

How to apply for a mentor

This step by step guide will walk you through the whole process of getting a mentor!

Arts Emergency provides young people with **FREE** mentoring, advice, guidance and opportunities to help them embark on higher education and careers in the creative sector.

We're looking for young people aged 16-25 who are passionate about the arts, humanities or creative industries and who would benefit from having a mentor in these areas. We match you and your mentor based on your individual interests, passions and goals.

If that sounds like something you'd enjoy, then you should apply to become an Arts Emergency mentee!

Before you start your application

- Have a think about the time commitment. Will you be able to meet with your mentor once a month, for an hour or so, for 12 months?
- Consider what your goals might be over the next couple of years. What do you enjoy doing? Are you thinking about applying for university? Are you looking for your first job after studying?
- If you are under the age of 18 we would like to obtain a parent or guardian's permission for you to be on the programme and to confirm your eligibility. We'd advise that you speak to them about this and let them know that you are applying for a mentor. If it's not possible to gain your parent's permission, you will have the option of nominating someone else such as a teacher or social worker.
- If you are over 18, you will need to provide a reference to confirm that you're eligible for our programme (see below) such as a parent, teacher or lecturer. You may want to check with them before you start your application.

Completing the application

- You are able to start your application and return to it later if you don't want to complete it all at once. To do this, click the 'Save my progress and resume later' button at the top and bottom of the page.

- We'd advise you to complete the application on a tablet or laptop rather than a phone.
- When you're answering the questions, there is a 100 word limit so try and keep your answers concise.
- If you feel more comfortable video recording the answers or if you find it difficult to communicate through writing, for example if you have dyslexia, you can also complete your application over the phone. You'll find details on how to do this on our Apply page - www.arts-emergency.org/apply.

What Arts Emergency looks for in a mentee

The three main things that we are looking for in our new mentee applications are: curiosity, commitment and that our mentees are in need of support. Think about ways you can demonstrate this in your application.

Curiosity

We want to know that you are curious or passionate about the arts and humanities. It doesn't matter if you don't know what you want to do as your mentor will help you with this, but you have to want to explore your interests and options in depth.

- Don't worry about not having enough experience already because Arts Emergency is about helping you to explore new things and gain experience
- The more you tell us and the more truthful you are, the easier it is to match you with a suitable mentor. So feel free to tell us about any new topics or areas that you would like to explore
- You can apply for Arts Emergency at any stage in your journey, whether you are thinking about your next steps after sixth form, in the middle of your university course or looking for your first job. Arts Emergency is here to help you explore all your options and your mentoring sessions will be based on your goals

Commitment

All our mentees must be committed to meeting with their mentor for an hour once a month for a year starting in January 2022.

- In order for you to get the most out of Arts Emergency it's important that you are able to stay engaged and connected with your mentor and the Arts Emergency team throughout the year-long programme. These meetings will either be online or face to face
- Please demonstrate in your application that you are ready to make this commitment before applying for the programme as we want to match mentors with young people who will benefit most from their support

Eligibility

You must tick at least one of our eligibility criteria to apply for a mentor. Our eligibility criteria helps us to make sure we work with young people who will benefit most from having a mentor.

Our Eligibility Criteria:

- neither of my parents went to university
- my family's household income is below £25,000 per year
- me or my family receive Universal Credit
- I am currently in care
- I have previously been in care
- I am currently eligible for Free School Meals
- I was eligible for Free School Meals between year 7 and year 11
- I was or am a recipient of a 16-19 bursary
- I am a refugee or asylum seeker
- I would describe myself as Black, Asian or from an ethnic minority background
- I have a disability*
- I have a learning disability and/or I have special educational needs*
- I am a young parent
- I am a young carer

*You're disabled or learning disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

We're looking forward to receiving your application and getting to know you!

If you have any more questions about applying please [check out our FAQ resource](#) or [contact us](#).

Confirming your eligibility:

- If you are under 18 your parent/guardian or nominated adult will be able to confirm your eligibility as part of their permission for you to take part in the programme.
- If you are over 18 you will need to choose a person who can confirm your eligibility, this can be a parent, teacher or lecturer. They will need to provide us with a reference to support your application.
- If you have any issues with finding someone to confirm your eligibility please email mentoring@arts-emergency.org and we can discuss your options.

Network Questions

At the end of the application we will ask applicants to tell us more about your networks, who you know and who supports you at present. These are just evaluation questions, to help us improve the support we offer and the answers will not impact your application. So please just be as honest as possible.

Next Steps

If your application is successful, the next step is to meet with a couple of members of the Arts Emergency team for a chat to find out more about you and determine how we can best support you in the mentoring programme. You'll hear from us by mid November if you're through to this next stage.

If you are applying through a partner school, this will be arranged through your teacher and we will meet with you (in person or online) for a fifteen minute slot during the school day. Your teacher will let you know when this will happen.

If you are applying directly (ie. you may have found this opportunity through social media, a friend or family member rather than hearing about it through an assembly) we will get in touch and arrange an online video call with you in late October or early November.