



Who will teach on Pathways?

Pathways will be delivered by some of the best children's illustrators and writers, university tutors, and children's editors and art directors - with many of them teaching together, giving our Pathways artists - or 'mentees' - multiple perspectives on craft and the industry at all times.

Who is organising Pathways?

Pathways is being organised by Pop Up Projects and House of Illustration. Pop Up Projects is a children's literature agency - they run Pop Up Festival, a national children's literature festival in schools, which puts 100s of children's writers and illustrators and their books in classes across the country. They also run talent development programmes for aspiring and developing writers and illustrators.

House of Illustration, founded by Sir Quentin Blake, is the UK's only public gallery dedicated to illustration and graphic art, and curates nine illustration exhibitions in its three gallery spaces every year. They also run courses and workshops for children, teachers and adults, and support illustrators by commissioning work, an illustrator-in-residence programme, and the international Book Illustration Competition with The Folio Society.

How much will Pathways cost?

The true cost of each mentee's place is £13,000. Because Pathways will be supported by a grant from the Arts Council and by investments from affiliated publishers and universities, the full cost for each Pathways mentee will be £3,000 - less than 25% of the cost. This can be payable in one payment at the start of the programme, or in annual, quarterly or monthly payments.

What happens if I run into financial difficulties during the programme?

Once you are accepted onto the programme, a number of payment options will be available (as outlined above). If you run into financial difficulties, and can provide us with evidence of your circumstances we may be able to pause payments for up to 6 months. In extremely serious situations, we may be able to provide emergency funding or help you to access external funds.

Can someone else pay for me?

Yes, someone else can pay for you. However, they must reference your full name in the transaction details so that we know who they are paying for.

Where will Pathways take place?

The activities will be 'roaming', and taking place at locations across England. Locations might be publishers' HQs (most of them are in London), or the campuses of affiliated universities across England.

What about travel and accommodation costs?

We have a limited budget to support the costs of travel and accommodation for those students who demonstrate need. If you feel you will have any difficulty paying for accommodation or travel, you will be able to note this in your application. If you are then accepted onto the programme, you can apply for a bursary to support your costs.

Is there a minimum age?

Yes, you must have turned 18 by September 2019.

Do I have to live in the UK?

Yes, you must be a resident of the UK during the course of the Pathways programme.

Do I have to be a UK citizen?

No. However, you must be a resident of the UK during the course of the Pathways programme and you must have the right to stay and work in the UK, or be an EU/EEA citizen.

Can you help with Visa applications?

No, unfortunately we cannot offer advice or assistance with regard to Visa applications.

Over how many days does this programme run?

The programme runs for approximately 60 days between December 2019 - September 2021. You will also be expected to do at least 30 days of independent work. If you have time, you can also attend as many of the optional workshops as you would like.

What happens if I can't attend one of the masterclasses or other activities?

If you are unable to attend a workshop, please let us know as far in advance as possible. Missing one class is not a problem - however, if you miss a significant number of classes you may be unable to complete the programme. We will decide this on a case by case basis - you can make up for missed classes by participating in additional optional activities or carrying out additional independent work.

Do I have to have a relevant college or university degree?

No. You do not need to have a college or university degree to participate in Pathways. No educational qualifications are necessary to apply to Pathways.

I already have a relevant degree - can I still apply?

Yes. You can still apply even if you already have a relevant degree.

I have a full-time job, can I still participate in this programme?

Pathways is designed to be flexible, and we will try to ensure that many of the activities take place on weekday evenings or on weekends. However, some weekday and daytime attendance will be necessary. As long as you are able to commit to a minimum of 30 days attendance and at least 15 days independent working per year, you can still participate in Pathways.

I already have an agent, can I still apply?

No, you cannot apply to Pathways if you have an agent.

Do I need to supply my own arts materials?

Yes, you will have to supply your own arts materials. However, we are currently in discussion with art supply retailers about a potential discount for Pathways participants, in order to minimise this cost.

Who will be selected (and how)?

We are looking for artists who have genuine potential to become published children's authors - but places are limited, and it is very competitive. There are 30 spaces on the Pathways programme, and 20 of these are reserved for BAME applicants. The other 10 places will be open to artists with disadvantaged backgrounds and/ or for whom English is not their first language. Priority will be given for artists between 18 - 26, but there is no upper age limit. Applicants must not have been published more than once and must not have an agent.

Our publisher and university partners will help shortlist applicants, and the final 30 will be offered places following an interview.

When and where will the interviews be held?

Shortlisted applicants interviewed between Monday 23rd and Friday 27th September 2019, in London. Where possible we would prefer the interviews to take place in person, but if this is not possible a skype interview can also be arranged.

Help! My application form has disappeared.

If you have started an application but are having trouble returning to it, don't panic! Just get in touch with michelle@pop-up.org.uk, who will help you.

Why does the application form contain such personal questions?

Pathways is aimed at increasing diversity and representation in children's publishing, and as we have outlined, applicants must be BAME, from disadvantaged backgrounds or have a language other than English as their first language.

The questions we are asking are designed to determine whether or not you meet these criteria. We are aware that the questions we are asking have limitations and do not necessarily reflect the full variety of individual experiences. However, your answers will give us a broad measure. We have tried to ensure that the questions are based on widely used and well-researched questions (eg. from the National Census, or Office of National Statistics). There will be opportunities for you to give us additional information you think we should know in open-text answers or as part of the personal statement you are required to submit.



Supported using public funding by
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Pathways
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