

One Horton Heath PhD Studentship Artist's Brief

April 2025

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One Horton Heath Socially-Engaged Artist Residencies Fully Funded

Type of Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

Faculty, graduate schools

University of Southampton, Faculty of Arts & Humanities:
Winchester School of Art
Southampton Institute for Arts and Humanities

Entry Requirements (full details [here](#))

You'll need one or more of the following:

1. an undergraduate degree, normally with at least upper second (2:1) honours classification (or equivalent) in a relevant subject;
2. a master's-level qualification (or equivalent) in a relevant subject, normally with distinction;
3. evidence of prior professional practice or learning that meets the University's criteria and good practice guidelines for accreditation of prior experiential and/or certificated learning (please contact us for details).

Ideally you'll have:

- A background in visual arts/creative socially-engaged practice
- Experience of co-production, working with communities
- Interest in environment and sustainability

Timeline

- **30 April 2025, midday (UK time):** closing date for Expressions of Interest (Round 1; submission details below)
- **15 May 2025:** responses to Expressions of Interest (Round 1)
- **30 June 2025, midday (UK time):** closing date for full applications (Round 1)
- **July 2025:** interview of potential candidates (date and time can be negotiated)
- **15 August 2025:** last possible date for official decisions
- **September 2025:** PhD start date (Round 1)
- **September 2025 – August 2028:** Funded Studentship

University of Southampton PhD Programmes

You would either complete a **Theoretical PhD (70k-word thesis)** or a **Practice-Based PhD (consists of a 40k-word thesis and a portfolio of related work)**.

4-year degree (3 years funded, typically followed by a 4th 'writing up' year)

How to Apply

Applications for this PhD Studentship will be in two phases:

1. Expressions of Interest (deadline: 30th April 2025, midday)
2. Full Applications (deadline 30th June 2025, midday)

Applicants must submit an Expression of Interest prior to submission of a full application. This will enable Winchester School of Art to support and advise applicants on their full application.

Expressions of Interest should be a maximum of 3 pages and include:

- Name
- Contact details including email, phone number and current address
- Links to your website, any online video content about previous or ongoing projects (max. three) and any professional social media accounts
- Key degree qualifications or other qualifications to date

- Approx. half-page personal statement / artists' statement

- Approx. 2 pages outlining your research project idea, which includes preliminary details of proposed research question, research method, artistic practice, and/or theoretical approach. This should include:
 - At least 2 academic sources that directly inform the project (to give an indication of your research discipline and gap in research your project will address)
 - At least 2 artistic sources / examples of work that directly inform your project (to give an indication of your artistic discipline and practice, and how your work will build on what has been done before)

- **OPTIONAL:** where applicable, please tell us about how you embed inclusive practices in your work and any lived experience / statements of need / access riders (does not count towards the 3-page maximum).

Please send Expressions of Interest by e-mail attachment as a single document (PDF or Word format) to Dr Megen de Bruin-Molé: m.j.de-bruin-mole@soton.ac.uk **by Midday, 30 April 2025.**

Full applications must be submitted through the University's PhD application process: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/apply>. When applying please indicate you would like to be considered under the OHH funding scheme.

As a partnership we are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcome applicants who support our mission of inclusivity. For further information in relation to our policies, please visit University of Southampton's Strategic Plan: www.southampton.ac.uk/diversity/our-commitment/index.page

And EBC's current Equalities Strategy and Action Plan: [equalities-strategy-and-action-plan-2022-25.pdf](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/equality/equality-strategy-and-action-plan-2022-25.pdf)

Potential Supervisor/s

Prior to submitting an Expression of Interest it is recommended that applicants contact a potential supervisor at Winchester School of Art to discuss their proposal: https://www.southampton.ac.uk/people?search_api_fulltext=&search_api_school=Winchester+School+of+Art

Currently available supervisors will have a green tick under their profile and the phrase "Accepting applications from PhD students".

It is also recommended that applicants have a look at the WSA-specific advice on applying for a PhD, available here: <https://blog.soton.ac.uk/wsapgr/apply-for-phd/>

No participants will be rejected outright at the Expressions of Interest phase, which will be used as an opportunity to offer feedback on the project proposal and pair applicants with potential supervisors. Based on your Expression of Interest, however, we may advise against putting in a full application for this round of the studentships.

Fees and Funding

This is an Eastleigh Borough Council/John Hansard Gallery funded Studentship for 3 years. Domestic students are preferred. The starting stipend is £19,237 per year, plus up to £5,000 annual expenses / research and materials budget, and the studentship would additionally include full tuition cover, access to hot desk and space at Winchester School of Art, as well as in kind research, engagement, communications and technical support.

Additional production and presentation budget may be available for public outcomes developed in collaboration with John Hansard Gallery. Budget will be allocated based on specific proposals. The artist/researcher will have access to hot desk and space at John Hansard Gallery, as well as in kind curatorial, engagement, communications and technical support.

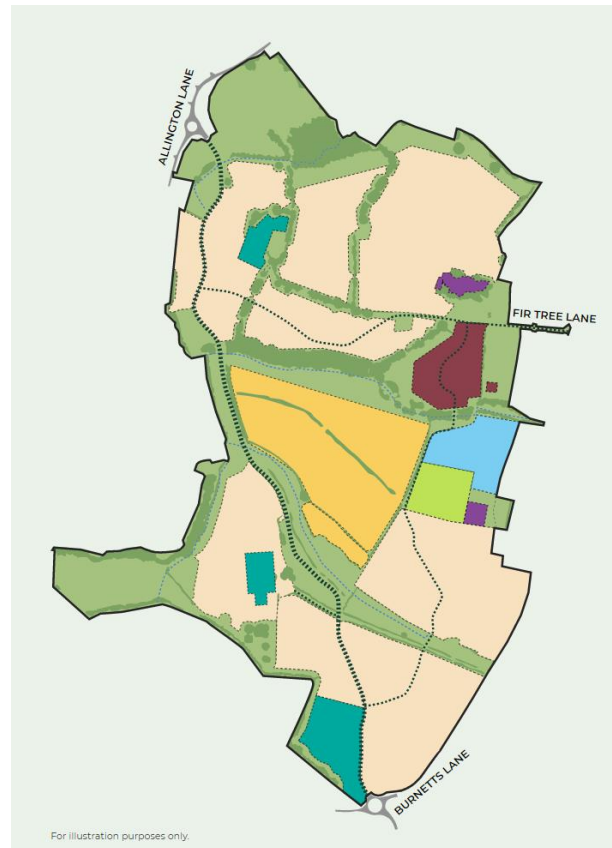
About the Project

[One Horton Heath](#) (OHH) is a new development by [Eastleigh Borough Council](#) (EBC) consisting of 2,500 dwellings, a primary school, local centre and employment uses, which will be built in overlapping phases over the next ten years.

The site is south west of the village of Horton Heath, north of the town of Hedge End. It is located within the Parish of Fair Oak and Horton Heath.

EBC's priorities for the development include:

- Creating an attractive and healthy place to live
- Ensuring prosperity and economic growth within the community
- Leading the delivery of sustainable development within the Borough
- Providing a wide variety of homes that are genuinely focussed on meeting needs within the area.



EBC is the Developer as well as the Owner and Local Authority for the site. Taking a long-term view of how to build a sustainable development of new homes and a new community, the Council is holding itself to high standards. It has the same expectations for delivery of high-quality public art, as it would have of an independent property developer but also wants to lead by example in the delivery of its adopted Public Art Strategy. EBC's budget for public art is drawn from Developer's Contributions through a s106 Agreement ie. not from Council Tax or other revenue budgets.

[John Hansard Gallery](#) (JHG), part of the University of Southampton (UoS), is one of the UK's leading contemporary art galleries and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio. JHG's mission is to create extraordinary encounters – connecting people, communities and artists. JHG is working in partnership with EBC to create a series of socially-engaged artist residencies in relation to the OHH development and local communities. JHG is working in partnership with departments across UoS Faculty of Arts & Humanities, including Winchester School of Art (WSA) and Southampton Institute of Arts & Humanities (SIAH), to support this PhD residencies programme.

[Winchester School of Art](#) (WSA) is one of the UK's leading centres for art and design research, education and knowledge exchange. We're committed to environmental sustainability, social engagement, internationalism and leading practice at the intersection of art, science, technology and culture.

For information about our work and research at Winchester School of Art, see: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/faculties-schools-departments/winchester-school-of-art>

Public Art at OHH

Eastleigh Borough Council is committed to supporting Public Art *'which celebrates the Borough's diverse culture, heritage and biodiversity, engages its communities and brings about a renewed sense of pride and ownership.'*

In the Public Art Statement for the OHH site, key themes for commissioning have been identified which will be carried through the programme.

The themes are:

Sustainability – thinking long term about our impact on the environment and how we can make a positive difference to the world around us.

Innovation – One Horton Heath is a radical development. Let's take risks and be challenged by exciting ideas.

Connectivity – encouraging active lives and bringing people together.

Quality – we care about doing things well and creating somewhere special.

Become One – welcoming new neighbours and celebrating the diversity of our expanding community.

Other considerations for the public art programme include:

Cohesion – Public Art will help to create a strong identity across the whole development, enhancing the sense of place.

Longevity – commissions need to have long term impact and enduring relevance.

Commissioning for OHH will include site-specific, permanent commissions integrated in the infrastructure and buildings, as well as temporary and performative artworks. The Council is also offering artist residencies, working cross-departmentally and with external partners including the University of Southampton to commission artists who can engage with stakeholders and residents to develop new artwork and research.

EBC, JHG and UoS are committed to progressing equality, diversity, inclusion, and positively encourage applications from underrepresented groups and communities.

The Research/Practice-based PhD Studentship

This PhD Studentship is part of a wider artist residency programme for OHH in partnership with Eastleigh Borough Council, John Hansard Gallery and the University of Southampton.

Round 1, 2025 – 2028: This artist/researcher will be appointed prior to completion of any residential units at OHH. Opportunities for this artist include working closely with the OHH Development team; engaging with residents of the neighbouring village of Horton Heath; participating in consultation on community facilities being planned for construction in later phases; and engagement with the first residents as they move onto site.

Additionally, the Council is keen to work with artists interested in environmental issues, sustainability and green technologies. The development will be powered entirely by renewable energy sources including the solar farm at the centre of the site (shown in dark yellow on the illustration above) and ground source heat pumps.

EBC are currently exploring the options for offering workspace for artists in residence, which may be temporary studio/office space in existing buildings on/near the site; and in later phases could be fixed term use of new buildings. However, this is not yet confirmed and artists applying for this first residency should not be reliant on provision of studio space on-site. The successful applicant will be offered workspace at WSA, and/or at JHG as preferred, and studio space can also be offered depending on need.

Partnership

EBC with John Hansard Gallery and Winchester School of Art at the University of Southampton have established this partnership to offer the artist residencies as PhD Studentships. It is hoped that this will enable both partners to further develop their approach of working innovatively on public art and co-creation.

The artist/researcher will be supported by Team EBC staff, as well as University of Southampton peers and supervisors, and the Programme Team at John Hansard Gallery.

As part of the University's wider remit as a Civic University, the partnership shares a commitment to community engagement and will be working collaboratively to extend the reach of the artist's work, through public events such as talks and workshops, or exhibitions of artwork where appropriate. As part of this research project, the artist/researcher will have the opportunity to propose exhibition or public presentation outcomes in partnership with JHG.

Additionally, the artist/researcher will be encouraged to develop relationships with local stakeholders including Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council during their residency, and there may be opportunities to connect with local businesses.

Selection Criteria

The Selection Panel will score full applications against the following criteria:

Criterion 1 – Strength of research proposal (50%)

A research proposal will typically be 5-10 pages long and should demonstrate the following three key features of your research (which echo the requirements of PhD study as laid out in the University's [Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature and Supervision](#)):

- originality: how does your project contribute to human knowledge? How does it provide new knowledge, new tools, or new ideas?
- significance: what implications does your research for other researchers, professionals or the general public? Can the findings be used by others, and in what fields?
- practicality: can your project be completed in three years of full-time study (or equivalent part-time)?

Please also see our supporting guidance in proposal writing, available on the PhD Research Blog: <https://blog.soton.ac.uk/wsapgr/apply-for-phd/>

Criterion 2 – Evidence of capability to lead high-quality, inclusive community engagement projects (25%)

This includes outlining your approach, experience and interest in process and methodologies around co-creation, inclusion and value exchange.

Criterion 3 – Evidence of commitment to sustainability and consideration of environmental impact (25%)

Within your proposal we want to understand how you will consider the environmental impact of your work, this might include mitigations against carbon emissions, and use of sustainable materials. See also the UN's Sustainable Development goals: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

Applicants for the PhD studentship will be selected based on their ability to meet the stated entry requirements, and by the quality and relevance of their full PhD application and proposal in June. Where two candidates of equal quality are being considered, we will prioritise candidates whose profile best fits WSA, JHG and EBC commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which artforms are considered eligible?

We use the word 'artist' with a very broad definition for someone with a creative professional practice. This includes but is not limited to: visual arts, performing arts, digital arts and applied arts/craft. If you think you may be eligible please submit an Expression of Interest.

2. Can I propose delivery of physical pieces of public art as part of the project?

Whilst this residency is part of the public art programme for One Horton Heath there is no expectation for the delivery of a physical piece of public art within the scope of this residency. The focus is instead on placemaking through high-quality community engagement. If during the residency an idea for a piece of public art emerges in consultation with the community, the feasibility of the idea could be explored in discussion with the Public Art Officer for delivery with another part of the Public Art budget drawn from Developer's Contributions.

3. Will there be more studentships / more rounds of funding?

The partners for this project would like to achieve three collaborative Studentships running back-to-back, throughout the duration of construction at One Horton Heath. Eastleigh Borough Council has approved this approach through a Vision for Public Art at One Horton Heath, however due to forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation the second and third residencies cannot be guaranteed.

4. Who will conduct the interviews?

A representative from each of the partners (EBC/UoS/JHG/WSA) will form a selection panel for interviews. The interview panel will include potential supervisors based at the University of Southampton, a 'super recruiter' responsible for ensuring the panel is conducted ethically and according to EDI policy and may also include the Doctoral Programmes Director for WSA.

5. Will the interviews be in person or online?

Interviews will be conducted online using Microsoft Teams. In exceptional circumstances or for access reasons, in person interviews can also be arranged.

6. If I'm not selected for the OHH Studentship will WSA consider my application for a PhD with other funding sources?

Yes, but these will need to be applied for separately and will affect the timeline of the award and start date. Additionally, the project would not be focussed on the One Horton Heath site/community, but the partners involved with this project may be able to suggest other communities (including new housing developments) to work with. It is essential to submit EoI to discuss these opportunities. University of Southampton applications for Landscape Awards need to be completed by January, for instance,

whilst Black Futures scholarships are open longer, and extend to post-Easter. Full details of UoS PhD Scholarships and funding are posted here:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/courses/funding/postgraduate.page>.

7. What are the implications of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation on this project?

Many of the possible implications of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) are still unknown but EBC currently anticipates that as a result of LGR it will merge with an/other local authority/ies to form a new Unitary authority from April 2028. Whilst this could impact on planning policy applicable to OHH and EBC staffing to support this project, EBC's contribution to the funding for this Studentship is drawn from Developer's Contributions applied to delivery of the Lower Acre (First Residential Parcel), which has already been formally approved by the Horton Heath Development Management Committee.

For more information or with any queries please contact Dr Megen de Bruin-Molé at m.j.de-bruin-mole@soton.ac.uk.