

COLÈCHI KNITWEAR WASTE RESEARCH RESIDENCY 2026

THE PROBLEM: A SNAPSHOT OF INDUSTRY EXCESS

For the past four years, Colèchi has run its knitwear club YKWU (You Can Knit With Us), which has given us a firsthand look at the industry's waste problem. We've accumulated so much donated hobby yarn that we've run out of storage space. It shows a clear snapshot of the industry's waste problem and the disconnect between how much is made and what is actually used.

THE OPPORTUNITY

COLLECTIVE STUDY 02: REITERATE

We're launching a funded research residency for creatives interested in investigating yarn and knitwear waste. The project invites three residents to explore the lifecycle of yarn and knitwear products from production to end of life to help us better understand how waste moves through the system. The theme is open ended but should focus on knitwear and yarn waste.

RESEARCH FOCUS

Topic: Research into understanding the waste streams of yarn and knitwear.

Approach: Open ended, focusing on wasted yarn and knitwear. This could be localised to yarn stores, brands, or the pre spun material stage.

Goal: To understand the problem of excess yarn production and where unused yarn goes

Further interests include exploring the afterlife of a specific clothing product such as jumpers. Exploring the emotional relationships to clothing and skills such as mending and repair.

RESIDENT COMMITMENTS

Commit to three group check-in sessions.

Secure a workspace to host workshops (Colèchi can assist with finding a space and support with workshop costs)

Run a minimum of two public workshops in collaboration with Colechi

Produce a final report or creative outcome with Colèchi

All media and promotional material made in collaboration with Colèchi

Projects must aim to start by 5th May and end by October 2026

THE OUTCOME

Residents' work and products made during workshops will culminate into a Colèchi research report and presentation to educate the wider industry and public.

WHAT WE'RE OFFERING

£1,500 stipend per resident (paid in three instalments)

Support connecting with partners and material sourcing

Presenting the research across Colèchi platforms

ABOUT COLÈCHI COLLECTIVE

Colèchi Collective is a community of independent designers, makers and thinkers working within sustainable fashion, craft, and material innovation.

It exists to support those who value community, and ethical craft, offering opportunities to collaborate, share skills, and build meaningful connections within the creative ecosystem. The collective centres designers as collaborators rather than contributors, creating space for experimentation, knowledge exchange, and long-term relationship building.

ABOUT COLÈCHI

Colèchi is a research and education platform that centres people, community, collaboration within the fashion industry.



