

North Atlantic Islands Residency 2027

Application Guidelines

Original Errant, Utter Nonsense and The Excelsior Trust are excited to announce the North Atlantic Islands Residency 2027. As with previous residencies this will take place onboard the Lowestoft fishing smack, Excelsior, sailing three weeks from Scrabster, Scotland, taking in The Outer and Inner Hebrides, and finishing in Oban. The voyage to take place between Saturday 22nd May and Friday 11th June 2027.

The North Atlantic Islands Residency provides **established artists** and **young innovators** the opportunity to explore the communal dynamics of being at sea, personal disciplines, fieldwork study, knowledge exchange, plus working towards a collaborative project and exhibition for 2028.

Life onboard the Excelsior is fully funded. Participants must self fund and arrange travel to and from the Residency, plus all costs while ashore. Participants to make a £200 donation to The Excelsior Trust before taking part in the residency.

It is important that all applicants read fully the, 'Notes to Applicants', on page 6.

Application deadline, artists, Sunday 10th January 2027
Application deadline, young innovators, Sunday 17th January 2027

Photograph by Joseph Peach, Excelsior, Sweeden, 2025

Application Guidelines

The purpose of the residency is to foster an exchange of art, science and humanities through a dialogue and understanding of individual fields of study and creative thinking. It is a unique opportunity for an inter-generational residency of shared experiences and differing perspectives, to further experiential insight and community.

In both residency categories there will be a strong emphasis on developing personal projects/skills, creative engagement, fieldwork, study, plus a collaborative engagement with the prompt: *Speed is choice: It has become the determinant of our age.*

This is a developmental residency, not a training residency.

Artists are invited to submit a proposal [around 500 words], examples of previous work, a short bio and letter of reference, incorporating the following:

- Your practice. Please refer to table opposite for disciplines available to the residency.
- How you would like to use the residency to further your own work.
- Your proposed engagement with 2028 exhibition.
- Your response to the prompt: *Speed is choice: It has become the determinant of our age.*
- Please refer to: Notes to Applicants.
- All submissions remain confidential.

Artists to be established in their career with a proven track record. There are 6 artist places available.

Applications, submissions and enquiries for both residency categories to be sent via email to: contact@utterbooks.com

Young Innovators are invited to submit their application via a video [around 2 minutes] or written mini-essay [around 300 words] incorporating:

- Details of yourself, your passions, your skill, current stage of education, or if you've left education.
- How you would like to develop your skill and why this is important in your life.
- Your dreams and goals for the future, both personal and for society.
- Your response to the prompt: *Speed is choice: It has become the determinant of our age.*
- What you think you will find most challenging about the voyage.
- For skill sets on offer for the residency please refer to table below.
- Please refer to: Notes to Applicants.
- All submissions remain confidential.

Young innovators must be between the ages of 18-24 with a passion for personal development in either the natural sciences or life skills. There are 5 young innovator places available.

Artist Disciplines	Innovator Disciplines
Photographic artist	Navigation/seamanship
Writer/poet	Marine life/flora/fauna
Sound designer	Ecology
Musician/composer	Meteorology
Thinker/philosopher	Culinary arts
Architect	Natural/human sciences
Painter/sculptor	Botany
Performance/dance	Taxonomy

If you are unsure as to whether the Residency is suitable for you please get in contact via email. We are here to answer your questions

Applicants in both categories will be informed of our selection via email on Monday 15th February 2027

All Applications Must Provide

- Age.
- Address.
- Resumé, bio, CV.
- Contact details: Both email and mobile telephone.
- Letter of reference [artists only].
- Examples of previous work as JPEG [1mb per image], embedded PDF, audio files, links to URL/website [optional].
- Personal project for Residency and/or field studies/research.
- Thoughts on collaborative engagement while on resdidency.

File formats for submissions

- It's important to remember that all submissions must be via email. Any relevant URL links to websites, YouTube, audio/image files to be included within email.
- All applications, submissions and enquiries to be sent via email to: **contact@utterbooks.com**
- We will notify you of receipt of application/submissions via email.

Contact and Online Information

Email: contact@utterbooks.com
Instagram: @originalerrant2024
Website: www.utternonsense.co.uk/northatlanticislandsresidency
Website: www.theexcelsiortrust.co.uk

Application deadline, artists, Sunday 10th January 2027
Application deadline, young innovators, Sunday 17th January 2027

Notes to Applicants

- Applicants need to be able to manage expectations, and to work as a team, as long sea passages can be unpredictable.
- The residency will be challenging for anyone who suffers acutely from sea sickness, vertigo, or has significant dietary constraints.
- The vessel Excelsior has restricted access, both above and below deck.
- Applications will be assessed by a selection committee.
- Short-listed applicants are requested to partake in an online interview before final selection.
- Participants must be able to work collaboratively and within their own individual practice.
- Participants to bring own equipment relative to chosen discipline. List of clothing to bring, equipment, etc, will be sent out before travel.
- Participants must be willing to work with funders on realising their projects and to take part in exhibition and workshops in 2028.
- The Residency will be recorded/filmed.
- There will be 17 people onboard inclusive of permanent crew.
- While at sea internet access is unavailable.
- Participants will be onboard a sea going vessel, limited work space, working close with others and restricted privacy.
- Participants will be part of the crew while at sea, setting sails, taking watch, ship work, cooking, cleaning, etc. Team spirit is essential.
- The vessel will be your home for three weeks while at sea and when ashore.
- Days will be spent ashore during resdidency to work, study, research and to chill out.
- Weather at sea can cause changes to itineraries.
- There are no application fees.
- Payment of donation to be made one month before Residency.
- All works to be made available to the organisers and funders for use in education and learning purposes, exhibition and publications in 2028, promotion/marketing of future residencies.
- At all times work to remain the copyright of the individual.
- Completion of projects before the end of residency is not a requisite. Much of your work is likely to take place post voyage.