

GUIDELINES TO PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICES.

PLEASE READ THROUGH THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY.

As a guideline to prospective apprentices in the 'Adopt a Potter' scheme we have put together this document so that you will be able to see at a glance the requirements expected by the Trustees and the guidance for approaching a potter before the application.

We would like as many people as possible to benefit from this scheme; however, with the current funds available, the Trust will only be offering a one-year apprenticeship in the first instance. Therefore, we feel it is important to emphasize that we require a high degree of commitment and competence from applicants in order that they make a realistic contribution in their new position.

It is hoped that both the apprentice and the host potter will benefit from the arrangement but it is the apprentice who should gain most from this focused experience. Much of what you will learn may not be directly taught, but will be learnt by example and observation of good practices from a professional potter. The Trust feels that a more mutually successful placement will result if students approach potters whose work they admire and form an agreement between them to apply to the scheme.

The Trust would insist upon the following:

- The applicant would be required sufficient knowledge and experience of working with clay (eg: handling of clay, handling of glaze, kiln packing, kiln firing, etc) to benefit from the apprenticeship and make a positive contribution to the Studio.
- The Grant is for one year only so a degree of proficiency is expected.
- The applicant would be required to research and identify the master potter whom he/she would like to work for and then approach the potter and establish an agreement before the application is made to the Trust.
- The apprentice would be required to commit him/herself to work under the chosen potter's management for one year.
- The apprentice would be required to be punctual.
- The apprentice would be expected to be familiar with the Health and Safety Rules for the studio and to abide by them.

Guidance for approaching a potter

Currently, we do not have a list of potters who would be interested in taking on an

apprenticeship; however, there is some useful source of information where to find potters.

- "*The Ceramics Book*" published by Ceramic Review Publishing Ltd is a directory of potters all over UK (limited to the Craft Potters Association professional members), which will give you a brief description of potter's work and their contact details. ISBN978-0-9557732-0-4 £9.95
- www.studiopottery.co.uk is also a very good website to find out about potters.
- Many British potters have websites. You should be able to find these by using some search engines such as Google.

The most important thing is to define what it is your want to learn, i.e. your interest in terms of skills and techniques, etc. The Apprenticeship is intended to add to your knowledge and skills, so we recommend you to do thorough research to identify a master potter who can assist you to realize these ambitions.

Most potters welcome visitors to their workshop, but call first to make an appointment.

Before approaching your chosen potter, consider what you can offer...

- Help with day-to-day workshop chores; e.g. glaze mixing, kiln packing, clay preparation, cleaning and help with packing for exhibitions and shows, dealing with customers
- Help with the production of the potter's standard range
- Help with sales at shows and exhibitions

Things you will need to ask when approaching your potter for an apprenticeship...

- Whether or not any accommodation on site will be available, and at what cost. If not, the availability of inexpensive accommodation locally if your home is too far away to make daily travel realistic.
- Whether or not it would be possible to have access to the workshop to make your own work after the working day
- Whether or not you might be able to make part of the potter's standard range of pots.
- Any other benefits in kind, i.e. materials, firing your own work in the potters kiln, subsistence when away at exhibitions etc.

The Trust has prepared a guideline for prospective master potters, which the master will have to agree to adhere to, so it is recommended that a copy is shown to your chosen potter. This can be downloaded from the Adopt-a-Potter website.

Once you have established an agreement between you and the chosen potter please apply to the scheme by submitting the application form with all the necessary information together with good quality images of your work.

If you need any guidance regarding the apprenticeship in general, you can contact Yo Thom by emailing to yothom@mac.com.

Please mark (as subject) ADOPT A POTTER ENQUIRY when you email.