



TRAPDOOR

Dance Artist in Residency Scheme 2026/27 *supported by*

Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council's Arts Office

UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy and Creative Futures Academy

in association with UCD Ad Astra Academy

Closing Date: 1st October 2026, 5pm

Shortlisted artists must be available for online interview on the morning of **16th October 2026**

Dates of Residency: end November 2026 – 1st December 2027* part time, flexible. Set-up and administration may take some time. The residency can begin during this period, but no work is expected until payment has been arranged.

Through the generous support of Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council's Arts Office, UCD Creative Futures Academy announces an exciting opportunity for artists working in dance (any style).

The residency is aimed at supporting a dance artist in need of studio space to test and develop concepts and materials towards the creation of new work.¹

The residency has thus far hosted two dance artists, [Justine Doswell](#) and [Fearghus Ó Conchúir](#):

The TRAPDOOR residency provided a rare and invaluable opportunity to pause, reflect, and explore new ideas without the pressure of producing a finished outcome. With access to state of the art facilities and the support of the UCD team and dlr arts office, I was able to recalibrate creatively and begin a new line of research. The support I received during this time was not only generous, but genuinely transformative – Justine Doswell

¹ While some artists may produce a new work as a result of the residency, others may engage in research and development with no immediate output. The goal is to support creation through time, networks and space for research and development.

What the UCD TRAPDOOR residency offers:

While there will be opportunities to connect with the wider UCD community, the emphasis of the residency is on providing the artist with the space and time to focus on their own practice. There are a small number of agreed contributions, such as the designated student inputs outlined in the call, but the residency is not intended to be a collaborative project with UCD or the partner organisations unless the artist wishes to develop and coordinate such activity themselves as part of their practice.

- Artist's fee of €15,000, inclusive of time, materials, equipment.
- Opportunity to engage with colleagues across UCD, at the artist's own arrangement and discretion.
- Access to UCD library, upon request.
- The opportunity to audit classes, at the request of the artist and the discretion of the module coordinator
- Opportunity to attend open seminars and talks across UCD. Access to sole use of the following spaces (please see Residency Space Info Sheet for more information on conditions of space and dates available for booking):
 - UCD TRAPDOOR (solo use)
 - UCD Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts Studio (solo use)
 - Access to the new CFA Creative Arts Research Laboratory, with audio / visual equipment, adjacent to the TRAPDOOR
 - Studio, dlr LexIcon, Dún Laoghaire (solo use)

***Please note:** There is an initial set-up period for accessing UCD systems and facilities, which can take several months. The residency duration has been designed to accommodate this process. Artists should therefore allow for this lead-in period when planning their residency and be aware that access and arrangements may take some time to establish.

The artist's fee will be paid out to the artist. It may be used at their discretion to cover their own time and / or to buy-in additional artistic or technical support, and materials and / or equipment at the discretion and financial management of the dance artist.

Successful applicants who wish to be paid via a Limited Company will be paid through the UCD supplier payments process. This will require the applicant to provide certain details in order for payments to be made (e.g. company bank details, VAT number if applicable etc.) Full details of the information required will be provided after the selection process is finalised.

Any successful applicants who wish to be paid as an individual will be paid via the UCD payroll system

Who will you liaise with?

The dance artist will liaise with Victoria Durrer, cultural policy scholar in the School of Art History and Cultural Policy, as their point of contact for administrative queries and for meeting UCD colleagues, and initially finding out about events, as of interest to the artist. She will also assist with arranging any public engagements and workshops that are part of the residency (as listed below).

Helena McCann, School of Art History and Cultural Policy Manager, will liaise on payment of the bursary.

Dunk Murphy, Digital Creativity Support, UCD CFA , will orientate the dance artist to the TRAPDOOR space.

Kellie Hughes, Performing Arts Artistic, Director of UCD Ad Astra Academy, will liaise with the dance artist for engagement with the Ad Astra Academy space and students.

P.J. Mathews, Director UCD Creative Futures Academy, will liaise with the dance artist for engagement with CFA activities and events.

What's expected of the artist(s)

- Use the residency facilities to test and develop concepts and materials towards the creation of new work.
- Share your development in two public sharings: one 'Meet the Artist' public talk / presentation (1 hour max) in the end of November 2026 to present your work, your ideas and your rationale for engaging with / at UCD; and the second public talk / or a sharing of your work-in-progress at the conclusion of the residency in autumn 2027 (2 hours max), sharing how your thinking will have developed over the course of your time during the residency. This will be agreed with the artist in advance and be aimed at supporting their goals and maximising the audience opportunities they seek to gain.
- Liaise with Victoria Durrer to make the process of your research and ongoing work etc visible and well promoted through UCD and dlr website and social media platforms. Dr Annette Clancy will be the liaison for Feb - July 2027 as Victoria will be on research leave during this time.
- The residency offers opportunities to connect with UCD, CFA and the Ad Astra Performing Arts Academy. You are welcome to explore these connections and develop your network where they are relevant to your ideas and practice.
- Be available and willing to give three masterclasses, workshops or talks related to your work to UCD students (max time 2 hours), one to Ad Astra Performing Arts Academy, one to students on the BA in Creative and Cultural Industries, and one to students associated with other CFA programmes during the 2026/27 academic year.
- Be available to speak with students on the MA in Cultural Policy and Arts Management during the 26/27 academic year for a maximum 2 hour seminar.
- Credit UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, UCD CFA and UCD Ad Astra Academy of Performing Arts and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in presentation and documentation of your work arising from the residency as described in terms of agreement.
- Submit a feedback report on completion of your residency.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be practicing dance artist(s) in Ireland and have or be willing to get a Personal Public Service (PPS) number.

Application Process

Applications are made through an open call process and will be assessed by members of UCD, dlr arts office, and a dance scholar or artist.

Applications will be assessed on the information provided in the application form and on how well this meets the criteria as set out below.

Selection criteria:

- Artistic quality and track record in dance (45%)
- Quality and coherence of proposal which demonstrates the benefit of the residency on your practice (artistic vision, collaborating with others, research and development aims, impact on your practice.) (30%)
- Feasibility of proposal (including the approach to the development of your practice, making good use of the time and theatre space provided, and the presentation of your residency practice to the public and college alike) (25%)

N.B. it is important to consider **all** of the above criteria carefully when preparing your application as this is a competitive process and all will be taken into account during the assessment process.

Applications will be assessed on the information provided in the application form and on how well this meets the objectives as set out below.

Residency objectives:

The residency should support proposals articulating a strong need for time and space for the creative research and development of your work, including the key area of research/practice you're interested in.

- Your proposal should be relevant to your dance practice, its development and vision
- Your proposal should demonstrate the benefit of the residency to your dance practice
- Your proposal may identify any aspects of the UCD context or the residency partners that are relevant or of interest to your practice, and any connections or opportunities you would like to explore during the residency. These should be led and developed by you, with support from UCD where appropriate and feasible.
- Your proposal should indicate how you might make your process visible or share aspects of your work during the residency, including any interest in presenting your work or process to UCD students.

What to submit:

Please send application materials to Helena McCann, School Manager of Art History and Cultural Policy at helena.mccann@ucd.ie before the closing date. You may include links to digital content if you feel it benefits your application.

Should you have any queries about the residency, please direct them to Dr Victoria Durrer at Victoria.durrer@ucd.ie

Applicants are asked to submit the following information as a single pdf, in this order:

About You:

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Website

Tell us about yourself Briefly describe who you are and outline your most recent artistic achievements. (*Max 100 words)

Your process: Briefly describe the approaches you take in developing your work, what materials you use and how you disseminate your work. (*Max 200 words)

You must include an up-to-date CV

Your proposal

Please explain how the residency, including the opportunity to work within the spaces and context provided, would be relevant to your practice. You may also identify any aspects of UCD or the residency partners that are of interest to you and that you would like to explore. Any such connections or opportunities should be led and developed by you, with support from UCD where appropriate.

Please describe your proposed use of the research and development time, including the key areas of research or practice you are interested in.

If relevant, please note any other funding or support you have received for this work to date.

Please indicate how you might make your process visible or share aspects of your work during the residency, including any interest in presenting your work or process to UCD students.

(*Max 400 words)

Existing Commitments

Please specify commitments you have to other work, residencies, exhibitions/performances, conferences, research/education in 2026/27

Examples of previous work

Examples of work - Up to 10 examples of your work. Please label each image clearly with title, dimensions, materials, gallery/site of installation /performance, date.

Links to video/sound pieces on vimeo or youtube (max 3 minute clips or indicate which 3 minutes you recommend). If password protected, please ensure a password is included in the application materials.

Please note applications submitted outside of the Open Call submission dates are not reviewed.

Further Information

[Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office](#) was established in 1994. It works to develop and support the Arts locally through programmes, funding and partnerships. The Council values the arts as an important service that contributes to the quality of life for those who live in, work and study in, and visit the County.

The Arts Office has commissioned and produced an exciting range of festivals, exhibitions, artist residencies, school projects, arts and health initiatives and public art programmes over the last 29 years in order to grow and sustain community engagement with the arts, and our thriving local arts sector.

UCD's [School of Art History and Cultural Policy](#) offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Art History. It is also distinguished by its postgraduate Arts Management and Cultural Policy MA and, offered for the first time in 2022/ 23, a new Creative & Cultural Industries undergraduate degree. The school collaborates intensively with museums, galleries, and arts and cultural organisations as part of our research and teaching. Great emphasis is placed on first-hand interaction with art and architecture and with cultural professionals, and we make extensive use of site visits, field trips, and expert guest speakers. Graduates hold many distinguished positions not only in cultural and art institutions in Ireland, but also in North and South America, Europe and Asia. One of our strengths is that we are a relatively small, and also a very collegial, department and we are very keen to foster a strong sense of subject identity and community among our students. This includes welcoming applicants of diverse backgrounds and mature and international students.

UCD [Creative Futures Academy](#) (CFA) is a ground-breaking partnership between three leading creative institutions: The National College of Art and Design, University College Dublin, and the Institute of Art Design + Technology. Together we offer new skills, fresh networks and opportunities for learning throughout your life and career. Thinkers and leaders from academia, the creative arts and industry have come together to create new programmes and fully accredited micro courses, putting you in control of your choices. As part of the Creative Futures family, you can access tailored courses that offer exciting and flexible ways of learning, new networks, extra-curricular resources and more.

[UCD Ad Astra Academy](#) Performing Arts Programme is part of UCD's Ad Astra Academy. Created in 2011, it is UCD's flagship scholarship programme. It is an expression of the mission of UCD as a whole; to provide a community in which students of the University displaying exceptional potential in academic pursuits, elite sports or performing arts are encouraged and supported to develop their talent further. The Performing Arts Programme is led by theatre artist [Kellie Hughes](#), it offers opportunities to students who excel in theatre

performance (actor, playwright, director, designer etc.) and classical musicians who wish to develop their performance talents while pursuing a degree in UCD.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) at UCD

UCD is committed to creating an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated, and everyone is afforded equality of opportunity. Diversity is highlighted in the university's strategic plan as one of the core values of UCD, and its EDI commitment is further demonstrated through the strategic objective relating to the attraction, retention, and development of an excellent and diverse cohort of students, faculty and staff. We welcome applications from everyone, including those who identify with any of the protected characteristics that are set out in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy. The university adheres to a range of equality, diversity and inclusion policies. We encourage applicants to consult UCD's equality, diversity and inclusion policies here <https://www.ucd.ie/equality/>.

UCD's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2018-2020-2025 sets out the University's objectives aligned to UCD's ten equality grounds. [Link](#)

Supplementary information:

The University:	https://www.ucd.ie/
UCD Strategy Breaking Boundaries	https://strategy.ucd.ie/
dlr arts office	https://www.dlrcoco.ie/index.php/arts
dlr LexIcon studio	http://www.venuehire.dlrllexicon.ie/studio.html
UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy	https://www.ucd.ie/arhistory/
UCD Ad Astra Performing Arts Academy	https://www.ucd.ie/adastraacademy/performingarts/
UCD's CFA Creative Futures Academy is based in UCD's College of Arts and Humanities . There is more information on our research areas available.	https://creativefuturesacademy.ie
UCD's Creative Futures Academy is based in the College of Arts and Humanities.	https://www.ucd.ie/artshumanities/
UCD Term dates	https://www.ucd.ie/students/t4media/Academic_dates_2026_27.pdf