

The Radical Imagination Lab Application Pack

Programme Overview

Thank you for your interest in The Radical Imagination Labs, the flagship knowledge production course of The Free Black University project.

The Radical Imagination Labs is a course to facilitate the expansion of radical imagination. The course is centred on exploring fundamental and foundational questions around liberation, freedom, imagination, abolition, and what is possible in Black radical futures through a philosophical and spiritual lens.

Over the course, participants will:

- Join a space designed to facilitate the co-creation of radical knowledge, under the guidance of the Free Black University's [Pedagogical Principles](#)
- Collectively develop a journal that demonstrates the imagining that had taken place on the course
- Be part of a process to 'Archive Our Now', through curating an oral archive of the course to be presented in a podcast format

Participants will also be invited to discuss the Labs at an in-person Free Black University community gathering and celebration in Spring 2023.

This is a fully funded course, and we are going to accept up to 16 people to join us. For this first round, we are only inviting applications from people racialised as Black or mixed-Black from the UK and Europe.

Please review the Course Timeline, below, before applying, as space is limited. If there are any concerns you have about your availability, then please be honest about this in your application. If you are selected, we will explore how we can best facilitate your engagement in the programme. We also have a discretionary access budget available - please detail in your application if you may need to rely on this.

If you feel that you would still struggle to commit to the full programme, then please consider whether applying on this occasion would be right for you.

[Contact us](#) if you have any questions about this opportunity or how to apply for the access budget.

Application Timelines

- Programme opens for applications on the 1st of July 2022
- Applications must be received by 5pm (BST), 15th of August 2022
- All applicants will be informed of the status of their application in mid-September
- Course begins 3rd of October 2022.

Course Timeline

Participants will need to be available for the dates and periods detailed below in the Schedule, as well as the celebration in April 2023 (date TBC).

The course consists of three phases:

- The first two phases take place over eight online sessions, starting on the evening of Monday the 3rd of October 2022, 6-8pm, and running weekly at the same time until the 21st of November.
- After a two-week break for reading and rest, the third phase begins.
- The third phase includes two online sessions on the evenings of the 5th of December and 12th of December 6-8pm.

In these last two sessions, and over the course of the winter, participants will develop the journal, working collaboratively to shape the project and individually on their own submissions. Participants will be free to organise their own teams and meetings as necessary for this period, with a view to completing their submissions by the end of January 2023.

Course Schedule

Phase 1: Everything is to be Questioned

- Week 1 – 3rd of October - ***Epistemologies***
- Week 2 – 10th of October - ***Burn Shit Down***
- Week 3 – 17th of October - ***Time, Temporalities, and Dispelling Linearity***
- Week 4 – 24th of October - ***In the Wake of the Rationalist Evidence-based Model***

Phase 2: Creating Worlds and Knowledges of Freedom

- Week 5 – 31st of October - ***Freedom Dreaming and Creating Worlds***
- Week 6 – 7th of November - ***Into the Spirit Realm***
- Week 7 – 14th of November - ***What Alternative Possibilities?***
- Week 8 – 21st of November - ***Sculpting Futures***

No sessions in Week 9 and Week 10 for rest, reading, and reflection.

Phase 3: Creating Knowledge

- Week 11 – 5th of December - ***Creation***
- Week 12 – 12th of December – ***Creation***

Application

Our online application form will allow you to submit a written or video application. The same questions will be asked on both formats, covering your experiences and views on radical imagination. No consideration will be made of the style of writing or the quality of the recording.

After copying in your responses or uploading your recording, you will be asked to upload any relevant examples of your work and answer some access questions in as much detail as you feel necessary.

Please note that this document is for drafting purposes only. To submit your application, you will need to enter your responses into the [online form](#).

Application Questions

- After reviewing the application pack, please detail any experiences and interests you have that you feel make you suitable for the course. [300 words]
- What is your current relationship with radical imagination? We want to understand what radical imagination means to you, what impact it has had on your life or craft, and the role you feel it can play in the movement towards liberation. You may also reference examples of work that you would like to share. You can upload these examples in the next section. [300 words]
- At this stage, what do you believe is possible when it comes to Black liberation, and liberation for all? This question is related to social systems/ institutions, the mind, the body, the soul and any other site where liberation/ freedom may be experienced. [300 words]
- What is your relationship to indigenous spiritualities or belief systems, and to your own divinity? no relationship is required but we are interested to know where each person is starting from) [300 words]

After you complete your application, please fill in this [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#).