complete. We won't accept further supporting information after you've submitted your application.

A budget is not required for this application.

3. After we receive your application, we'll send you an acknowledgement.
4. If your application is eligible, it will proceed to assessment.
5. If your application is shortlisted, we'll send you details to participate in an online interview.
6. Due to high demand, we're unable to provide individual feedback.

## Key dates

- Application deadline: 10 December midday.
- Shortlisting decisions will be communicated by 9 January 2026.
- Interviews: 19 and 20 January 2026 (online).
- Final decisions will be communicated by 26 January 2026.
- A grant agreement to include your payment schedule and dates for Invigilator + in Venice will be sent to you by 13 February 2026.
- Training session: March 2026 (dates tbc).

## Need to get in touch?

Should you have any technical issues with the application form or your portal account, please contact our Grants and Information team at [grants@arts.wales](mailto:grants@arts.wales) or call 03301 242733.

If you have specific questions about your application and the programme, contact us at: [walesinvenice@arts.wales](mailto:walesinvenice@arts.wales)

