**Tips on how to apply for a mentor!**

Arts Emergency provides young people with **FREE** advice, guidance and opportunities to help them embark on higher education and careers in the creative sector.

We’re looking for young people aged 16-18 who are passionate about the arts and humanities and who would benefit from having a mentor in these areas. We match you and your mentor based on your individual interests, passions and goals.

If that sounds like something you would benefit from, then you should apply to become an Arts Emergency mentee!

**Before you start your application**

* Have a think about the time commitment. Will you be able to meet with your mentor once a month, for an hour or so for 12 months?
* Consider what your goals are for the next couple of years. What do you enjoy doing? Are you thinking about applying for university or going straight to work?
* If you are applying directly (not through a partner school), you will need to provide a reference to confirm your eligibility for the programme. This should be a teacher, parent, social worker or adult that knows about your personal circumstances. You may want to check with them that they are happy to be your referee before starting your application.

**Completing the application**

* You are able to start your application and return to it later if you don’t want to complete it all at once. To do this, click the ‘Save and Continue Later’ button at the bottom of the page.
* We’d advise you to complete the application on a tablet or laptop rather than a phone.
* If you feel more comfortable video recording the answers or if you find it difficult to communicate through writing, for example if you have dyslexia. You can also complete your application over the phone. You’ll find details and advice on how to do this on our ‘Apply’ page.
* When telling us about your interests and thoughts for the future, we advise that each of your answers are around 2 - 3 sentences.

**What Arts Emergency looks for in a mentee**

At Arts Emergency, the three main things that we are looking for in our new mentee applications are: curiosity, commitment and eligibility. Think about ways you can demonstrate this in your application:

**Curiosity**

*We want to know that you are curious or passionate about an arts or humanity subject or subjects. It doesn’t matter if you don’t know what you want to do as your mentor will help you with this, but you have to want to explore your interests and options in depth.*

* You don't need to be worried about not having enough experience already because Arts Emergency is about helping you to explore new things and experiences.
* The more you tell us and the more truthful you are, the easier it is to match you with a suitable mentor. So feel free to tell us about any new topics or areas that you would like to explore.
* You can apply for Arts Emergency whether you’re planning to go to university or follow another route. Arts Emergency is here to help you explore all your options and your mentoring sessions will be based on **your** goals.

**Commitment**

*All our mentees must be committed to meeting with their mentor for an hour once a month for a year starting in January 2020.*

* In order for you to get the most out of Arts Emergency it's important that you are able to stay engaged and connected with your mentor and the Arts Emergency team throughout the year long programme.
* Please demonstrate in your application that you are ready to make this commitment before applying for the programme as we want to match mentors with young people who will benefit most from their support.

**Eligibility**

*You must tick at least one of our eligibility criteria to apply for a mentor. Our eligibility criteria helps us to make sure we work with young people who will benefit most from having a mentor.*

* As part of the application, you will need to choose a person who can confirm your eligibility, this can be a parent, teacher, social worker or youth worker. They will need to provide us with a reference to support your application.
* If you have any issues with finding someone to confirm your eligibility please email [mentoring@arts-emergency.org](mailto:mentoring@arts-emergency.org) and we can discuss your options.

**Network Questions**

At the end of the application we will ask applicants to tell us more about your networks, who you know and who supports you at present. These are just evaluation questions, to help us improve the support we offer and the answers will not impact your application. So please just be as honest as possible and answer as many questions as you can.

**Next Steps**

If your application is successful, the next step is to meet with a couple of members of the Arts Emergency team for a chat to find out more about you and determine how we can best support you in the mentoring programme.

* If you are applying through a partner school, this will be arranged through your teacher and we will meet with you for a fifteen minute slot during the school day. Your teacher will let you know when this will happen.
* If you are applying directly (ie. you may have found this opportunity through social media, a friend or family member rather than hearing about it through an assembly) we will get in touch and arrange for you to come and meet us during the October half term (28th Oct - 1st Nov).