



Ceramic Studio Contact

Our Ceramic studio is open to anyone to use who has enough experience to work independently. The studio is based upstairs in our building at Mealbank across 3 rooms.

Induction

Everyone who uses the ceramic studio must have an induction to the space. This is an informal chat, where we will introduce you to the space, and explain what you have access to.

Membership

Full Membership (£95 pcm*) - Includes 4 three hour sessions a week

Part Membership (£50 pcm*) - Includes 1 three hour sessions a week

*Members need to sign up for an initial 4 month period. After this you need to give a full month's notice if you intend to leave.

What is included in the membership?

- Use of all hand tools in the space
- Use of the potters wheel
- Your own storage shelf for projects you are working on. (Full members have 2 shelves)
- Communal area to keep 1 bag of clay you are using.
- Access to communal firings (charges apply)
- Access to hire whole kiln (charges apply)

What is not included?

- Clay, glazes, slips and oxides. These you need to purchase yourself. (We do sell a couple of types of clay in our shop.)
- Space to recycle your own clay.
- Additional space to store equipment, work, glazes or clay.

Payment

You will be sent an invoice at the beginning of each month. Please pay by BACS on the first of the month.

Kiln Hire

Kiln Details

Rohde TE 165

165 litres

Internal Dimensions: 730w x 630d x 460h

Shelf size: 60 x 32cm (half octagonal) Max height 10cm. If your work is taller than 10cm you will be charged for 2 or maybe 3 shelves.

Kiln Fees

We have 2 different fees for members and non members

Members: £55 Full kiln Firing, £15 per shelf

Non - Members: £65 Full kiln Firing, £25 per shelf

Communal Firings

- Ragtag does regular bisque firings (1000'c) and Earthenware glaze firing (1030'c). We can fire your work as part of these firings, and you will be charged per shelf. - if you are putting your work into a communal firing, you will need to wait till we have enough work to fill the kiln, (this could be up to a month).
- Every effort is made to check peoples work to ensure they do not explode. But we take no liability if your work is damaged during the firing or doesn't turn out as you expected.
- If you are firing to stoneware temperature, you may want to join other members to fill a kiln load. This is your responsibility to organize. When loading the kiln ensure that you space your work out to prevent someone else's work potentially damaging yours. Ragtag takes no responsibility for other people's work damaging yours.

Damage to kiln and shelves

- It is your responsibility to clean the bottoms of your work to ensure they don't stick to shelves.
- It is also your responsibility to check the glaze and clay is compatible with the firing temperature.
- Accidents do happen, but any damage done to the kiln or kiln shelves by your work, you will need to pay for. Ragtag will send you an invoice to cover the cost of the damage.

Type of Work

- All work must be bone dry. We will not slow-fire work that is still wet.
- We do not fire combustible materials, raw glazed work, or found/wild clay due to the risks and variables involved.
- No oxides, stains, or glaze on the base of work.

- If you are unfamiliar with the glaze you are using, we ask that your work is fired on cookies/patties to protect kiln shelves.

Studio Access

You must book your slot via google calendar. When booking please write with your name if you want to use the wheel (and which one).

The studio is available 7 days a week, 9am - 9pm. Please note there will not always be someone in the building for all these slots. (You will be given the key code for the door) Session times:

- 9am - 12 noon
- 12 noon - 3pm
- 3pm - 6pm
- 6pm - 9pm

Please note sessions not used can't be transferred over to the following week.

Recycling Clay

If you are purchasing clay from us, there are recycling buckets under the sink for clay scraps. Please don't put any other clays in these buckets.

Sadly there is no space for members to leave clay out on the plaster block for a long period to recycle their own clay. However, if the plaster block is empty on your session and you want to use it to recycle a small amount in your session, you are very welcome.

Studio code of conduct

- Please leave the room tidy. Wash up and put away any tools you have used, wipe down surfaces and sweep your area.
- Please do not eat or drink in the studio
- If you need to sand any of your fired work please do this outside, to avoid excess dust in the studio
- Any projects you are working on must be left in the storage room, not on the side in the studio.
- Any slips, glazes and tools need to be stored on your shelf
- Work ready to go in a communal firing can be stored on shelf in kiln room. These are labeled according to firing temp.
- Respect other studios members
- Respect others work, don't touch what is not yours without permission.

Please contact us if you have any questions
Ragtag Arts CIC 01539 232552 ~ info@ragtagarts.co.uk

Top Tips for Successful Firings

- Make sure work is completely bone dry before firing.
- Hollow out objects larger than a golf ball.
- Hollow forms should have a small vent hole to allow air to escape.
- Avoid very thick bases or uneven wall thicknesses where possible.
- Clean all glaze, oxides, and underglaze from the bottom of pots.
- Test new glazes before using them on important work.
- Use cookies to protect kiln shelves, especially when testing unfamiliar glazes.
- Check that your clay body matches the kiln firing temperature.
- Check that your glaze firing temperature matches the kiln firing temperature.
- Large flat pieces are more likely to warp during firing.
- Handles and joins should be well compressed and securely attached.

Remember: ceramics can be unpredictable
— even experienced potters lose work occasionally!

Kiln Damage Costs

The following costs are intended as a guide only and may change depending on the extent of damage and current replacement costs. Kiln maintenance and repairs are very expensive, so we want to provide a rough price guide to help highlight the importance of checking your glazes, firing temperatures, and materials before firing.

Damage	Guide Cost
Kiln shelf damage (under 5cm circle)	£25
Kiln shelf damage (under 10 cm)	£35
Full kiln shelf replacement	£200
Damage to kiln elements	£800 for all elements to be replaced
Damage to kiln walls or bricks	Starting from £50
Damage to kiln furniture	Props and stilts from £5

