

Creative Collaborative Placement

NORTHERN IRELAND

How might an artist offer novel lenses through which to consider land use change?

How might an artist working with other specialists take dialogues in new directions?

How might an artist's work influence discussions and actions around land use change?

What might an artist notice that others do not?

The Creative Collaborative Placements programme brings artists together with specialists from the LUNZ (Land Use for Net Zero, Nature and People) Hub, a UK-wide consortium that has been set up to help drive the transformation of UK land use that's needed to achieve net zero by 2050.

This programme is part of the LUNZ Hub's 'Creative Methods Lab'. It will be led by Rob Fraser from the PLACE Collective in collaboration with the team from the LUNZ Hub's Work Package (WP2), whose focus is transdisciplinary community and capacity building.

There will be four Creative Collaborative Placements, one in each of the four nations. The programme gives a framework for artists to be in dialogue with specialists from research, practice and policy, and to develop work in response to a specified topic in the context of land use change. The work will be responsive to a process of collaboration, knowledge exchange, fieldwork and discussion.

Placements take place November 2025 - April 2026, with final artworks to be ready in May 2026. Work will be shared with the LUNZ Hub consortium and partners, including at the 'Big Tent' event, September 2026.

Northern Ireland Placement Focus: Livestock, Land and Livelihoods

Livestock production is at the core of Northern Ireland's land use sector and its economy. Ongoing research and developments in practice play a key role in supporting viable farming businesses, nature-rich ecosystems and pathways to net zero.

The artist will begin by meeting specialists at the Agrifood and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in Belfast (<https://www.afbini.gov.uk>) to define the direction and focus of research and identify sites for fieldwork. AFBI is a leading provider of scientific research and services to government, non-governmental organisations and commercial organisations. Its areas of focus include sustainable agriculture, environmental protection and grassland and plant science. This placement is an opportunity to join AFBI specialists and others, especially across Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University who represent the NI academic partners, in an enquiry around livestock farm systems in Northern Ireland, including current practices and adaptations, as well as technical and nature based innovations for change; for example animal nutrition, planting hedgerows and increasing tree cover, or transitioning to mixed farming.

Key Information

- Submission of application: Deadline 5pm, August 22, 2025
- Availability for Interview (online): September 10, 2025
- Research Period: November 2025 - April 2026
- Delivery of Final Work: May 2026
- Artist Fee: £5000 to include expenses and materials and VAT

Programme Overview

- This programme gives a framework for an artist in each of the four UK nations to work alongside and be in dialogue with specialists from research, practice and policy, and develop work in response to a chosen area of research in the context of land use change.
- A range of artists, specialists and research focus across the four placements will ensure the programme is transdisciplinary and diverse.
- The artists will carry out in-person & online meetings with specialists, as well as self-led research.
- The artists will carry out fieldwork with a land use practitioner (e.g farming, forestry, woodland management, a community group or land management organisation), and may join a scientist in laboratory or through digital 'fieldwork'.
- The process of research may also include curated discussion groups and other forms of participatory events led by the artist, in a way that informs the artist's design and/or production of final work.
- The artists will meet at intervals with the project manager, and with one another, to enhance learning and ensure cross-sector and transdisciplinary interactions.
- Webinars will allow for sharing of practice, insights and questions among those directly involved and the wider LUNZ Hub community.
- Events and artwork created by the artists will be shared with the LUNZ Hub consortium and partners, and will be made publicly available, with full acknowledgement of the artist.
- Evaluation carried out by the WP2 team will help to assess the impact of the programme, particularly the impact of art and artists on research and practice approaches and on transdisciplinary dialogue and processes of change.

The placements are an opportunity to use imaginative and novel artistic methods in transdisciplinary research, engagement and practice within and beyond the LUNZ Hub. The artists will be connected with specialists involved in academic research, land use practice and policy in a process intended to stimulate questions and a critical re-evaluation of knowledges, narratives and systems across and between disciplines, and allow for playful and/or bold imaginaries and Aha! moments.

Through participatory events and in the making of artworks, the artists may offer new lenses through which to consider existing knowledge; they may challenge or invite reflection by reframing of familiar issues and narratives; they may set up opportunities for community and capacity building across different disciplines. The placements may 'open up conversations about underlying ethical considerations that may not be immediately obvious; participatory and arts-based approaches are ideal to achieve this.'ⁱ

The placements have the potential to catalyse changes in practice (among researchers, practitioners, policy makers), and this will be evaluated. The artists will convene at intervals, with members of the WP2 team, to discuss their experience and liaise with the Research Associate undertaking the evaluation. Key Findings will be noted in the final Project Report.

Artists will retain Intellectual Property in the work produced through this programme, while agreeing that work produced during the placements programme will be shared through the LUNZ Hub and will be made publicly available, with acknowledgement of the artist.

Context

The Land Use for Net Zero, Nature and People Hub, or LUNZ Hub, convenes a transdisciplinary cross-sectoral community to support the UK in achieving Net Zero and other environmental and societal goals. It is led by the James Hutton Institute and the University of Leicester and runs from November 2023 until March 2027. The LUNZ Hub consortium consists of 34 institutions and organisations, with support from a further 62 organisations.

The LUNZ Hub aims to provide all four UK administrations with the evidence they need to develop policies that will drive transformations in land use that are needed to achieve net zero by 2050; with plausible pathways for action that also support nature recovery and societal needs. The Hub will give policy-makers access to up-to-date, consensus-based research, whether this is to provide answers to urgent questions, submit long-form evidence reviews, or stimulate proactive investigations to address critical knowledge and evidence gaps.

Achieving transformation at scale, in a process of just transition, requires insights from a large cross-sectoral community and collaborative working across the devolved UK governments. It will require innovative approaches to engagement, enquiry, dialogue, discussions and distillation of information, as well as clear communication. The objective of the LUNZ Hub is not to set policy recommendations, but to promote discussion and dialogue that can inform these recommendations. This requires close integration between policymakers, academic researchers, farmers, foresters, growers, land managers and other practitioners, and brings in social, economic, scientific and artistic disciplines.

The LUNZ Hub has a collection of Work Packages and Topic Advisory Groups. **LUNZ Hub Work Package 2 (WP2) - the Transdisciplinary Work Package** - convenes a research community from the full spectrum of experts and professionals connected with UK land use.

The PLACE Collective is a network of artists whose research and practice focus on issues of environment, nature, land-based cultures and land use change. PLACE works in association with the UK's Centre for National Parks and Protected Areas at the University of Cumbria, and has members from around the UK. As a LUNZ Hub consortium member, the PLACE Collective works within 'Work Package 2' bringing art and artists into discussions and events, and working on transdisciplinary community and capacity building.

Ongoing evaluation will reflect on the role of art within the LUNZ Hub, addressing questions such as: How might an artist's work influence discussions and actions that can help to bring about land use change at scale? What might an artist notice that others do not? How might an artist engage a variety of audiences and take dialogues in new directions?

LUNZ Hub Website: <https://lunzhub.com/>

More about Work Package 2: <https://lunzhub.com/about-the-hub/our-approach/>

PLACE Collective Website: <https://theplacecollective.org>

Programme logistics

Timeline

- Each artist will be commissioned to engage with the work between November 2025 and April 2026.
- The artists will devise their own schedule, in conversation with their contacts, to achieve a balance between active research, reflection, and creation of material, and to fit within the project budget.
- The expectation is that each artist will spend 6-10 days of contact / fieldwork time, and 6-10 days for artwork development. Time may be spread across intervals e.g. half-days, short meetings, full days. Precise allocation will depend on each artist's project, and their costs of production and overheads.
- Final work must be ready by May 2026 and will be shared at the final LUNZ Hub 'Big Tent' later in 2026. (Big Tent events bring people together from across the Land Use sector, from within and beyond the LUNZ Hub consortium. The first two were in [Edinburgh, 2024](#), and [Cumbria, 2025](#))

Research Institutions

The following institutions, each of which is closely involved in the LUNZ Hub consortium, will be the initial point of contact for the artists.

- Northern Ireland: Agrifood and Biosciences Institute (Hillsborough)
- Scotland: James Hutton Institute (Aberdeen)
- Wales: Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Bangor)
- England: Rothamsted Research (Exeter) *Already appointed*

The project manager will introduce each artist to a contact within the institution in their nation. Following this introduction the artists will be supported in making contact with other specialists.

Framework

- Each artist will initially meet the Project Manager (Rob Fraser) to discuss the brief
- Each artist and their contact/s in the research institution will be introduced - getting to know one another.
- The artists will be supported in making contact with specialists in land management and policy, both by the Project Manager, the research institution and others within the LUNZ Hub.
- The artist will have regular online check-ins with the Project Manager and one or more members of the team to discuss and develop ideas, address problems, and ensure the work is on track.
- At the project's mid-point, and at the end of the programme, there will be a meeting of all artists with the Project Manager, WP2 team leads and Research Associate, to share progress and insights.
- The programme will include a webinar bringing the artists together with their collaborative research/practice specialists, to share learning and work produced.
- The artists may be involved in discussions informing the creation of an academic paper.

Artist Engagement and Outputs

In addition to meetings with the Project Manager, each artist will commit to:

- Initial collective meeting to lay the foundations
- At least one webinar for LUNZ Hub members to discuss process and artwork
- At least one participatory meeting during the residency to inform development of the work; for example a group discussion or workshop at the research centre, or place of fieldwork; an online event or opportunity for contributions and discussion.
- At least one blog (written, video, visual or audio) for the LUNZ Hub website, including reflections on enquiry process, what has happened, and developments of practice.
- A final artwork or artworks for public display, in connection with LUNZ Hub events and outputs.
- An entry and exit interview with WP2 Research Associate as part of the process of evaluation.

Project reports and further outputs

Project lead Rob Fraser, in consultation with the WP2 team, will produce a final Project Report with a record of the programme and recommendations for future similar placements, identifying challenges and learning as well as successes. There will also be a Key Findings document, for impact assessment.

There will be an evaluation by the WP2 Research Associate.

This programme draws on the potential of arts practices to 'reflect ways of being that can access dimensions of human experience that are not sufficiently captured by other disciplinesⁱⁱ' and 'to weave many ways of knowing to envision engaging ways of living differently.ⁱⁱⁱ' Building on the Key Findings, there is an ambition to write an academic paper to add to current discussions about the roles and experience of artists in transdisciplinary approaches and in processes of transformational change.

Application Guide

Artist requirements

We welcome applications from artist practitioners working in any medium or combination of media, including, but not limited to: visual art, illustration, photography, poetry (as text, audio or visual), film, audio, performance, sculpture, textile, movement, social practice.

The LUNZ Hub is proud to be part of a vibrant, multicultural community that celebrates diversity and welcomes people from all backgrounds. We particularly encourage artists from under-represented groups to apply to this programme, including global majority candidates and those who identify as having a disability; however, all applications will be considered strictly on individual merit. We are looking for quality, ambition and imagination, and will be considering all applications in the context of essential and desirable criteria, listed below.

Essential requirements:

- Experience of working collaboratively
- Confidence in working autonomously, leading in all aspects of a project and delivering within specified timescale
- The artist's practice must be based in Northern Ireland

Desirable:

- Knowledge of environment and land management discourse
- Experience working within the broad field of environmental issues and/or land use

Application Process

Please submit your application as a Word document or PDF, covering the following points.

1. A proposal of up to 1000 words that responds to the brief. Why are you excited about this programme? What will you bring to it, and how will you proceed? We understand that an initial plan or outline may alter in the process of discussion with the research team, but at this stage we are interested in the approaches that you anticipate forming the basis of your work, any themes you wish to focus on, what previous experience you will draw on, and which audiences you wish to engage with. Please give examples of previous work and how this demonstrates your ability to meet the criteria for selection.
2. A statement about your practice (up to 500 words).
3. The contact details of two people who are happy to act as a reference for you.
4. 5 examples of your work. These can be shown in a PDF and you may use external links where appropriate (e.g. to web page, audio or film); or send separate files (size for each additional file max 5MB please).
5. Your website address and/or blogsite, social media handles.
6. CV (no more than 2 pages).
7. Statement that you are resident in Northern Ireland.
8. EDI form (optional). This is not compulsory, but will help us monitor equality and diversity. To access the form, follow this link <https://forms.office.com/e/6gEUGwNXGM> or QR code.
Note: the information you submit will not be connected with your application..



Send your application, including Word Document/PDF, and any accompanying files, totalling no more than 5MB, to: rob.fraser@cumbria.ac.uk.

Mark your application CCP NORTHERN IRELAND APPLICATION

Closing Date for Applications: August 22, 5pm

Artist Selection

Applications will be considered by a panel. Shortlisted artists will be invited to an interview (online).

- Please note the date of online interview, should your application be shortlisted: September 10th, 2025.

Criteria for selection

- The fit of proposal to the brief
- Quality of work
- Demonstrated ability to work autonomously and collaboratively, and to specified timescales
- Proposed outline of approach, and its fit for timescale and budget (is it realistic and deliverable?)
- The application's vision and imagination

Payment

- Each artist will be given a fixed fee of £5000, to include expenses and materials and VAT.
- Payment will be made in 3 stages:
£1000, on acceptance of contract; £2500 mid project; £1500 on delivery of work.
- Each artist will choose their ideal balance of contact time, development of work, and materials.
- Each artist will be responsible for their own expenses and timekeeping, and will agree regular check-ins with the project manager.
- Additional funding will be available to support artists to attend the final LUNZ Hub event in 2026.

Queries

If you have any queries, please contact Rob Fraser. rob.fraser@cumbria.ac.uk

Code of Conduct

This programme will be run within the guidelines of the LUNZ Hub Code of Conduct, which can be found here: <https://lunzhub.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/LUNZ-Hub-Code-of-Conduct-1.pdf>

ⁱ Cole, B., Saratsi, E., Earnshaw, K., Willcock, S., Gardner, E., Bradley, A., Fremantle, C., Bezant, J., Finan, J., Ziv, G., Balzter, H. (2022) Landscape Decisions to Meet Net Zero Carbon: Pathways that consider ethics, socio-ecological diversity, and landscape functions. Landscape Decisions Report, DOI: 10.1177/<https://doi.org/10.25392/leicester.data.19011629>

ⁱⁱ Saratsi, E., Acott, T., Allinson, E., Edwards, D., Fremantle, C. & Fish, R. (2019). *Valuing Arts and Arts Research*. Valuing Nature Paper, VNP22.

ⁱⁱⁱ Fitzgerald, C. (2018) The Ecological Turn: Living Well with Forests To Articulate Eco-Social Art Practices Using a Guattari Ecosophy and Action Research Framework. P.31