

2023 CUP Ceramics Community Studio Graduate Internship

This 12 month long internship is offered to a recent graduate (Class of 2023 or 2024) who will remain a Herefordshire local for the next 12 months and consists of the following:

◉ 12 Hour CUP Membership for 12 months:

- Guidance from our onsite mentors.

We have a broadly skilled team of over ten potters who are always happy to advise and teach.

- Use of facilities, tools, and glazes.

We have six throwing wheels, two handbuilding tables, a slab roller and extruder, and all the odds and ends expected in a pottery studio. We have 18 house glazes, twelve of which are in rotation at any given time and their use is included in membership. We have two large kilns for bisque and glaze, and a small kiln for emergency, test, and specialist firings.

- Up to 25 litres per month of standard temperature firing.

This is 25 litres of volume within the glaze kiln. An average mug will be around 1L as a visual representation.

- Your own storage shelf (45cmx45cmx90cm).

This shelf is for storage of tools, clay, and ware. It is yours but we do expect that it will be kept clean and tidy to ensure the studio is a clean environment to work in.

◉ The opportunity to use the studio and gallery for a solo exhibition when the internship is completed.

Our studio has a cafe and gallery attached which has a constant stock of members' work for sale. We also have our maker of the month shelves where a maker is given an area to take over to display a collection together. We have many public events throughout the year and also take part in Herefordshire Art Week yearly, which all draw an audience to the space. You will be welcome to take part in all of these events as a maker, and make use of our audience and reach, as well as your own, for a show at the end of your internship.

◉ 12 months of mentoring:

- Professional practice development.
- Technical training opportunities.
- Connection to a wide community of potters who are based in the studio, and our wider network of professional potters.

◉ The opportunity to sit in on staff meetings:

- These are held once a fortnight, and will provide insight into the day to day running of the studio.
- Additional meetings are also held to organise events, community work, and exhibitions, which you will be welcome to attend and assist with.

◉ The opportunity to assist with studio classes, and eventually run your own classes.

- This is an optional part of the internship, however, teaching presents you with the opportunity to pass along your own specialised skill sets and knowledge to others.

◉ 12 hours commitment to studio access and responsibilities:

- One day of committed time per week (day is negotiable), 10-6, initially with a mentor on site, to be gradually grown into an independent role.
- Half day (morning or evening) per week, to work independently (day is negotiable).

The initial training day will be a Monday alongside other students, as this is when the majority of our studio processes are completed as there are no members on site. There are also community sessions on a Monday, which you will have the opportunity to assist in if you wish.

- Roles will include opening of the studio, mentoring members, completing studio maintenance and processes.

Once your training has been completed and you are operating independently as a mentor, you will be expected to act as a member of staff.

Studio maintenance and processes can be anything from mixing and maintaining glazes, kiln and kiln furniture maintenance, kiln packing, rotation of ware around the studio systems, maintaining and repairing studio equipment, and maintaining studio cleanliness.

Mentor duties will include assisting studio members with advice across the pottery board. Whether they need advice on the direction of a project, technical advice with glazing, handbuilding, or throwing, or reminding of studio processes. You will be expected to advise in areas you are comfortable with, and guide them to other members, mentors, staff, or resources that may otherwise be able to assist.

◎ 6 months mentoring next years intern

- This will provide the opportunity to pass along skills and knowledge built over the year in a handover process.

This internship will present you with the opportunity to develop your professional practice through the development of practical skills, studio technical knowledge, organising events, mentoring studio members, networking with makers, and being involved in community work.

The internship will run from August 2024 until August 2025, specific start and end dates are fairly flexible and can be negotiated.