



BCB Mentorship Programme 2026 Mentee Films Brief

Project Background and Objectives

The British Ceramics Biennial (BCB) Mentorship programme welcomed applications from early-career creatives working in clay who feel they face barriers to career progression and accessing a professional network in contemporary ceramics. This may include financial circumstances, ethnicity, education, social class, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, neurodiversity, long-term health conditions or other protected characteristics.

The mentoring programme is supporting up to seven artists between September 2026 and February 2027. The mentoring process involves the mentee asking for specific guidance around their work and professional practice. Through the programme, mentees can strengthen their connections and we can create supportive, career-enhancing opportunities.

We are looking for a filmmaker to produce seven short films, one for each selected mentee. Each film will introduce the mentees to our audiences and highlight their individual practices. We would like each film to incorporate interviews and various shots of the artists in their studios.

Our Vision – Making change through clay.

Our Mission – To develop, sustain and expand innovative ceramics practice and improve lives together with artists, industry and creative communities.

Target Audience

Primary

- People interested in visual contemporary art/ceramics/craft
- Artists

Secondary

- Galleries and museums
- BCB existing audiences, community and followers
- BCB stakeholders and local authority stakeholders

Incidental audiences

- Prospective mentees and mentors – evidence of what the programme makes possible
- Arts education providers and the wider public

Key Message(s)

The mentee call-out is for early-career artists:

- Based in the UK

- Within 5 years of beginning their practice
- Who have been working with clay for at least 1 year
- Who feel they face barriers in accessing a professional network in the field of contemporary ceramics

These films should highlight the artists' practice and serve as a digital asset for their portfolio, website and social media. It should also look forward to the next steps they are planning to take.

Specifications and Distribution

Films for Social Media

- 7 short films, each between 2 and 3 minutes long, produced in a 16:9 format for YouTube.
- 7 teaser reels, each between 30 and 45 seconds long, produced 9:16 format for YouTube shorts, Instagram and TikTok.
- The films will be shared on BCB's social media accounts and on our website via the BCB Player (hosted through YouTube).

Tone of Voice

The tone of the film should tell a story whilst remaining professional. Please take into account our BCB values:

- Bold
- Accountable
- Welcoming
- Significant
- Grounded
- Inclusive
- Connected
- Collaborative

Access and collaboration

BCB is committed to making the film process accessible and comfortable for every mentee. The appointed filmmaker will be expected to work collaboratively and flexibly, treating access as an integral part of planning, communications and filming.

The filmmaker will be expected to:

- Ask the mentees about their access needs and preferences before filming begins and agree how they would like to be communicated with and supported throughout.
- Make reasonable adjustments in response, which may include flexibility around scheduling, session length, breaks, filming location or format, and how the mentee would like to be represented on screen.
- Respect that mentees are not required to share personal information and treat anything they do share with discretion.
- Remain flexible and responsive if a mentee's needs change during the commission.
- Deliver accessible final films, including captions or subtitles and transcripts where appropriate.

Mandatory Elements

- Work alongside BCB's Artistic Programme Manager, Priscila Buschinelli, and the seven selected mentee artists.
- Work in alignment with BCB's Safeguarding for Adults at Risk Policy
- Use BCB branding (we will supply you with our brand guidelines and digital assets)
- Include funding and partnership logos in the credits:
 - British Ceramics Biennial
 - Arts Council England
 - University of Staffordshire
 - Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Timeline and Location

Contract begins: 11 January 2027

Liaise with BCB team about the approach to filming: Week commencing 11 January

Filming dates: Filming will take place on dates in February, to be agreed with the selected artists

Location: At a location of the artists' choosing, across the UK

Mentees are based in the following locations:

- Thornton Heath, London
- Lambeth, London
- Birmingham
- Sheffield
- Norwich
- Cardiff
- Leeds

First Cut: Mid-March 2027

Completion of films: 8 April 2027

Fee

To be proposed by the applicant in their application with a breakdown of costs. Payment is on delivery of the films or can be scheduled in instalments throughout the filming process. We will agree specific terms with the commissioned filmmaker or video artist before the contract starts.

The fee is inclusive of VAT and must cover all expenses, including travel and accommodation.

Approval Process

The films will be initially approved by Priscila Bucshinelli (Artistic Programme Manager) and the BCB Comms team: Kate Royle (Communications & Audiences Manager) and Alex Rabishaw (Communications Assistant).

Final sign-off from Clare Wood, Artistic Director & Chief Executive.

Copyright

The copyright of the idea and work produced shall remain the property of the filmmaker. However, the filmmaker agrees to provide BCB with an in-perpetuity license to broadcast/exhibit the work on a global basis and use the work and images of the work in communicating the work to the public and in making the work available to the public.

Application

To apply for this role, please submit the following by **12 noon, 18 November 2026**.

- An expression of interest (Max 300 words) that details why you are interested in undertaking this commission.
- Your total fee for completing the proposed films.
- Brief description of your approach.
- Links to 3 examples of your film practice.

Applicants must also [complete an online Diversity and Equality Monitoring Form](#).

Applications should be addressed to Alex Rabishaw, Communications Assistant, and sent via email to alex@britishceramicsbiennial.com with 'Mentee 2026 Film Commission' in the subject line.

Should you wish to have an informal conversation regarding this opportunity, please email Alex or call 01782 294634.

Timings

Applications open: 23 October 2026

Deadline for receipt of applications: 12 noon, 18 November 2026

Notification of applicants called to interview: by 5pm, 20 November 2026

Interviews (online): 25 & 26 November 2026

Contract starts: 11 January 2027

Filming Dates: February 2027

First Cut: Mid-March 2027

Deadline for film sign-off: End of March 2027

All films finished and supplied to BCB: 8 April 2027