

**FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) for Applicants**

For prospective participants wanting to know a little more about the Future Leaders course, please feel free to browse our website and social media page for more information about the programme from our alumni and team.

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1. **Is this programme a good fit for me?**

The Future Leaders programme is designed to develop 40 young artists aged 12-25 within four key Carnival art forms (percussion, brass, dance, and visual arts). This course will support the growth of Carnival arts in the UK, and we envisage that all of our Future Leaders will become arts ambassadors in their own right (whether leading their own group or project, or simply excelling in their art form). Global Grooves are committed to providing high quality tutors, mentors, and to filling the programme with as many educational and inspirational aspects as possible. All we require from our applicants is passion, energy, talent, and a mature outlook; all applicants have huge potential to shape and steer the youth arts scene in the UK and beyond for many years to come if you choose to.

We encourage applications from all over the UK, and occasionally internationally. The majority of our placements will be given to applicants from England and Northern Ireland (due to the funding criteria), however a small number of international and UK-wide placements will be available. Please get in touch for further clarification if required.

We welcome a diverse cohort every year from different backgrounds and walks of life. Since its first cohort in 2014, Future Leaders has proved to be a fantastic opportunity for young artists across the UK, so we expect to have a lot of interest, but we are excited to hear from any and everyone who wishes to apply.

1. **How does the course fit around my education/work commitments?**

The residentials (4 in total) take place in half term/reading weeks or at weekends to ensure no one misses out on term time. The first residential takes place in the October holiday period (**Saturday 23rd to Thursday 28th October 2021**) to allow you to get settled into your academic schedules following the summer holidays and return home with a day to settle before returning. The next weekends are **Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th December 2021**,and **Friday 4th to Sunday 6th February 2022**). The final residential takes place during the Easter holidays (**Monday 11th April to Saturday 16th April 2022**), to minimise any clash with formal May/June revision and exams. As our programme has a national focus, this week in April should allow anyone to participate, regardless of when regional holidays are scheduled. You’ll be able to enjoy your final week together without worrying that it is crossing into the examination preparations! Where required, we can set up a special revision area complete with tables, nice lighting and snacks to cater for anyone wishing to complete school or college work in their free time. This has worked very well, and allowed all Future Leaders the flexibility they needed (though in truth we encourage participants to be fully present in the residential wherever possible to get the maximum benefit from the opportunity).

If anything, the course will complement your academic work and help boost your CV; since our pilot year, all of our Future Leaders have gained numerous transferable life skills throughout the course. For example, for practical subjects such as Art, Music, Dance, Textiles, Graphic Products, Performing Arts, and Drama, the course will equip you with skills and experience that can’t be found in the classroom. The more academic side of the programme requires Future Leaders to complete research tasks, compile a portfolio of their own work whilst tracking their progress, as well as study modules such as project management, effective planning, and budgeting. All of these additional elements shape the course to be an even mix of both practical abilities and academic thinking skills. We are now seeing FL students being offered employment, higher study opportunities, and international placements as a result of graduating from the programme.

We also offer accreditation for the course; all participants are welcomed to complete a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Arts Award from Trinity College London, which is applicable for UCAS points. More information can be found [here](https://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=66).

**3. This all sounds great! But how much does it cost?**

Important to note is that for Global Grooves, accessible experiences are our top priority, and so money should not be a barrier to anyone wanting to take part.

The suggested contribution per person towards the costs of the course is £200 (£50 per residential). This course fee contributes towards tuition and mentoring support throughout the programme, resources such as instruments, materials, and rehearsal space, accommodation, meals, and travel during the residential weekends.

* In the past, participants have fundraised this themselves or acquired money through arts-based activities that complement their Future Leaders journey. The message we are trying to pass on is that all Future Leaders should have at least tried to gather their fee based on their sense of initiative and entrepreneurial spirit to invest in this opportunity for themselves. However, we understand that some Covid restrictions may still be in place and certain activities may not yet be possible.
* We also want to emphasise that money should not be a barrier to anyone; this fee is applicable to those who can afford it. Please note that some bursary places are available in cases where complete fundraising has not been possible, and therefore no one should be discouraged from applying.
* *As an organisation with charitable aims, Global Grooves are extremely appreciative for all support and donations to help us to offer such opportunities to even more people and communities around the country. All donations, no matter how small, are gratefully received. Visit* [*www.globalgrooves.org*](http://www.globalgrooves.org) *to read more about our work, and email us to enquire about making a donation.*

**4. What sort of commitment will I make?**

The programme lasts for approximately 7 months (as detailed above), though we expect and encourage Future Leaders to carry their new ideas and training well into their futures. For each young person to gain the maximum benefit from the project, we ask for commitment to all aspects of the course throughout the duration of the programme (from their first application right through to their ‘graduation’ in 2022). This commitment especially includes a few distance learning tasks or preparation for future weekends, as we only have four contact residentials with them.

**5. What benefits will I take from the course?**

The benefits of Future Leaders are numerous and diverse. The course is sure to have a personal and professional impact in many ways; past participants have named confidence, teamwork, networking, technical development, independence, leadership skills, and business skills as some of their top take-aways from their experience.

**Read testimonies below from some of our alumni** [**here**](https://www.globalgrooves.org/get-involved/future-leaders/find-out-more)**.**

**6. What will we be studying exactly?**

You will be studying Carnival traditions from all over the world, with technical sessions in your chosen artform, as well as practical sessions that will introduce you to new disciplines. There will also be workshops in personal and professional development, covering business and management skills and more.

See the 2018 course outline [**here**](https://www.futureleaders.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FUTURE-LEADERS-COURSE-CONTENT-2018.pdf).

The outline of a typical weekend at Future Leaders is as follows:

* Friday evening - welcome activity and inspirational speaker
* Saturday - group workshops (full group personal/business development and art form specific) and inspirational speaker
* Sunday - group workshops (full group and art form specific)
* Some additional activities and downtime fun included! This often includes jam sessions for anyone interested; feel free to bring your instruments along!

**7. Who else will be on the course?**

The entire cohort will be made up of 40 young individuals between the ages of 12-25, with ten people in each art form. At Future Leaders, you’ll make new friends, working alongside people of all ages and experiences, from different backgrounds and walks of life. This is why it works so well! Older members learn just as much from younger participants, and the mix of ability, skill and background means that your experience is unique and important to the mix in the group dynamic- everyone is different. Meet some of our past Future Leaders [**here**](https://www.globalgrooves.org/get-involved/future-leaders/meet-the-future-leaders)**.**

**8. Who will be teaching me?**

You will be taught by experts in each of the 4 different art forms (percussion, brass, dance, and visual arts); they may be experts but these folks are down to earth, really invested in the programme and can’t wait to meet you. There will also be guest speakers and inspirational speakers leading sessions, as well as business workshops like writing a project, getting funding and mapping your community. There are also personal development workshops including ‘Being a Leader’, reflective thinking and making the most of your skills. Meet our team [**here**](https://www.globalgrooves.org/get-involved/future-leaders/meet-the-team). (more and more tutors will be announced in the months leading up to the next course starting).

Previous tutors have included:

* Steve White - Percussion
* Sidiki Dembélé - Percussion
* Kevin Edward Turner (Company Chameleon) - Dance
* Gavin Vincent (Wired, Soul Mavericks) - Dance
* Shaune Harrison (Award Winning Short Filmmaker and successful Special Make-Up Effects Artist) - Visual Arts
* Dave Moutrey (Director & Chief Executive of HOME Manchester) - Business
* Iola Weir - International carnival artists specialising in Visual Arts

**9. Where are the residentials? Will I be sharing a room?**

Accommodation for our four residentials will be at:

Castleshaw Centre, Waterworks Road, Delph, OL3 5LZ

Tel 0161 770 8595

The Castleshaw Centre does offer regular outdoor recreational activities for young people, however, our programme will not include any specialist outdoor activities and so such items for climbing/walking etc. will not be required. We may go out for walks around the accommodation area, and so walking boots and warm layers/coats are usually a good idea. We’ll be sticking to the main site, but there’s plenty of recreational space outside!

Due to the required space and specialist equipment for some aspects of the course, you will be transported to and from the surrounding teaching spaces nearby to the accommodation. This allows each art form group to work separately in a dedicated space, and to also allow the group to come back together for shared tasks and training at the Castleshaw ‘base’.

Bedrooms are allocated by age and gender for safeguarding reasons; anyone over the age of 18 will be grouped together, as will those aged 12-14, 15-17 and so on (depending on the make up of the cohort as a whole). The smallest available room is for 2 people, with the largest at 6 beds.

There will be a communal laptop with Zoom if contact with family and loved ones is needed! You’re free to use phones at break times (at regular intervals throughout each training day) and during their evening free time. We encourage you to keep your phones away/switched off during activities to ensure full focus.

**10. Arriving at Castleshaw**

For the first week of activity in October, we would like all Future Leaders to arrive on Saturday 23rd October (time to be confirmed) for an introductory welcome and activities day/evening. This will allow everyone time to meet each other and settle in before artistic activities begin.

All Future Leaders’ meals and transport costs are covered. You may bring additional spending money with you if they wish as Future Leaders have been known to run their own tuck shop, but there are very few shops local to the residential centre. You are invited to bring additional treats to share with mates!

**PLEASE NOTE – There is no alcohol allowed on site (due to the range of ages we have on the course). If you are a smoker, there are designated areas around the building for you to access.**

**11. I have some additional needs, how will I be supported/can I still apply?**

In all cohorts we have supported young people with a range of needs. We take pride in the attention to detail we offer for each individual, helping to manage learning styles, personal needs, dietary/allergy issues, social considerations, behaviour, and more. The residential centre and teaching spaces are accessible to anyone unable to use stairs. We are more than happy to chat through any thoughts, concerns, or needs you may wish to discuss before putting in an application. If you are successful, we would arrange a follow up conversation with you (and parents if appropriate) to discuss any subtle elements we can put in place for you to make the very best of your time with us.

**12. Does the course have to be completed in person? Will any elements have to take place online?**

Global Grooves are following the national government guidelines regarding Coronavirus restrictions. Currently we are working to the assumption that by October when the next course starts, strategies such as testing/distancing will be easy for us to manage with our team, artists, and participants. In the event some of the course needs to take place online (or where someone is required to isolate) we will be providing Zoom-based versions of some activities to ensure no one misses out. We appreciate your support and patience while we navigate the guidelines.

**13. How do Global Grooves work in a Covid-safe way?**

Our team is now very experienced in delivering workshops and educational events within Covid-safe guidelines. Cleaning products will be made readily available for individual use, and masks/handwashing government guidelines will be reviewed ongoing. Hand sanitizer will be readily available in all locations and sessions. We work with all artists and encourage them to complete lateral flow tests before all face-to-face meetings.

**14. What happens after Future Leaders is finished?**

Since our first pilot year of activity in 2013-2014, we’ve witnessed massive achievements from all of our Future Leaders network. Our 2016 and 2018 cohorts were equally impressive, several of whom have since secured full time jobs with Global Grooves as a result of the programme! In 2021, you will join this ever-growing network of young artists and leaders, gaining support and friendship from other people just like them. Already, several older Future Leaders have enjoyed regular employment and study opportunities with our extended network of arts organisations, as well as younger members gaining more artistic skills and having the opportunity to access mentoring and work shadowing with our team.

Based on the huge enthusiasm from each cohort, we have been able to offer several top-up weekends after the course has ended, including personally tailored development opportunities based upon the gaps in the knowledge or experience, and what they might want to do next. Each Future Leader is different, and so this personal approach to mentoring and development planning with each person is a really exciting aspect for the Global Grooves team.

