

ASYLUM ALTERNATIVE ART SCHOOL

[P R O] F I L E

JOB ROLE: Creative arts - Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Specialist

COMPANY: Asylum Art Gallery LTD

CLOSING DATE: Monday 5th May 12pm 2025

ARTFORM: Combined arts

FOCUS: Learning & skills development

CONTRACT: Fixed term freelance May 2025 – March 2026 (10 months)

LOCATION: Wolverhampton, West Midlands

COMMITMENT: 6 hours pw @ £16.25ph

What is [P R O] F I L E ?

Summary:

A nine-month programme for 6 individuals referred through SUIT recovery to undergo an art school experience. Including opportunities to raise their profile, embedding them in regional arts programming. Activity codesigned with the cohort and flexible to their capacity, with access to space, mentoring, peer learning, workshops, cultural visits and showcases, supporting participants to enter the creative sector and the sector to acknowledge their lived experience in the cultural ecology.

The Detail:

In 2023-2024 Asylum delivered an ACE funded project called Discursive spaces. It brought together Wolverhampton City Council, Art Gallery (WAG), 8 community groups, five artists and multiple creatives to regenerate a public underpass into a space where communities can program interventions and events.

One of our community board members was SUIT who invited their service users to contribute. The community led co-creation model in our artist studio spaces supported them to get involved in the artistic outcomes. They became co-designers of the final outcomes, took part in workshops and developed several outputs which fed into public celebrations and exhibitions. Earthen Lamps case studies showed that the process had given service users the platform to start seeing a creative outlet for recovery as a serious career pathway. We are now delivering a programme that aims to better represent our recovery communities within existing cultural infrastructure, equips them with the tools needed to enter the sector, supports them to expand their artistic practise and continue being an artist beyond the programme.



Referred through SUIT recovery, participants will undertake a programme where they can access artist studios, skills workshops and develop their artistic practise within a program of activity co-designed with the cohort. Through multiple showcasing opportunities the focus is to raise the profile and experience of the individuals to enter the professional sector and include their lived experience in the cultural ecology of the city.

The programme includes:

- Studio space time
- 121 mentoring with Curators & producers about their art practise
Group crits & showcase of progress
- Workshops with skilled practitioners
- Contribution to travel, bursary for materials and production budget for events/exhibition
- Partnerships with existing initiatives to showcase work regularly and a final showcase in the Spotlight gallery at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.
- Partnerships with local cultural organisations and artists for shadowing days and mentoring
- Trip to two other galleries for a knowledge sharing day
- Facilitating their attendance to local networking groups
- IPS Specialist supporting accessing employment opportunities in the professional creative arts.
- Professional documentation of their work
- Informal mentoring through a peer buddy system and the support of creative arts lead from SUIT
- Supporting the cohort to pursue a work opportunity as an outcome post completion

About the Creative arts - Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Specialist

The IPS Specialist will work closely with individuals recovering from addiction, helping them through the alternative art school model, for a period, until support accessing employment opportunities in the professional creative arts presents. This role involves unlocking client strengths and interests, developing individualised job plans, building relationships with employers, and providing ongoing support to ensure successful job placements and career growth.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Client Assessment and Support:

- To support and guide at first entry, connecting and bonding with the cohort.
- Conduct comprehensive assessments of skills, interests, and goals related to the creative arts.
- Develop individualised employment plans that align with strengths and career aspirations.
- Provide coaching and support to clients in building resumes, preparing for interviews, and developing professional portfolios.



2. Employer Engagement:

- Establish and maintain relationships with employers in the creative arts sector, including studios, galleries, media companies, theatres, and other related organisations.
- Advocate for cohorts by promoting talents, potential to prospective employers, opening opportunity previously inaccessible.
- Work with employers to create supportive and accommodating work environments for individuals with a history of addiction.

3. Job Matching and Placement:

- Identify suitable job opportunities in the creative arts that align with skills and career goals.
- Facilitate job placements by matching clients with appropriate positions, networks, and assisting with the application process.
- Monitor job placements and provide ongoing support to both clients and employers to ensure successful employment outcomes.

4. Ongoing Support and Career Development:

- Provide continued support to clients' post-placement, addressing any challenges and offering guidance for career advancement.
- Assist clients in accessing additional resources, networking opportunities within the creative arts community.
- To collaborate with SUIT wraparound recovery to ensure a humanistic, person-centred approach to well-being and professional development.

5. Documentation and Reporting:

- Maintain accurate and confidential records of client interactions, training, employment plans, and outcomes.
- Prepare regular reports towards progress, training, and effectiveness for internal and external stakeholders.

Applicant specifications

- Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, vocational rehabilitation, or a related field.
- Previous experience working with individuals recovering from addiction, particularly in employment or vocational support roles.
- Knowledge and passion for the creative arts industry, with an understanding of various professions within the sector.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to build relationships with clients, employers, and community partners.
- Empathy, patience, and a non-judgmental attitude towards individuals with a history of addiction.



- Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with the IPS model of supported employment.
- Familiarity with local creative arts communities and resources.
- Understanding of the challenges faced by individuals in recovery, particularly regarding employment and social integration.

How to apply:

Please send either a cover letter or video file or link (no longer than 10 mins) including the following:

- After reviewing the job description and applicant specification, think about all the different types of roles you have had or work that you have done to support your application.
- Please give examples what you have done that demonstrates that you have the experience, skills or knowledge we are looking for against the criteria.
- Tell us why you would like this role and how you feel the project would benefit from your experience and perspective. It might be useful to look at both partners websites to understand the range, scope and scale of our work in the context of Wolverhampton.

Please provide this with your CV and any other relevant documentation with supports your application to info@theasylumartgallery.com with the subject heading IPS_PROFILE APPLICATION - YOUR NAME.

To find out more or to arrange an informal conversation about the role, please contact:

Hannah Taylor

CEO, Director & Creative placemaking strategic lead

Hannah.taylor@theasylumartgallery.com

Closing date: 5TH May 12pm

Interviews: 9th May (online unless requested in person)

Post start date: 15th May 2025

We encourage disabled applicants to apply. Please let us know if you have any access requirements.



About the partners



SUIT is a dedicated non-profit, Lived Experience Recovery Organisation focused on supporting individuals with a history of drug and alcohol addiction. We believe in the transformative power of creative arts and aim to provide meaningful employment opportunities within this vibrant sector. Alongside Asylum Artist Quarter, we are looking for a passionate and empathetic Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Specialist to join our team and help our clients navigate their journey to professional success in the creative arts.

SUIT's mission is:

- To provide a voice for people sidelined from society who have not been heard.
- To meet in a supportive and safe space.
- To develop confidence and self-belief.
- To destigmatise the experiences of people exposed to addiction.
- To provide opportunity in creative spaces previously unavailable to clients.
- To allow freedom of expression in a guided manner.
- To raise awareness and reach the community by performance and events.
- To provide visible role models that are testament that transformation is possible.



Asylum Artist Quarter CIC & Asylum Art Gallery LTD work together to develop regenerative arts projects that respond to the need of the region in which they are situated. They work closely with and are informed by their partnerships with city stakeholders across arts, the city council and voluntary and community action groups. They work collaboratively with these stakeholders to advocate for the arts as a powerful tool for regeneration and hope. They are passionate about equitable access and through their codesigned models, act as community conveners that enable creative innovative approaches to societal issues.

They have two spaces that have been regenerated, Asylum Art Gallery which is used as a showcasing space or artist residency space and The Asylum Artist Studios which houses 13 regional artists and regular public programming co-run by our collective. Projects range from artist development programmes to mentoring and internships, public arts interventions and city wide events.

As a neurodiverse and disability led organisation, they foster collaboration and warmth with our collective of artists and project partners, seeking to always provide a supportive environment which puts people first and recognises the importance of grassroots and local consultation being embedded in the focus of our work so that there is benefit to them in our outcomes.

