



Becoming a Resident Maker at Manchester Craft & Design Centre: Information for Applicants

Manchester Craft & Design Centre is a unique organisation comprising of 18 studios where artists, designers and makers can produce and sell their work direct to the public.

This document provides more information about becoming a Resident Maker at Manchester Craft & Design Centre (MCDC) – from how you can apply to what you can expect if you are successful.

Our mission is to be an unforgettable place to make, see and buy contemporary craft and design.

Located in the heart of Manchester City Centre's creative Northern Quarter, MCDC is home to over 30 independent craft and design businesses. Our Resident Makers design, create and make a variety of handmade products on the premises, giving our visitors the unique experience of seeing products being made and buying or commissioning directly from them.

Alongside our Resident Maker studios, MCDC hosts an innovative and exciting exhibition and events programme, showcasing the best of contemporary craft and design from both established and emerging talent. We also run a diverse workshop programme where professionals and amateurs alike can get 'hands-on' and develop and enhance their creative skills.

Centre Management

MCDC is managed by Manchester Craft & Design Ltd (MCAD), a not-for-profit company with charitable objectives. Our competitive studio/retail rents encourage the development of both new and established sustainable craft businesses. MCAD employs 5 part-time staff members who work towards the company's objectives, supported by a voluntary board of directors. We are supported through Manchester City Council who enable MCAD to sub-let studios to our tenants, and Arts Council England who support our artistic programme and work raising the profile of MCDC and our Resident Makers.

Is MCDC the right place for your business?

We pride ourselves on showcasing, selling, supporting and developing some of the most unique, talented, contemporary makers and artists in the North West. We champion original work, made by craftspeople and designers who produce unique or limited-batch work that demonstrates genuine skill and ambition.

We are looking for creative businesses that will add to the range of work on offer at the Centre. Please note, as a contemporary crafts organisation, MCDC does not prioritise fine art, painting, drawing, sculpture, or traditional and heritage craftwork.

We encourage and support our Resident Makers to exhibit and sell their work at a variety of trade fairs, galleries and shows. It is important to demonstrate ways of generating income from product sales which do not rely solely on MDC's visitors. Our Resident Makers are independent contemporary craft or design businesses, not working as amateurs or hobbyists.

We expect our Resident Makers to:

- Produce handcrafted objects in your studio, for sale directly to the public. Our visitors and customers can expect to see makers at work and watch objects being made on site.
- Open your studio to the public from Monday to Saturday, 10am - 5:30pm and Sundays throughout December. Year-round Sunday openings are subject to review in 2015.
- Offer high standards of customer care – your studio is open to members of the public and we expect a high level of professionalism when engaging with visitors and customers as well as other Resident Makers and Management staff.

The benefits you will receive as a Resident Maker at MDC are diverse and unique, and include:

- A combined workshop and retail studio and use of the building with 24-hour access (with Centre-wide alarm/security system).
- An established customer base with over 90,000 visits made to the Centre annually.
- Competitive rents from between £200 - £600 per month – calculated by size of studio (plus rates and bills*).
- Studios ranging from approx. 120 – 340 sq feet (12 – 33 sq metres).
- Support from Management Team with access to office facilities including photocopier.
- Centre-wide marketing and promotion by our Marketing & Digital Manager, including social media, full artist profile on our website (www.craftanddesign.com), centre leaflets and regular e-flyers.
- Regular organised meetings with other Resident Makers (optional attendance).
- A supportive working environment with Management Team and creative community of over 30 independent businesses.
- From early 2015: online sales opportunities (commission fees apply)
- Reduced rates for our Creative Business Development sessions (4 per year).
- Reduced hire rates for our ground floor workshop room space2 (i.e. public workshops, pop-up shops and exhibition showcases, meetings etc).

What does my studio rent cover?

As well as your combined workspace/shop, your rent includes shared costs for the building e.g. management services, heating, lighting, repairs and maintenance of communal areas, plus advertising and promotion of the Centre.

Not included: water rates, business rates and electricity (this is monitored by individual studio meters), public liability insurance (n.b. this is mandatory), contents insurance.

Application procedure

To apply for a studio at MCDC, please send us:

- Your completed application form (the application form includes guidance for what we assess applications against)
- An up-to-date CV (or career history)
- A one page (A4) summary of your business overview (i.e. how you would use your studio at MCDC).

We also accept shared studio applications – if are looking to share your studio with someone else (i.e. wish to be paired with another business), please state this on your application form.

Please send your completed application forms and additional information to exhibitions@craftanddesign.com.