



Lights in Alingsås 2026 Workshop Head Application Information

Project Overview

Lights in Alingsås is a month-long lighting festival located in the city of Alingsås, Sweden. The immersive event brings together professional lighting designers (Workshop Heads) who mentor design students and electrical apprentices to realise a series of six lighting installations on a trail through the city of Alingsås. Each of the six teams is led by a Workshop Head. These professional designers are the overall architects of each installation. The project is run by Alingsås Energi and supported by the IALD.

Workshop Head Job Description

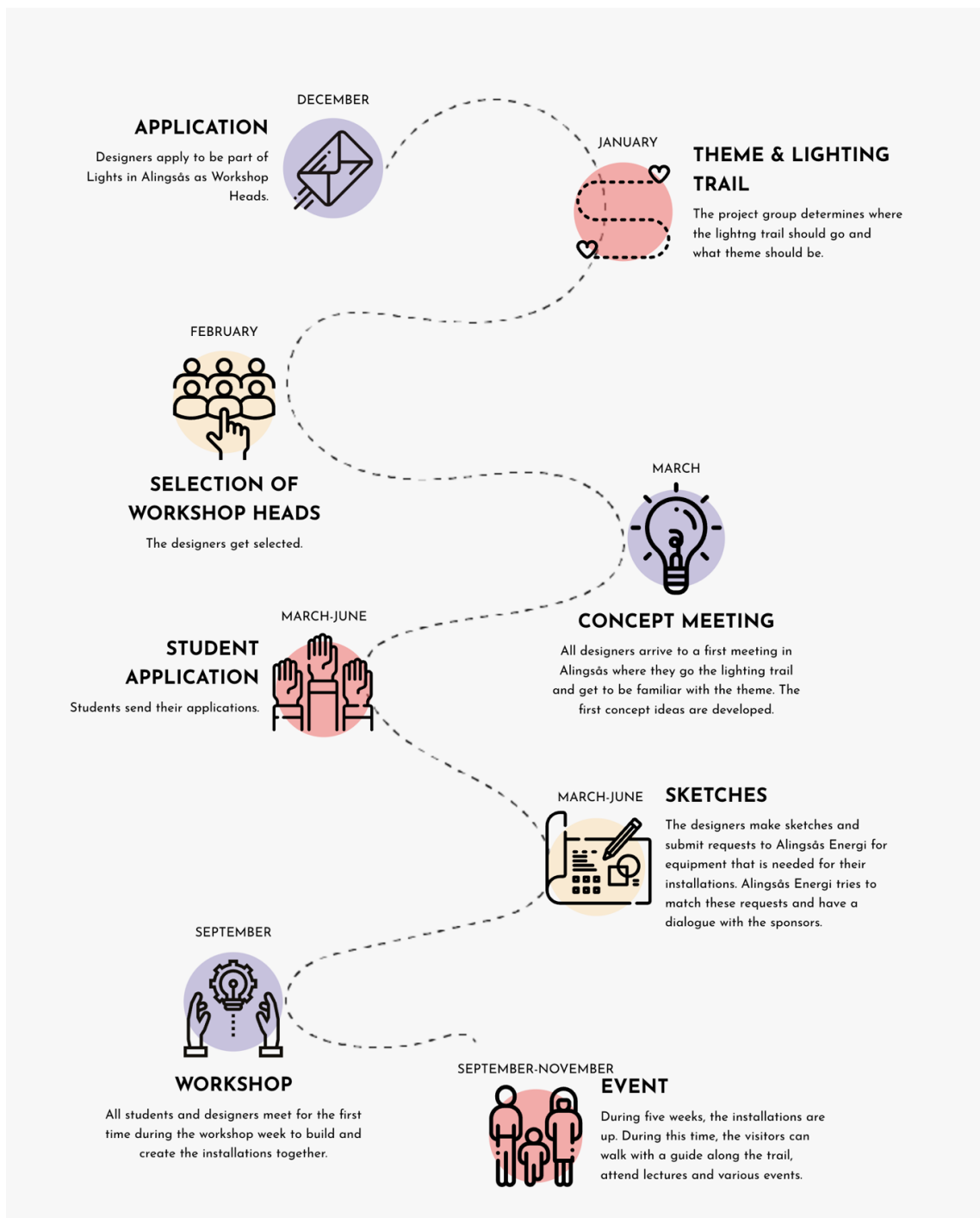
- **Concept Development:** Participate in the onsite Concept Meeting to select installation sites and develop initial design ideas aligned with the festival's theme. These ideas need to be sufficiently detailed so that logistics planning for equipment etc can progress ahead of the workshop, but with sufficient creative flexibility so that the students can meaningfully input to the creative process during the workshop week.
- **Educational Leadership:** Guide students through the lighting design and installation process. Empowering them to develop their concept communication skills and the realities of making a bespoke piece of work with a wide range of stakeholders in the public realm.
- **Design Execution:** Lead your student team during Workshop Week to transform conceptual designs into full-scale installations for public exhibition. Given the often inclement weather, sharing of resources and timelines, resilience and the ability to be comfortable in the discomfort is key.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Lead with kindness across all stakeholders involved in the project. Embrace and respect the diversity across the project's various genders, ages, religions and nationalities, to enrich the educational experience and the festival's cultural tapestry.
- **Collaboration:** Engage with fellow designers, students, and festival organizers to ensure cohesive and impactful installations.

Time Commitment / Key Dates

Workshop heads must commit to both onsite meetings in full to be eligible to apply.

- Concept Meeting | In Alingsås | 26–29 March 2026
- Concept Development | Remote | 29 March – 01 June 2026
- Workshop Week | In Alingsås | 24 September – 03 October 2026
- Festival Duration: 03 October – 02 November 2026

Project Realisation



Project Outline

Six sites per year require a Workshop Head. Workshop Heads may apply as a team of two designers, but the costs and fees are divided and limited to just one of the six teams.

Workshop Head Selection

The Workshop Heads of the groups are chosen to represent diverse genders, ages, and nationalities, delivering a vital experience to the participants and the festival itself. Workshop Heads use their wealth of experience to guide participants through the design process with sketches, photographs, and hands-on mock-ups and tests. This established educational method ensures that enriched and in-depth knowledge of the lighting discipline is taught thoroughly.

Concept Development

Once selected, Workshop Heads meet in person for orientation, site selection and concept kick-off in Alingsås. At this meeting, you will gain a detailed understanding of the city layout and which site you will be working on. The theme will be discussed, and you will begin developing ideas for the installation that you will create with your students.

Concept development will continue offsite after the initial meeting and is intended to allow the planning of resources such as equipment and collaboration with a composer who will underscore your installation. As the project is designed as a teaching opportunity, as such there should be sufficient flexibility in your concept and planning to allow students meaningful during the installation week. This could be via lighting tests/mock-ups, narrative development, sequence programming etc.

Students

The Lights project attracts a broad range of students from across the globe. Their educational background varies from Architecture, Lighting, Theatre, Interior Design, and Engineering. A substantial team of apprentice electricians also works on the installations as part of their electrical training at Alingsås Energi.

The result for the Workshop Heads is that they get to work with a wide range of young people to create a unique piece of work. Workshop Heads should give special consideration to how they manage the cross-cultural and interdisciplinary nature of teams to ensure that all students feel valued and have a positive experience from the project.

Project Delivery

All participants arrive in Alingsås, and within a week, each team finalise their designs and installs the work. Taking a concept to completion in a week with a group of students that have never met before is not for the faint-hearted. The days are long, and it can be cold, wet and dark. But with the right clothing, attitude and spirit, the project has, for over 25 years, forged lifelong friendships and experiences that stay with you for a lifetime.

Costs and compensations

The core of Lights in Alingsås is educational, and the aim of the workshop is to promote the profession of lighting designers. The lighting designers which accept Workshop Head role will be compensated by a fee as defined below.

Alingsås Energi will provide (book and pay) for travels and accommodations during to the Concept meeting and Workshop for all Workshop Heads.

The following fees apply:

Workshop Head participating in the Concept meeting	1,000 EUR
Workshop Head participating in the Workshop	3,500 EUR

The Workshop Heads will get their fee by sending an invoice to Alingsås Energi. Invoices may be sent to Alingsås Energi after the Concept meeting (1 000 EUR) and after the Workshop Week (3 500 EUR).

Alingsås Energi will cover costs for equipment and technical assistance to the extent that has been defined in the equipment and construction list.

Words of Wisdom from past workshop heads

Why did you apply to become a Workshop Head?

- "I would like to be part of this fantastic program, contribute to the education in lighting, and develop my own skills and experience."
- "It is an intriguing social experiment. Having Light as a common denominator to work with people that share common interests from different cultural backgrounds around the world and attempt to find common ground by sharing personal experiences."
- "To have new experience, to share knowledge, exchange it, work with international students. To be active as part of the international lighting community. To support and share the passion for lighting design."

Good advice from former Workshop Heads to future Workshop Heads:

- “Have a lot of fun and manage your time well. It is good to target to finish early to avoid all the negative unforeseen.”
- “Read all the documentation provided, keep to time and remember you are there to set a good example for working practices. You need to represent and show up. There is no excuse to be rude, late or derogatory.”
- “(1) Have a dead clear concept asap (2) Be ready to revise its implementation with a different set from the wish list equipment (3) Tell your story with Light and use as little custom constructions as possible.”