

# EASE Open Call — Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated: [date] · Latest version at [picturingclimate.org/ease-faq](http://picturingclimate.org/ease-faq)

This page will be updated throughout the open call. Questions received from applicants will be anonymised and added here where relevant to others. If you can't find your question answered below, submit it via the form at the foot of this page.

---

## The opportunity

### What is EASE?

EASE (Entrepreneurship, Art & Science for Environmental Sustainability) is a 24-month UKRI-funded research programme led by De Montfort University, running July 2026 – July 2028. It works across the UK and Crete with eleven partners, developing a new methodology — Creative Assemblage Methodology (CAM) — that treats artistic practice, scientific enquiry and community knowledge as equal partners in addressing climate and environmental questions.

### What is an Artist Venturing Lab (AVL)?

A week-long interdisciplinary residency in Crete. Five UK artists and five Greek artists work alongside scientists, archaeologists and local partners across a set of field sites linked by a single theme. Each day typically moves from morning fieldwork → afternoon Assemblage Mapping and discussion → evening presentations and reflection. There are five labs in total, covering five distinct landscapes and themes.

### Do I attend all five labs?

No. Each selected artist attends one lab. Five artists per lab × five labs = 25 UK places total. You'll indicate your availability on the application form, and we'll place you on a lab that fits both your practice and your schedule.

### Can I express a preference for a particular lab?

The application form asks for availability rather than preference — tick every lab week you can commit to. The panel will match selected artists to labs based on those availabilities and on the fit between practice and theme. If one lab particularly speaks to your work, say so in your written proposal; it will be considered alongside your availability.

### What are the dates and locations?

Lab	Dates	Location	Theme
AVL 1	18–24 Oct 2026	Psiloritis / Zaros	Entanglements
AVL 2	25–31 Oct 2026	Margarites	Materiality
AVL 3	10–16 Jan 2027	Palaikastro / Sitia	Sound & Sonic Environments
AVL 4	2–8 May 2027	Phalasarna / Kissamos	Temporal Mapping
AVL 5	9–15 May 2027	Sfakia	Immersive Environments

Full day-by-day programmes and site briefs for each lab are published on [picturingclimate.org](http://picturingclimate.org).

## Eligibility

### Who can apply?

Professional artists based in the UK with at least two years of practice, working in any medium. We are actively seeking diversity of practice — photography, sound, moving image, installation, performance, sculpture, writing, archive, hybrid and cross-disciplinary work are all welcome. You don't need an academic background, a degree, gallery representation, or prior experience of interdisciplinary or scientific collaboration.

### What does "UK-based" mean?

You must be resident in the UK and have the right to work in the UK. The 25 UK places are a UKRI grant condition. Greek-based artists are being recruited separately by our Cretan partners (details on [picturingclimate.org](http://picturingclimate.org)).

### I'm a professional artist but I don't live in the UK or Greece. Can I apply?

We regret we cannot consider applicants outside these two routes for this call.

### Can I apply as part of a duo or collective?

Yes. Duos and small collectives may apply together. Please note: a joint application, if successful, takes two (or more) of the 25 UK slots — one per participating artist — and each collaborator's travel, accommodation and stipend is costed accordingly. Submit one application as a group, clearly naming all collaborators, with a single combined proposal and portfolio. All named collaborators must be UK-based and meet the eligibility criteria individually.

### Are current students eligible?

Yes. The call is open to professional artists with at least two years of practice; current students at any level may apply on that basis. Postgraduate-level experience or equivalent is recommended given the interdisciplinary nature of the work, but it is not a hard requirement.

### Is there an age limit?

No.

### Do I need prior experience of working with scientists?

No. That collaboration is part of what EASE is offering.

### Do I need prior experience of entrepreneurship or prototyping?

No. The "E" in EASE describes what the programme builds with artists through the later Work Package 2 sprints — not a prerequisite for entering the labs.

## The week on site

### What does a day look like?

Mornings are fieldwork — visits to active research sites, caves, archaeological sites, scientific monitoring locations. Afternoons combine Assemblage Mapping (the core CAM practice — a structured, collaborative way of making sense of what you've encountered) with interdisciplinary discussion. Evenings are typically presentations from the team's scientists or partners, or peer sharing. There is usually one rest day at the end of the week.

### How physically demanding is it?

Honestly — it varies by lab, but some sites are demanding. Expect cave visits, walking on uneven terrain, full-day fieldwork in variable weather, and in some cases hikes of up to an hour to reach sites. Lab 3 (January in eastern Crete) can be cold and wet. Lab 5 includes cave environments with moisture and low light. Lab 1 includes a full mountain day.

**Each lab will have a detailed accessibility and participant brief issued before travel**, covering the physical character of each site, access routes, and clothing/equipment requirements. We're committed to making labs as accessible as possible and will discuss reasonable adjustments with any selected artist. **Please don't self-exclude** — if you have specific access requirements, raise them with us at any stage of the process and we'll work through what's possible together.

### What's the working language?

English is the primary working language across all labs. Interpretation will be arranged where needed to support conversation with Greek partners, participants and hosts — you don't need to speak Greek to take part.

### What do I bring? What's provided?

Your own practice equipment (cameras, recorders, notebooks, sketch materials) is your responsibility — the project cannot insure or replace personal professional kit. Shared project equipment (LiDAR, drone, audio/video kit) is available by arrangement with the team. Appropriate outdoor clothing, walking boots and weather layers are your responsibility. Cave-specific equipment (hard hats, head torches) is provided where needed; the pre-lab brief will be specific about what you need to pack.

### Is travel insurance provided?

Yes. Selected artists are covered by De Montfort University's travel insurance as project participants for the duration of the lab. Full policy details will be shared with you on acceptance. You remain responsible for appropriate personal health and possessions cover as you see fit.

## Money, time and what you get

### Is this paid?

Yes. £1,000 stipend per artist for the week on site. Separately, all travel (UK–Crete return), accommodation, meals and on-the-ground costs during the lab are booked and paid for directly by the project — you do not pay upfront and claim back.

### How is the stipend paid?

Either to you as an individual or by invoice from a CIC, limited company or equivalent business entity — whichever works best for your circumstances. You'll confirm your preferred method at contracting stage.

### How much time beyond the lab week is expected?

The £1,000 stipend covers the lab week. Participation in the wider EASE programme beyond that week is invited and warmly encouraged, but not contractually required. That wider programme includes:

- Pre-lab online briefing sessions (2–3 sessions before your lab)
- Monthly CAM sessions (online, around 90 minutes, optional)
- Contribution to [picturingclimate.org](http://picturingclimate.org) as the research progresses
- Invitation to the DMU symposium (March 2027)
- Opportunity to develop creative prototypes (MVPs) through Work Package 2 sprints in 2027

### What are the creative prototypes / MVPs?

In 2027, EASE will develop five creative MVPs — one per lab theme — through a funded development phase (£4,000 development contract each). Selection of MVP directions will happen after the labs, based on ideas that have emerged from the work. Participation in this next phase is by invitation and mutual agreement, not automatic for lab artists, and the £4,000 is separate from the £1,000 lab stipend.

### Do I have to make or exhibit a final work?

No. You are not contracted to produce a specific deliverable. The lab is a space for enquiry and collaborative research, not commissioned output. Work that emerges may be shared through [picturingclimate.org](http://picturingclimate.org), Photoworks platforms, and the project's touring exhibition — all by agreement with you.

### Who owns the work I make?

The project operates a **two-tier IP framework**. The CAM methodology and toolkit produced by the project as research outputs will be released as open-access under Creative Commons BY-NC-SA. Creative works you produce during or after the lab remain yours. Where a direction is developed further as a funded MVP through Work Package 2, co-ownership and usage agreements will be issued

*before* that development work begins — not retrospectively. Nothing about participating in the lab itself assigns your IP to the project.

## Application

### Where do I apply?

Through the Photoworks application portal: [URL to come]. All applicants use the same portal, regardless of how they heard about the call — including artists nominated or encouraged by members of the project team.

### What do I submit?

- Short written proposal (max 500 words): why this project, how it connects to your practice
- Short bio (max 200 words)
- Up to 3 relevant previous project examples
- A single PDF (max 5 pages): 2 pages for proposal + bio, up to 3 pages for portfolio
- Links to portfolio / website (supplementary)
- Moving image or audio work: provide links (self-hosted on Vimeo, SoundCloud, YouTube or your own site); max 3 minutes per piece in line with Arts Council convention
- Availability per lab week (tick every week you can fully commit to)

### **Can I send more than 5 pages?**

No. The 5-page limit is firm. It's there so the panel can give every applicant a fair read.

### **Do you accept physical portfolios or work samples by post?**

No — digital submission only.

### **I don't have a website. Is that a problem?**

No. The PDF and any links you provide are what matters.

### **Can I apply for more than one lab?**

You submit one application. The availability section of the form lets you indicate all the lab weeks you can commit to — tick as many as genuinely work for you.

### **What if I'm selected but only for a week I can't do?**

We'll only offer you a place on a week you've confirmed availability for on your application. Please be accurate — changing availability late in the process makes the logistics very difficult.

### **Can I reapply if unsuccessful?**

Not within this call. There is one round.

### **Will you give feedback to unsuccessful applicants?**

We regret that, given the expected volume of applications, we are not able to provide individual feedback. We'll notify every applicant of the outcome before 20 July 2026.

## **Selection**

### **Who is on the selection panel?**

Mark Kasumovic (Principal Investigator, De Montfort University), Michael Pinsky (Art Lead), Louise Fedotov-Clements and Debbie Cooper (Photoworks), together with project research staff who support initial triage and shortlisting.

### **What are the selection criteria?**

- Relevance and ambition of the proposal in relation to the project's themes
- Strength and coherence of your practice, on the evidence of your portfolio
- What you would bring to an interdisciplinary cohort
- Availability for one or more lab weeks

### **Is the process blind or anonymous?**

No. Names and portfolios are part of the assessment — a practice's public history and context matter to how the panel reads a proposal.

### **What does the process look like?**

Three stages:

- Initial triage by project research staff to confirm eligibility

- Independent shortlisting by each panel member; panel meets on 6 July 2026 to agree an interview list
- Short online interviews on 13 July 2026; final decisions confirmed 14 July 2026; all applicants notified before 20 July 2026

### **If I'm shortlisted, what happens at interview?**

A short online interview (10–15 minutes) on 13 July 2026, with two or three panel members. It is not an examination — it's a conversation to help the panel understand how you'd work in the cohort, and to give you space to ask us questions.

## **Questions not answered here**

### **Can I email you?**

We are running a rolling public Q&A throughout the call rather than individual email threads — this keeps things fair and means all applicants see the same information. Submit your question via the form below and, if it is of general relevance, it will be added to [this page](#), anonymised.

### **Is there a live information session?**

Yes — a live online Q&A will be held in May 2026. Date to be announced on [picturingclimate.org](http://picturingclimate.org) and Photoworks channels.

---

*EASE is led by De Montfort University and funded by UKRI (APP77549). Ethics approval: TAC NW2658324. The open call is administered by Photoworks.*