

**FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) for Parents and Guardians**

For parents and guardians who may be seeking a little more confidence from knowing more about us, we warmly invite you to pick up the phone and speak to us. Please see our ‘Team’ page to learn more about us and feel free to browse our website for more information about the programme from our alumni.

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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 they 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 can I help my child with their application?**

Read through all of the website information and guidance notes with them (found on the ‘How To Apply’ page [**here**](https://www.globalgrooves.org/get-involved/future-leaders/how-to-apply)), ensuring that they match all of the application criteria, and perhaps most importantly that they understand what the commitment entails in order to fully enjoy and benefit from the programme.

It may be worth proof-reading their application with them, and helping them to articulate anything about themselves or their experience that you think might not be completely clear to us (given that we do not know them yet). Above all, we ask that you encourage them to write their application themselves where possible, and that a parent or guardian does not complete it in full for them (in the past we have had applications from young people via parents, which we feel doesn’t encourage their independence as much as taking time to work *with* them on their application).

Make sure they are aware of the application deadline (**APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE AT MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER)**, and encourage them to send it to us in good time – it’s great when we receive an application early!

1. **Will taking part in the programme affect their school work/college work?**

Absolutely, but in a positive way. Since our pilot year, all of our Future Leaders have gained numerous transferable life skills throughout the course that will now compliment not only their personal life but also other studies they are undertaking. For practical subjects such as Art, Music, Dance, Textiles, Graphic Products, Performing Arts, and Drama, our course will equip your child with skills that they may find difficult to acquire in more conventional ‘mainstream’ educational settings. The more academic side of the programme requires the 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).

1. **What changes might we notice in our child throughout the programme?**

Read testimonies below from parents of our alumni about the difference Future Leaders made to their children.

*“The course has given him the vision that drumming can be part of a career, not just a hobby.”*

*“My son is a fairly quiet boy, not known for great enthusiasm about anything. However when we picked him up from the train station after the third session he did not stop talking for the entire hour of our journey home – it gives me a lump in my throat just thinking about it.”*

*“In society today our young people are put under so much pressure to perform at school/college to attain high grades in all their academic subjects, all very important to enable them to achieve in life. This is why Global Grooves is such a breath of fresh air. When a young person goes down the academic route in education, sometimes the creative side gets lost and is underdeveloped. Global Grooves is different because that’s all you focus on, their passion”.*

*“It is an honour to be accepted on the programme; your child will join an emerging network of young people in the UK being given this opportunity. They will almost certainly return from the first residential beaming and desperate to tell you all about it – let them! As they begin to socialise and communicate with other passionate and talented young people, we envisage that they will gain confidence, make new friends, and generally feel proud of themselves for taking the initiative to apply for, and engage with, such a sought-after programme. Parents and teachers have fed back to us about the positive changes they have noticed in terms of student focus, happiness, and improved school grades and attendance following our mentoring work with them.”*

**5. What about exam time, will they struggle to do Future Leaders AND school/college?**

Not at all, provided they are organised. Sensitive and thoughtful timetabling was considered throughout the earliest planning stages of the Future Leaders programme. As nearly all of our team are involved in regular work within school and college settings, we are used to tailoring educational packages and sessions to suit compulsory national elements such as exam season. We have timetabled our programme so that:

* - Applicants are able to apply during (and in the run up to) the summer holidays and the first weeks of the new academic year, allowing them to discuss the programme fully with you and make their application.
* - Your child will be notified whether their application has been successful or not in mid/late September. If successful, they will then receive an Induction Pack.
* Residential 1 (5-day week) – Arriving Sat 23rd October, wrapping up Thurs 28th October
* We have found across the life of the programme so far (2014 to current) that young people benefit from a longer first residential to bond and get settled in. This October holiday period also allows all participants to get settled into the academic schedules following the summer holidays and return home with a day to settle before returning to school/college.

Residential 2 (weekend) – Arriving Fri 3rd December, wrapping up Sun 5th Dec

The placement of this weekend allows the Future Leaders plenty of time to digest their first residential of learning and complete any distance-learning task following Residential Week 1 or prep task in advance of future study, and complete their next weekend just before the Christmas holidays before the busy season kicks in.

Residential 3 (weekend) – Arriving Fri 4th Feb, wrapping up Sun 6th feb

* Having returned to school or college after the Christmas holidays, the third residential allows the Future Leaders to regroup and continue working towards their final week together in April.

Residential 4 (5-day week) – Arriving Mon 11th April, wrapping up Sat 16th April

To minimise any clash with formal May/June revision and exams, we place our final residential week during the Easter holidays. As our programme has a national focus, this week in April should allow anyone to participate, regardless of when regional holidays are scheduled. Our Future Leaders will be able to enjoy their 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).

**6. 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.*

**7. I’m very proud of my child for being accepted to the programme. Is there anything more I can do to support them?**

We’re proud of them too! One of our Future Leaders team/mentors will be in regular contact with your child (and yourself if you wish) to ensure that they are supported and inspired between residential weekends.

We expect that all of our Future Leaders (as in our previous cohorts) will experience positive changes in mood, behaviour, maturity, and focus through mixing with other like-minded young people as well as artist role models that they will be in contact with throughout the year of the programme. We are \*extremely\* interested to hear of such results, as part of the programme’s ethos is the commitment to developing young people into successful adults, not only in their area of skill but as contributing members of the community and society. Our mentors will regularly check in with your child to ask them about how they are feeling, what they are doing, and generally to offer them support where required.

You may well enjoy having a look at their work (perhaps a new dance routine, a research task, a music workshop plan, or a piece of artwork), and any encouragement from home can only complement their residential weekend learning with us. All three previous cohorts have certainly been the most successful when there is clear interest and support from home – thank you in advance for this. Please do join us in sharing their achievements on social media where appropriate.

**8. How long is the commitment?**

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 future. 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.

**9. Is it possible for us to meet you before we agree to send our child on the Future Leaders programme?**

Of course, you are very welcome to visit us at our centre The Vale in Tameside (OL5 9JL) or arrange a Zoom meeting/FaceTime call with one of our team. We will also be hosting a ‘Meet the Team’ event via Zoom during the recruitment and induction phases for you to ask our team and previous alumni any questions about the programme. Details of this will be updated on our website in the coming months. Parents and guardians are also welcome to email the team to arrange a phone call (hello@futureleaders.org.uk). Our team are highly experienced youth leaders, teachers, and project managers, and we welcome you to contact us should you require further assurance on any aspect of the programme. Our contact details can be found at the end of this document.

**10. Where will my child be staying for the residential weekends?**

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.

Due to the required space and specialist equipment for some aspects of the course, your child 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.

**11. Will there be facilities for them to keep in touch with us while they are away?**

There will be a communal laptop with Zoom so that your child can give you a quick call to say hello and let you know what a great time they’re having already! They are of course free to call you on the break times (at regular intervals throughout each training day) and during their evening free time. It is best to make your own private arrangements with your child for this. We encourage them to keep their phones away/switched off during activities to give them full focus.

**12. When do they need to arrive?**

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 evening. This will allow everyone time to meet each other and settle in before artistic activities begin. We will advise more detail about this during the induction phase if your child is successful in securing a place on the course.

**13. Do they need to bring any money with them?**

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

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

**14. Who exactly will be looking after our children on the residential weekends?**

During each residential, our Global Grooves team and project managers, and several Future Leaders alumni mentors will be on hand to not only offer the expert tuition and mentoring but to make your child feel at ease in a new situation. We know how scary it can be to walk into a room and not know anybody, and so we have also thought about ‘down time’ activities to help them relax, have fun, and get to know each other better. Some of our participants admitted they had never even made their own bed before joining our course, and so hopefully you will see huge benefits at home following their residential with us! Our expert team are experienced teachers and tutors, who love nothing more than working with young people to give them the very best experiences in all aspects of their stay with us. Many Future Leaders go home from their first residential having made friends for life already; it’s such a powerful thing to see them come together and find a common bond with shared interests as a group.

Visit the [**‘Meet The Team’ page**](https://www.globalgrooves.org/get-involved/future-leaders/meet-the-team) on the Future Leaders website to read more about the calibre of artists and mentors we work with. Our full delivery team are all DBS checked.

**15. Can I visit them or come along to the residential weekends?**

Though parental support from home can be a key factor to the success of the project, we hope to encourage each Future Leader to spend time away from home in order to gain more confidence and independent life skills. For younger group members, we imagine this will make for beneficial practice for future experiences. You are very welcome to meet with someone from the team in person when you bring your child to the residential and when you collect them at the close. Covid/numbers restrictions will most likely mean we are unable to invite you inside for an extended period at the moment (sorry!). We welcome you to keep in touch with them via phone or email throughout breaks or ‘down time’ on the weekends (and you can make your own personal arrangements for this with your child).

For anything we may have missed, or any other questions you may have, please feel free to contact us using the details below.

**16. My child has additional needs, how will they be supported/can they 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 your child if appropriate) to discuss any subtle elements we can put in place for you to make the very best of your time with us.

**17. Does the course have to be completed in person? Will any elements of the course 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.

**18. 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.

**19. 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, your child 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.

