

In Session
FKA
GRADJOB

Open Call for Co-contributors

Unprofessional Practice Programme
for Early Career Practitioners
June 2021 – December 2021

Application Deadline:

Midnight on the 28th March 2021

ABOUT

In Session FKA GRADJOB is a learning and 'unprofessional' contemporary art practice programme looking to recruit our new cohort of Co-contributors. Our programme focuses on the needs of early-career practitioners working/practicing in Scotland today as well as the new challenges they now face as a result of COVID-19. This opportunity is open to those working/practicing (paid/unpaid) within Scotland's contemporary art sector and who have graduated from a Scottish University, Art or Design School or College within the last 3 years, or those who do not have a degree, but have a sustained emerging practice.

Now in its third year, In Session provides creative practitioners with the support they need to sustain and develop their practice. This 7 month residency is dedicated to building a bank of knowledge about the conditions that impact practice as an early-career practitioner. The programme offers a space for our cohort to develop tools that will help them to navigate existing structures in the Scottish contemporary art scene.

Co-contributors are encouraged to be ambitious, open, questioning and to experiment with possibilities for adapting or changing the structures they are embedded in. You must be keen to explore practical and inspiring ideas for enacting these changes, learning from local realities and how they both inform and are informed by broader global issues.

During the programme, you will create peer-to-peer support networks that contribute to the development and sustainability of projects, careers and communities and explore new approaches to making, thinking and collective action.

Sessions are not focused on making, they are designed to support you in developing an approach to practice, help you contextualise your practice and explore strategies for making practice more sustainable.

In Session, formerly known as GRADJOB, started at EMBASSY Gallery in 2018. The programme emerged in response to the lack of support, exploitation and precarious working conditions experienced by emerging artists working in Scotland. Our goal was to provide long term support mechanisms for early-career creative practitioners, to demystify the contemporary art world and to create a space to make, share, dream and collaborate.

This year In Session was awarded Creative Scotland funding as well as securing partnership funding to continue the delivery of the programme. In Session is run by a small team of organisers and is supported by an advisory board, collaborating partners and host organisations in addition to Creative Scotland and Scottish Contemporary Art Network.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW & STRUCTURE

Once selected you will enter the programme as 'Co-contributors'. The term 'Co-contributors' reflects the active role that the cohort will take in the creation of subversive tactics that can be used to dismantle existing art world structures from within. The programme will begin in June 2021 and run until December 2021. Saturday sessions will run from 10am - 4.30pm and Sunday sessions 10.30 - 4.30pm. Over the course of the 7 month programme, Co-contributors will be invited to collaborate, taking part in seven weekend gatherings in locations across Scotland and/or online. Sessions will consist of lectures, workshops and trips, as well as meals, mentoring and making, and will be delivered by Contributing Artists who will offer practical advice and encourage criticality. The focus of the programme is to reflect on existing problematic structures and imagine alternatives models for the future of the sector.

Workshops and events will be programmed and commissioned by In Session in collaboration with EMBASSY Gallery (Edinburgh), Rhubaba Gallery and Studios (Edinburgh), Cooper Gallery, DJCAD (Dundee) and Transmission Gallery (Glasgow). These will be designed and delivered by Contributing Artists. Workshop details will be confirmed by May 2021.

This is a paid opportunity and all Co-contributors will receive a fee of £1120.00, which will be paid in instalments. Travel and childcare bursaries will be available on request.

COMMITMENTS

Joining the In Session programme means undertaking a commitment to support and collaborate with your fellow Co-contributors. Active participation in all aspects of the programme is vital and in doing so, you contribute to the richness and longevity of the In Session community as well as benefiting the community of early-career practitioners across Scotland. This includes an ongoing engagement with the programme in between programmed sessions and structured events, as well as completing homework or prep work set by Contributing Artists. There is no expectation that you will produce an outcome and the end of the programme, however, there is a responsibility to evaluate and report on your experience throughout.

Applicants must be able to commit in advance to at least 6 out of 7 sessions*.

* This is with the exception of instances of sickness (including mental ill health) or the requirement to self-isolate due to COVID-19.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- One to one mentorship with Partner Organisations
- Support systems, friends, allies and collaborators
- Pastoral and practical support from Organisers throughout the programme
- Advice sessions
- Peer to peer learning
- Scottish Contemporary Art Network membership

'Expect discussions that don't lend themselves to easy answers. Expect to find contradictions that are not resolved and instead are deepened. Expect dissensus as well as consensus. If everyone agrees someone is holding back. What not to expect: In Session FKA Gradjob is not a ticket to the big time. There is no big time.'

- Danny Pagarani, Co-contributor 2018

'Expect to leave with your head bursting from all the critical discourse, your stomach full from eating soup and your soul cleansed by the mutual solidarity. As a nervy lil graduate, In Session FKA GRADJOB made me feel held. Each weekend was a constantly moving programme, changing venues and attending workshops by an array of eccentric art-types. School trip vibes, but your teacher doesn't care if you go out in the evenings, as long as you keep your eyes open the next day. In all honesty, your experience of In Session FKA GRADJOB will depend completely on your group. I had and still have a great experience because of the other people involved. So, bring your best chat and attitude.'

- Katie Dibb, Co-contributor 2018

Each session would span a weekend, which worked well for me as I could plan and request this time off from my work. I never fully knew how each session would play out. The weekends spanned so many ways of learning and unlearning. The sessions sit outside expectations of making or being whatever we define as an 'artist' and are more about the structures these ways of being sit within - how to cope, dodge, and play within or outside of these systems.

- Kate Frances Lingard, Co-contributor 2019

VENUES

In Session does not have a fixed space and sessions will take place in a variety of venues across Scotland including: Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Rhubaba Gallery and Studios, Transmission Gallery and Cooper Gallery, DJCAD as well as digitally and outdoors (depending on COVID-19 Government guidelines). In Session will make every effort to ensure sessions are accessible including providing wifi bursaries for digital sessions upon request. All accessibility information for physical venues will be provided in advance of sessions.

PARTNERS:

Cooper Gallery

Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop

EMBASSY Gallery

Rhubaba Gallery and Studios

Transmission Gallery

WHO CAN APPLY

Creative practitioners working/practicing within Scotland and who have graduated from a Scottish University, Art or Design School or College within the last 3 years (2018, 2019 and 2020). Or who do not have a degree but have sustained a practice for the past 3 years and consider themselves early career practitioners. This includes:

- Artists
- Organisers
- Educators
- Curators
- Writers
- Producers
- Researchers
- Makers
- Creative Practitioners
- Cultural Workers

It is expected that applicants have a basic practical, theoretical, organisational or economic engagement with contemporary art and are keen to learn more about these as this will form the basis of our workshop content. Applicants must not hold a Masters, Postgraduate degree or PhD and must not have attended a prior alternative education programme.

Applicants must be currently based in Scotland and have solely resided here for the last 2 years. As we are a non-accredited programme, we regret that we are not able to sponsor visa applications for overseas applicants.

Co-contributors selected for In Session will be expected to commit to full involvement in and engagement with all aspects of the programme, which will run from June 2021 through December 2021.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants should demonstrate their commitment to sustaining a practice as well as a commitment to participating openly in a peer-led learning programme. The selection panel will select applicants based on how much they think applicants will both gain and contribute to the programme.

All applications are anonymised and chosen by a new panel of selectors each year. Selectors for the 2021 programme are Rachael Simpson (In Session Programme Curator), Quinn Garrison (In Session Development Coordinator), Danny Pagarani (Artist and Musician), Kate Frances Lingard (Artist) and Hannan Jones (Artist and Programmer).

Equality, diversity and inclusion are intrinsic, non-negotiable values underpinning every aspect of the In Session programme. In Session is committed to addressing the inequality that prevents equal access to development opportunities in the arts by implementing a policy of positive action when selecting our cohorts.

We encourage applications from those who are underrepresented in the art world and who face barriers to entry. These could, for example, be associated with race, disability, age, gender identity, sexuality, socio-economic or geographic barriers.

We would also like to encourage applications from creative practitioners from outwith the central belt in order to ensure that our programme contributes to the sustainability of creative activity within these communities, represents the diversity of the Scottish contemporary art scene and builds networks Scotland- wide.

SELECTION PANEL

Danny Pagarani is a musician and artist based in Glasgow. After graduating from GSA he participated in the first and second years of In Session FKA GRADJOB and was on the Transmission Gallery committee. Danny works collaboratively and on his own. Danny is a dream of momentary, applied, coherence.

[Dannypagarani.com](http://dannypagarani.com)

Kate Frances Lingard lives and works in Glasgow. At the moment they are thinking about care and accessibility in digital spaces. They are interested in the possibilities and complexities of decentralised and distributed technologies as shared infrastructure. Working with digitally created images, objects, environments and playing around with programming, they hope to question systems that define how we act and live together.

<http://k-f-l.com/>

<https://www.are.na/kate-frances-lingard>

Quinn Garrison is the In Session FKA GRADJOB Development Coordinator. They are also a PhD researcher specialising in Queer Posthumanism. Their research investigates the structural problems of privilege and inequality involved in subject formation and develops tools for reconfiguring dominant cultural codes and redistributing power.

<https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/profile/quinn-garrison>

Rachael Simpson is the In Session FKA GRADJOB Programme Curator. Her practice is informed by soft power and gossip theory. It uses the Feminist practices of gossip, communication and sharing as a form of activism to bring about social change and to break down power imbalances within art world structures and institutions.

Hannan Jones is an interdisciplinary artist driven by themes of language, rhythm, cultural and social migration. Practicing at the intersections of sculpture, sound, moving image and participatory projects, Hannan aims to expand perspectives and reflect ourselves in our surroundings as an attempt to find moments for 'togetherness', if only temporary.

www.hannanjones.com

<https://www.are.na/hannan-bouchemla-jones>

HOW TO APPLY

Please send in one PDF:

- A letter of motivation (max 400 words)

This short statement should answer the following questions:

1. Why would you like to be a Co-contributor on the *In Session FKA GRADJOB* programme?

and

2. What would you bring and what would you and/or your practice would gain from becoming part of our community?

- 2 images or 2 links to sound/video (no larger than 2MB and no longer than 1 minute). **These images/sound/video should not be of your own work.**

Images/sound/ video should be of 1 or 2 projects you celebrate or support, projects **by others** that motivate and inspire you. Images could include an accompanying description if relevant (of up to 100 words).

- If you have attended a higher/further education course, please state your course, year of graduation and what institution you attended. This information will be used to ensure a diverse cohort is selected and will not be used to judge your application. We actively encourage applications from people who have not undertaken a formal degree course.
- Your completed Equality & Diversity monitoring form (which can be found [here](#))
- Your completed Access Doc (which can be found [here](#))

We are happy to accept applications in video/audio format provided that your application is no longer than 2 minutes in length. Please provide links to your YouTube, Vimeo including passwords.

Applications must be received by midnight on: 28th March 2021

To submit your application please email: insession.programme@gmail.com with subject "yourname_In Session application". Please collate your responses into one PDF and provide links to audio/video files.

All applicants will receive a response on the week of 13th April 2021.

Regrettably, due to the limited capacity of our small team we are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.