

Applying to Take Part in North East Open Studios 2026

A calm, step-by-step guide for people who feel underconfident or technically challenged.

Before you start. Please read this once.

- You do not need to be good with computers.
- You do not need to write anything clever or artistic.
- You do not need to rush.
- You can save your work and come back to it.
- There is no advantage to applying on the first day.
- If you can read instructions, type basic information and upload a photo, you can do this.

What you will need before you start

- An email address you can access (the one you use to set up your account will be the one published in the book)
- Your home or studio address.
- Your phone number.
- Your insurance details including provider name, policy number and expiry date.
- One high-quality square profile image at 1080 x 1080 pixels.
- Your exact what3words address taken directly from the what3words website.
- Around 20 to 30 minutes of quiet time.

Important dates

- Applications open: 1 March.
- Applications close: 31 March at 11:59pm.
- Late applications are not possible.

Step 1. Go to the website

- Open your internet browser.
- Go to www.northeastopenstudios.co.uk.
- Click the button marked Apply or Register.

Step 2. Create your account

- Enter your first name, last name, email address and create a password.
- Use an email address you check regularly - **the one you sign up with is the one that will be used in the book.**
- Write your password down somewhere safe.

Step 3. Start your application

- Once logged in, open the application form.
- You do not need to complete it in one go.
- Use the Save button regularly.

Profile image requirements – very important

You must upload ONE square image at 1080 x 1080 pixels (minimum 300kb - 10mb max and jpg only).

This image will be used both online and in the printed directory book.

Choose an eye-catching image that clearly represents you or your work.

- NO collages.
- NO logos.
- NO images of buildings.
- NO images of market stalls, art fairs or craft fair set-ups.
- The image must be in focus, good quality and not grainy.

Ask yourself: would this make someone stop scrolling / flicking through the book and plan a visit?

Venue location and maps

- This year we are ONLY using what3words for map locations.
- If your what3words address is accurate and taken directly from the [what3words website](https://www.what3words.com/), you do NOT need to move any map pins.
- Incorrect what3words locations will result in visitors being sent to the wrong place, so double check carefully.
- Opening hours – must be the times you will be physically present NOT when the venue is open if you are using a commercial space.

Writing your content – read this carefully

- You are responsible for all written content.
- We do not proofread, edit or correct spelling or grammar.
- Double check everything before submitting.

Artist statement

- This explains what you make and why.
- Focus on materials, themes, process and intention.
- Keep it clear and engaging.
- Avoid clichés and generic wording.

Extended bio

- This is about you as a practitioner.
- It can include background, influences, exhibitions or experience.
- Write in plain language.
- Do not copy and paste old bios without reading them carefully.

Book listing – 340 characters

- This is the short text printed in the directory book.
- Every word matters.
- Do NOT start with phrases like 'Based in North East Scotland'.
- Fresh, original writing helps increase footfall.
- Do not waste words or underestimate their power.

Disciplines – select carefully

You will be asked to select ONE discipline from the following list:

- Ceramics
- Digital Painting & Illustration (Excluding AI)
- Drawing
- Environmental Arts
- Glass
- Heritage Crafts
- Illustration
- Jewellery
- Mixed Media
- Multidisciplinary

- Interdisciplinary
- Painting
- Paper Craft
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Silversmithing
- Socially Engaged Arts
- Textile Arts
- Wood

Insurance section

- You must enter your insurance provider, policy number and expiry date for public liability cover.
- Public liability insurance must be valid for the event period.
- This is a legal requirement and has always been in the rules.

Payment stage

- Payment is ONLY requested after acceptance.
- If paying by BACS, you MUST use the reference number provided.
- Payments made without the reference number or using old bank details will be refunded.
- If we are oversubscribed, administration delays caused by incorrect payment may result in loss of your place.

Final checks before submission

- Scroll back through the entire form.
- Check for red warnings or missing sections.
- Check spelling and punctuation carefully.
- Once submitted, changes will not be possible.

Final reassurance

You are not expected to be perfect.

You are expected to be accurate, complete and honest.

If you follow this guide step by step, you are doing it correctly.