

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Open call: Living in Pattern: Fabrics Inspired by Qatari Heritage

A British Council and Liberty Design Exchange

A. About the Programme

1. What is the Living in Pattern: Fabrics Inspired by Qatari Heritage residency programme?

Living in Pattern: Fabrics Inspired by Qatari Heritage is a Qatar-UK design residency delivered by the British Council in partnership with Liberty of London Limited ("Liberty London"), Liberty Home Msheireb, and associated partners. The programme will bring together artists and designers for a research-led residency inspired by Qatar's natural and cultural heritage, including its native flora, marine environment, and living traditions.

The residency is delivered in three stages:

- **Discover:** A research and induction programme in Doha, providing up to 10 participants with opportunities to explore and engage with Qatar's heritage, museums and creative communities. At the conclusion of this stage, participants will submit a written project proposal outlining how they intend to develop their creative response to the residency.
- **Develop:** Following assessment of the project proposals, five participants will be selected to progress to the next stage of the programme. During this phase, participants will further develop their ideas and create an original artwork for consideration as a fabric design.
- **Advance:** The five participants will take part in a mentorship programme in the United Kingdom, including creative development opportunities and engagement with Liberty London's design team in London.

Following assessment of the project proposals, five participants will be selected.

At the conclusion of the programme, Liberty London will select up to two artworks for further development towards inclusion in the Liberty Interiors Fabric Collection 2028.

2. Who is delivering the programme?

The programme is delivered by the British Council in partnership with Liberty London, with support from Liberty Home Msheireb and a range of cultural, academic, and creative partners in Qatar and the UK.

3. What is the expected outcome of the residency?

Participants will develop original artworks informed by research undertaken during the residency.

Following the programme, Liberty London will select up to two artworks for further development towards inclusion in its Liberty Interiors Fabric Collection 2028.

Participation in the residency does not guarantee selection for commercial development or inclusion in the Liberty Interiors Fabric Collection 2028.

B. Eligibility and Applications

4. Who can apply?

Applications are open to those who are:

- Aged 18 years or older; and
- Currently based in the State of Qatar; and
- Artists, designers and those working in any creative discipline, including fine art, illustration, design, printmaking, textiles, drawing, painting, and mixed media.

Applicants must be available to participate in all relevant stages of the residency programme.

5. How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted through the official online application form before the published deadline.

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- A short artist statement.
- A portfolio link.
- Contact details.
- Confirmation of availability for residency dates.
- Social media links (optional).

Applications submitted through any other channel will not be accepted.

6. What should my portfolio include?

Your portfolio should include:

- 5-10 examples of your work.
- Clear images of each work.
- Captions including title, year, and medium.



Where possible, applicants are encouraged to include examples of hand-drawn or hand-painted work within their portfolio, particularly work that demonstrates an interest in:

- Nature and botanical subjects.
- Pattern or decorative arts.
- Regional or Qatar-inspired themes.

Previous experience in textile or pattern design is welcome but not required.

7. How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Technical and artistic quality.
- Strong hand-drawing and/or painting skills.
- Understanding of colour, composition, and visual observation.
- Originality and creative potential.
- Relevance to the themes of the residency.
- Ability to commit fully to the programme.

At the application stage, assessment focuses on artistic practice and visual capability rather than finished textile designs or product concepts.

8. Who selects the participants?

Applications will be reviewed by representatives from the British Council, Liberty London, Liberty Home Msheireb, a member of the design community in Qatar, and a representative from the private sector.

Full profiles of the selection panel will be published on the website following the application deadline. Assessment will focus on artistic skill, technical quality, and portfolio strength.

The panel will assess applications against the published selection criteria.

9. What is the application deadline?

Applications must be submitted through the official online [Application Form](#) no later than **8 September 2026 at 12:00 PM (Doha time)**.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by **16 September 2026**.

C. Residency Structure

10. How is the residency structured?

The residency unfolds across three interconnected stages, guiding participants from research and discovery to creative development and international professional exchange:

- Discover | Qatar
- Develop | Remote (Non-Residential)
- Advance | United Kingdom

Discover | Qatar

Up to ten artists will participate in a four-day programme of site visits, research activities, workshops, and cultural encounters exploring Qatar's cultural heritage, native flora, and marine environments as sources of inspiration.

Participants will receive a creative project brief from Liberty London's Head of Design, Interiors. At the conclusion of this stage, participants will submit a project proposal consisting of a 200-word concept statement and supporting creative materials developed during the residency.

Develop | Remote (Non-Residential)

Following assessment of the project proposals, five artists will be selected to continue to the next stage of the programme. During a three-week creative development period, selected participants will refine and realise their proposed concepts, culminating in the submission of a completed hand-drawn or hand-painted artwork informed by their research, residency experience, and creative practice.

Advance | United Kingdom

The five selected artists will participate in a five-day residency in London, including mentorship from Liberty London's design team, studio-based creative development, and engagement with UK cultural and academic institutions.

11. What are the key programme dates?

8 September 2026 at 12:00 PM (Doha time): **Deadline for applications**

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

16 September 2026: **Selection Results**

21-24 September 2026: **Discover | Research & Induction Week (Doha)**

25 September 2026: **Project Proposal Submission**

30 September 2026: **Selection of Develop & Advance Cohort**

1-21 October 2026: **Develop | Independent Creative Development Period (Remote)**

22 October 2026: **Artwork Submission Deadline**

16-20 November 2026: **Advance | Residency & Mentorship Programme (London)**

12. What happens between the Qatar and UK stages?

During the Discover stage in Qatar, participants will undertake research activities, site visits, workshops, and discussions exploring Qatar's natural and cultural heritage and receive a creative project brief from Liberty London.

Drawing on their research and experiences during the residency, participants will be required to submit a **project proposal**. This submission will comprise:

- A written proposal of up to 200 words describing the proposed artwork and creative concept.
- Supporting materials developed during the Qatar stage, such as research findings, sketches, visual references, sample designs or other relevant materials.

Following submission, an assessment panel comprising representatives of the programme partners, as applicable, will review all proposals and select five participants from the cohort of ten to progress to the Develop and Advance stages.

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Creative quality and originality.
- Relevance and responsiveness to the Liberty project brief.
- Engagement with the themes, research and learning from the Qatar residency.
- Feasibility of delivery within the programme timeframe.
- Potential for creative development during the UK residency and mentorship programme.

The assessment panel's decision regarding progression to the UK residency stage will be final.

The five selected participants will then undertake a creative development period to refine and realise their proposed artwork. A completed artwork must be submitted before participating in the residency and mentorship programme in London.

13. What happens if I am not selected for the Develop and Advance stages?

Participants who complete the Discover stage will receive a certificate recognising their participation in that stage of the programme, regardless of whether they are selected to progress to the Develop and Advance stages.

Participants who are not selected to progress will not continue to the subsequent stages of the programme. Any work developed during the Discover stage will remain their own, subject to the intellectual property arrangements outlined elsewhere in the programme documentation.

14. What support will the British Council provide?

The British Council will provide:

- Programme delivery and coordination.
- Research and residency programming in Qatar.
- A QAR 2,000 materials stipend for each participant in the Discover stage in Qatar.
- Economy-class travel for artists selected for the Advance (UK) stage.
- Accommodation and local transportation in the UK.
- Professional documentation of the residency.
- Participation in networking and professional development opportunities.

15. What support will Liberty provide?

Liberty will provide:

- Mentorship from its senior design team during the Advance stage of the residency.
- Creative guidance and design feedback.
- Opportunities to participate in future Liberty Home Msheireb showcase and launch activities related to the programme.

Participants are responsible for any expenses not expressly covered in this section D.

E. Intellectual Property and Commercial Development

16. What happens to my intellectual property rights?

The five participants selected from the cohort of ten to progress to the Advance stage of the residency programme will be required to grant Liberty London a limited licence of their Completed Artwork (see Q12 above for further details) to allow Liberty London to take any actions it deems necessary in order to select up to two winners, such as manipulating the artworks into a repeating pattern. As the limited licence is needed solely to help Liberty London select the winners of the programme, no compensation shall be paid to the artists in respect of this limited licence.

Any work developed by participants who are not selected as winners during this stage will remain the property of those unsuccessful participants.

Further information regarding intellectual property and usage rights will be shared with shortlisted and selected participants before they progress to the later stages of the programme.

17. What happens if my artwork is selected for commercial development?

Liberty London intends to select up to two artworks for further development and potential inclusion in its Liberty Interiors Fabric Collection 2028, subject to the quality and suitability of submissions.

Each winner will be required to enter into an agreement with Liberty London under which they transfer their original Completed Artwork to Liberty London and assign all intellectual property rights in the original Completed Artwork to Liberty London. Each winner will receive a cash payment of £3,000 (three thousand pounds) (the “**Prize**”). The Prize shall be paid to each winner following the assignment of the intellectual property rights in the Completed Artwork and Liberty London’s receipt of the original Completed Artwork.

Artists whose work progresses to commercial production will be provided with further information regarding contractual arrangements, licensing, and remuneration before any production activity takes place.

F. General Information

18. Is the programme accessible?

The British Council is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for participants.

Applicants requiring reasonable adjustments or accessibility support are encouraged to indicate their requirements during the application process or contact the programme team directly.

19. What safeguarding measures are in place?

The British Council is committed to creating a safe environment in which children and adults are protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

All programme activities will be delivered in accordance with the British Council's safeguarding policies and procedures, which include risk management, reporting mechanisms, and appropriate safeguarding responsibilities for staff, partners, and suppliers.

20. Who can I contact for further information?

Before contacting the programme team, please review the **More Information** page and these FAQs.

If your question is not answered there, please contact:
livingpatternsqatar@britishcouncil.org