

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

CREATIVE IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM
Expressions of Interest
March-June 2027



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

Expression of Interest

University of Newcastle Library creative in residence

March – June 2027

We invite creative practitioners from all artistic disciplines to apply for a Creative Residency at the Auchmuty Library, Callaghan Campus.

Our libraries are spaces for learning, conversation, discovery, and the ongoing exchange of knowledge. At different times, they can be places of quiet reflection and focused study, or vibrant (sometimes rowdy!) hubs of discussion and collaboration.

Rich and diverse collections sit alongside dynamic public spaces, creating opportunities for inspiration, exploration, and creative enquiry. We invite creatives to engage with our spaces, our collections, and our staff as part of a residency experience.

We encourage applicants to imagine how their practice might unfold within a library setting. This could involve a visual artist establishing a temporary studio, a writer or poet drawing inspiration from our collections, or a musician, composer, or performer developing new work in response to the library environment.

We are deliberately open in our approach. We welcome creative projects that engage meaningfully with students, staff, collections, spaces, and the broader university community, whatever form the process or outcome may take.



Good to know

Before you submit your proposal, we recommend visiting us at our Callaghan campus in our architecturally significant Auchmuty Library. The Library originally opened in 1968 as part of the campus's foundational mid-century bushland master plan. It was named after the university's first Vice-Chancellor, Professor James Johnston Auchmuty and what's in the building is just as interesting. Through journals, books and online resources you can move across disciplines, decades and geographies through peer-reviewed research, primary resources and historical records. Or you can immerse yourself in the day-to-day life of a library and the students and researchers that inhabit its spaces.

Our special collections and archives contains important stories of our region and includes rare books, textiles and maps. The library also holds extensive Indigenous education resources and Parray Yayirri an Indigenous learning space. Our building has different spaces to explore – including a makers space, reading rooms, a GLAM lab, café, quiet spaces, teaching rooms and much more. As creative in residence it's yours to explore. You will not be alone in navigating our collection and our spaces. Our team know these collections and love working with people who are curious and driven to find knowledge in all the right places.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS READING ROOM

This space is for viewing Special Collections items.
Please contact us to make a booking.
archives@newcastle.edu.au

Terms of the Residency

The residency period is 3 months depending on the scope of your project and will take place during Semester 1 Feb-June 2027. Whether the work is a performance, part of a process, composition or exhibition, we are excited to maintain an open scope for all creative possibilities.

You will be onsite and working in our Library for periods during this time. The University Library will be granted a non-exclusive license to reproduce the work or documentation of the project.

An offer to take up the residency is dependent on agreement of the residency structure, preferred dates and adherence to University work health and safety and risk requirements.

The \$10,000 residency payment is in the form of an artist fee. This fee will incorporate any travel and accommodation if the resident is not based in the region. All travel and accommodation requirements are to be managed by the resident.

The \$5,000 production fee is to be used on expenses directly related to the production of the residency project (if required) and a budget must be detailed in the proposal.



Your proposal

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Creative Proposal and Alignment with the Residency

The quality and relevance of the project, including its engagement with the Library's collections, spaces and services.

Artistic and Creative Merit

The demonstrated quality, innovation and achievement of creative practice and previous work.

Audience Engagement and Community Connection

The capacity to engage students, researchers, staff and visitors through participatory, public or collaborative approaches.

Feasibility and Capacity to Deliver

The viability of the proposal, including your capacity to successfully deliver the project within the residency timeframe and budget.



Your proposal

Your overall EOI response will be uploaded to our website and should include:

Your idea: Tell us what you would do as a creative in residence at the Auchmuty Library Newcastle. This should be no more than one A4 page or a three-minute video.

Tell us how your project will engage with our students and researchers and immerse itself in the beating heart of the University – its Library!

A CV along with examples of your work and experience including links to projects and images/examples of past work.

A project budget detailing potential production requirements up to \$5000 (for some creatives this may not be required).

Dates

Applications open 5 October 2026

EOI closes 5pm Friday 6 November 2026

Outcomes announced 8 December 2026

Submit your proposal online at:

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/library-creative-residency>

