



Image courtesy Tom Bird

Artist in Residence Art at HMP Aylesbury

Job Description and Application Pack

Closing Date: 9am, Tuesday 16 June 2026

Job Description

Post:	Artist in Residence, HMP Aylesbury (instructed by Ikon)
Salary:	£28,000 project fee, including travel and expenses
Contract:	Freelance agreement, fixed term twelve-month opportunity Part time, average two days per week, 80 days (40 weeks), July 2026 – June 2027
Location:	HMP Aylesbury, Bierton Rd, Aylesbury, HP20 1EH

Art at HMP Aylesbury

Ikon invites applicants for an Artist in Residence at HMP Aylesbury.

Produced by Ikon, *Art at HMP Aylesbury*, funded by [the Esmée Fairbairn Communities and Collections Fund](#), centres on a new ceramics studio within a male Category C prison. Part of Ikon's Art in Prisons programme, this new project partners Ikon and HMP Aylesbury with Discover Bucks Museum (DBM). The project will tour DBM's nationally significant studio ceramics collection to the prison, with the new Artist in Residence working with prisoners and their families to co-create new work in response.

Reporting to Ikon's Art in Prisons & Health Producer, the Artist in Residence will be supported by DBM's Curator, a Freelance Project Manager, and prison staff. Working together, the team will establish a new studio facility in the prison, producing a programme of workshops for prisoners and their families. Work will be shared in exhibitions at the prison, Ikon and DBM. The residency will be produced in dialogue with prison governors, security staff and a Art Orderly, recruited from the prison community, who will assist with the day-to-day running of the studio. The Producer will oversee the project, including evaluation and work to build cultural partnerships in Buckinghamshire.

For the last 12 years, Ikon has managed numerous artist residencies in prisons including [Edmund Clark](#) (2014–2018), [Dean Kelland](#) (2019–2023), Jessica Ostrowicz (2025-6), Niki Gandy (2025-2026) and Simon J. Harris (2024-2026). In 2022, Ikon opened the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Studio at HMP Grendon – a dedicated space for workshops, in painting, printing, photography and performance, and a changing programme of exhibitions, art historical and contemporary. The residencies run alongside a public programme of Ikon exhibitions, events and publications, providing a platform for public discourse on the role of art in criminal justice.

This new opportunity at HMP Aylesbury, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Communities and Collections Fund, is for an artist with significant experience of teaching/technical facilitation, and with a strong portfolio of artwork, to activate a ceramics studio and collection with prisoners and their families.

Artist in Residence at HMP Aylesbury

Placing a professional artist at HMP Aylesbury offers prisoners access to art and culture and insight into how to develop an artistic practice. The aims of the residency are as follows:

- Provide a space for progressive and experimental approaches to art education within an secure setting
- Expand Ikon's work in prisons, modelling cross-sectoral working across art, charity and criminal justice settings
- Introduce prisoners and their families to creative practice

Person specification

We are seeking a dynamic, talented and highly motivated artist to lead on the visual arts programme at HMP Aylesbury. The successful candidate will have experience in teaching/technical facilitation of workshops alongside their own artistic practice.

Over 12 months, the Artist will deliver practical workshops, with support from a Producer, Project Manager, Curator and prisoner Art Orderly, on two set days per week in a new studio facility at the prison. The Artist will collaborate with the prison community, and their families, including children, to make work in response to DBM's studio ceramics collection. Work produced will be exhibited in the prison, at DBM and at Ikon throughout the course of the residency.

The Artist in Residence will:

- Undertake an induction, including anti-corruption, key holder and radio training, with HMPS staff
- Complete Ministry of Justice (MoJ) vetting processes
- Work with the Producer, Project Manager, Curator and Art Orderly to set up a new art studio within the prison grounds
- Facilitate twice-weekly workshops for prisoners to experiment with clay processes including using a kiln
- Collaborate on exhibitions at HMP Aylesbury, DBM and Ikon
- Facilitate prisoner submissions to the annual Koestler Awards
- Work as part of a team, with the Producer, Project Manager, Curator and Art Orderly, to schedule and communicate activity, order materials and set up facility, ensuring that the studio is kept clean and tidy
- Engage with the Governor, senior team and security staff at HMP Aylesbury, to ensure work is undertaken in accordance with prison procedure and the project's risk assessments
- Participate in creative project evaluation conducted by the Producer
- Participate in Ikon's public programme, including talks and symposia, including complementary activity in other prisons

Essential

- Significant experience of teaching visual art practice
- Technical knowledge and skill required to facilitate a ceramics studio

- A portfolio of high-quality artwork
- Psychologically prepared to be able to deal with the specific demands that come from working in a prison
- Awareness of requirements for working in a secure setting
- A willingness to contribute towards the Ikon's wider research with focus on arts impact on justice and health systems
- Experience of working with families, including children and young people
- Highly organised, ability to prioritise workload, have a flexible and collaborative approach and work effectively under pressure
- Strong time-management skills with an ability to plan, anticipate requirements, and manage competing priorities successfully, working to deadlines
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills to communicate effectively both face-to-face and in writing with prisoners, support staff and funders
- Access to transport and a clear plan for working at the prison
- Registered as self-employed and responsible for tax payments and national insurance contributions

Desirable

- Knowledge of the Criminal Justice System, especially of the long-term prison population
- An understanding of how incarceration can affect the personality and motivation of prisoners

Discover Bucks Museum

DBM is the county museum for Buckinghamshire, holding Bucks-related collections spanning from 200 million years ago to present day. It is home to the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, also on the Aylesbury museum site. Although some of the museum's collections are of international importance (such as the Lenborough Hoard and esteemed studio ceramics collection) the museum's focus is predominantly those in Bucks and the surrounding counties. Of these 'local' audiences, around 75% are families, bringing children to the museum galleries, temporary exhibitions and Roald Dahl Children's Gallery. The museum attracts between 30k-40k visitors per year through varied exhibition, event, education and community programmes.

HMP Aylesbury

HMP Aylesbury is a category C training prison situated in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, holding 400 adult male prisoners.

Ikon

Ikon is an internationally acclaimed art gallery in central Birmingham, offering free entry to all. Founded in 1964 as an artist-led alternative space, it has evolved into one of the most internationalist programmes in Europe, combining established with emerging artists. Housed in a renovated neo-gothic school building, Ikon is an educational charity for the promotion of visual art of international significance, playing a key role in the cultural life of the West Midlands region.

Ikon's main galleries welcome over 200,000 visitors every year, with many more engaging with off-site projects, national and international collaborations and online. In recent years, Ikon has exhibited work by [Donald Locke \(2025\)](#), [Seulgi Lee \(2025\)](#), [Htein Lin \(2025\)](#), [Mahtab Hussain \(2025\)](#), [Jesse Jones \(2024\)](#), [Dion Kitson \(2024\)](#), [Exodus Crooks \(2024\)](#), [Mali Morris \(2023\)](#), [Melati Suryodarmo \(2023\)](#). Education programmes include [Art at HMP Grendon](#), funded by [Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust](#), and [Slow Boat](#), home to Ikon Youth Programme, supported by [Freelands Foundation](#).

Terms and Conditions

Post:	Artist in Residence, HMP Aylesbury (instructed by Ikon)
Salary:	Freelance fee £28,000, including travel and expenses
Contract:	Part time, fixed term (twelve months) Two days per week, 80 days (40 weeks), July 2026 – June 2027
Location:	HMP Aylesbury, Birtton Rd, Aylesbury, HP20 1EH

How to Apply

Please send the following to office@ikon-gallery.org by **Tuesday 16 June, 9am (BST)** with the subject line 'Artist in Residence Application'.

- Cover Letter (max. 2 pages long)
- CV
- A digital copy of your portfolio of work
- Please also complete Ikon's digital [Equal Opportunities Monitoring form](#)

Ikon particularly encourages artists from, or working in, Buckinghamshire to apply for this opportunity.

Ikon is an equal opportunities organisation and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community. In its management structure and as an employer, Ikon is pledged to ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of age, race, gender, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

Interviews are expected to take place on Friday 3 July at HMP Aylesbury.

Note

Applicants must be able to provide evidence of their right to work in the UK.

Ikon requires all staff to obtain a Government Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, in accordance with Ikon's Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy. You will be required to provide the necessary documentation for the DBS check to be carried out. Ikon will cover the cost of obtaining the DBS check and reserves the right to request additional checks at any time in the future.