

A large, stylized eye graphic in shades of purple and blue, centered on a background of radiating sunburst lines. The eye is composed of several concentric shapes: a dark purple outer outline, a medium purple middle ring, and a dark purple inner circle. The text is centered within the inner circle.

# LOOKING FORWARD

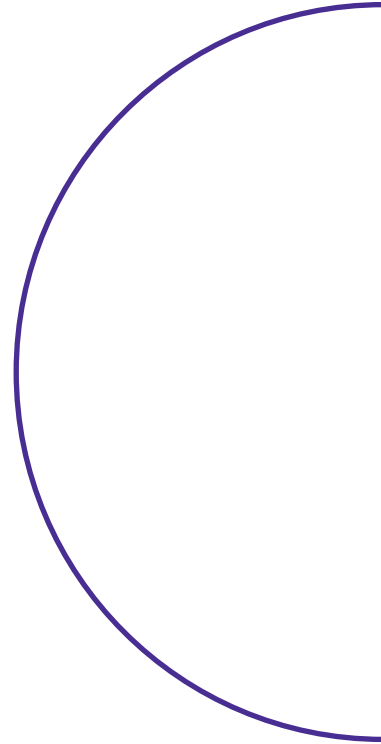
Information, Advice and Guidance  
for school leavers coming to  
Hereford College of Arts


**Hereford** College of **Arts**

# Hereford College of Arts is the only specialist Art, Design, Music & Performing Arts College in the West Midlands.

We are one of the few colleges left in the UK where students as young as 16 can study in the same environment as undergraduates, practising artists and designers. Our students benefit from studying in a highly creative atmosphere, completely dedicated to the Arts.

This information has been put together by academic and support staff to help students, particularly in their GCSE years, to get a better understanding of what it would be like to study at an arts college – and what to expect once you get here. We hope we've answered many of your questions, but if you have any more or you'd like to discuss anything else, please get in touch at any time. You can email the College on [enquiries@hca.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@hca.ac.uk) or phone us on 01432 273359.





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This guide will help to answer some of your questions and let you know what to expect as you progress.

## What is Further Education at Hereford College of Arts?

Further Education describes the courses you can take after your GCSEs, from age 16-19. Courses are full-time, can take one or two years, and form your main route into Higher Education (Degree Level) at a university or college or into your chosen career path. At Hereford College of Arts you can study a range of subjects at different levels:

- Level 2 Diplomas
- Level 3 Extended Diplomas (equivalent to 3 A Levels)
- Foundation Diploma (most often taken after A Levels, but sometimes taken after completing a Level 3 Extended Diploma).

## Higher Education: what is it?

Higher Education is the next stage you can choose to go onto after Further Education and usually means applying to a university or college. Completing a Higher Education course, over two or three years will greatly enhance your job opportunities or career. You may also hear Higher Education (or HE) being referred to as 'Undergraduate' or 'Degree Courses': they all mean the same thing!

The main qualifications taken in the Arts are:

- Bachelor of Arts Degrees - BA (Hons)
- Foundation Degrees - FdA
- BA (Hons) Top-ups
- After you complete a Degree, you can go on to do a Masters degree - MA - or even further study at Postgraduate Level.

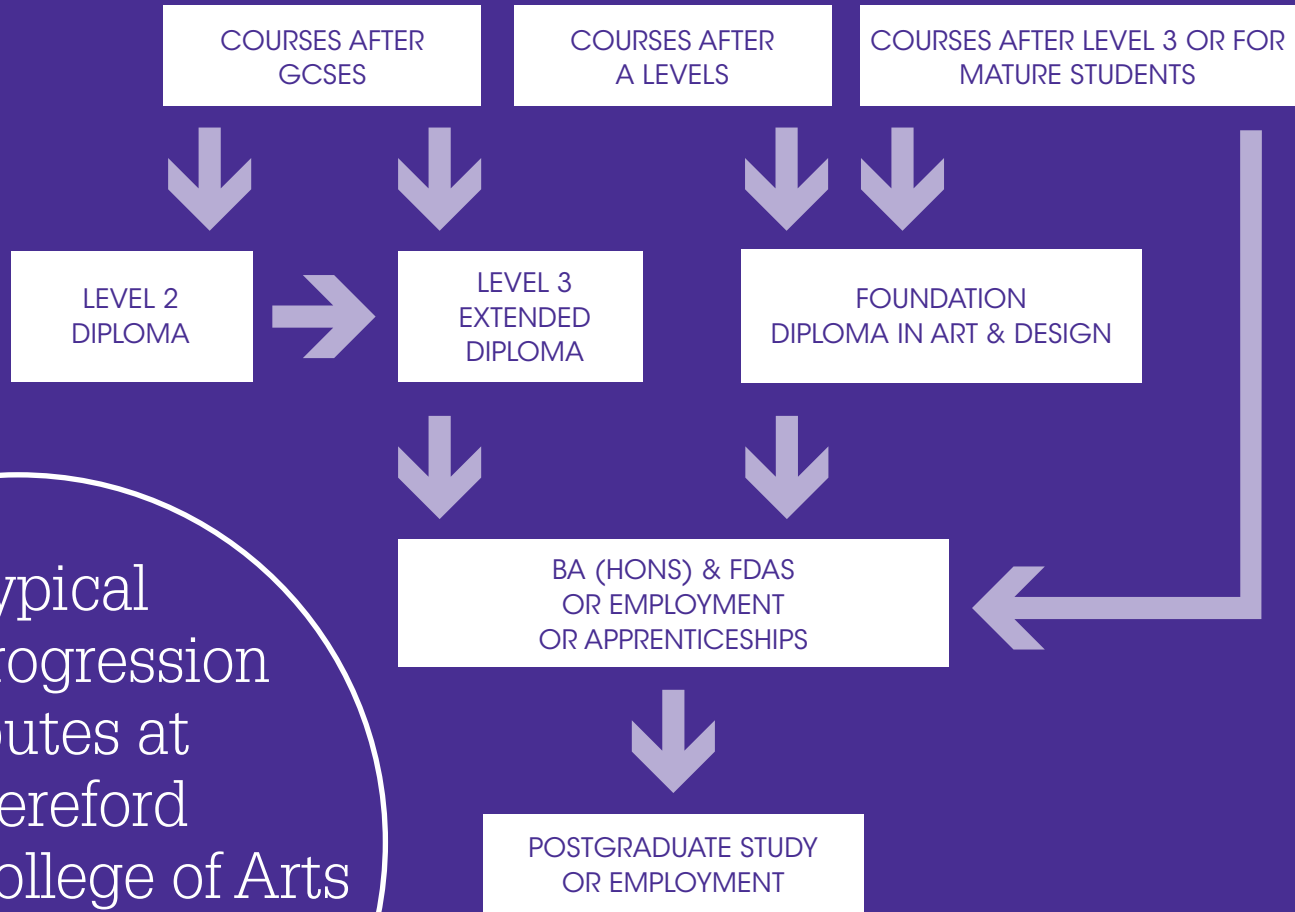
## Employment:

There are many careers that use creative skills; arts, crafts, culture, design, information, manufacturing, media, music, performance, print, production and publishing, to name just a few! Art, design, music and performance are vital components in our modern, technological world. See page 13 for more information on careers in the arts.

## Apprenticeships:

Apprenticeships involve work based training, where you are paid a wage while you learn. Apprenticeships are available to people aged 16 or above who are not in full time education. Most of the training provided will be 'on the job', but some days will be spent at a college or a specialist training organisation, and you will work to achieve a qualification. You can find more information at [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

Typical  
progression  
routes at  
Hereford  
College of Arts



## Opportunities to find out more...

A great way to get a feel for the College is to come to one of our Open Events. You can ask questions about the College and the courses, meet course leaders and students, as well as looking around the studios and workshops and talking to members of staff. For further information call 01432 845345, or visit [www.hca.ac.uk](http://www.hca.ac.uk)

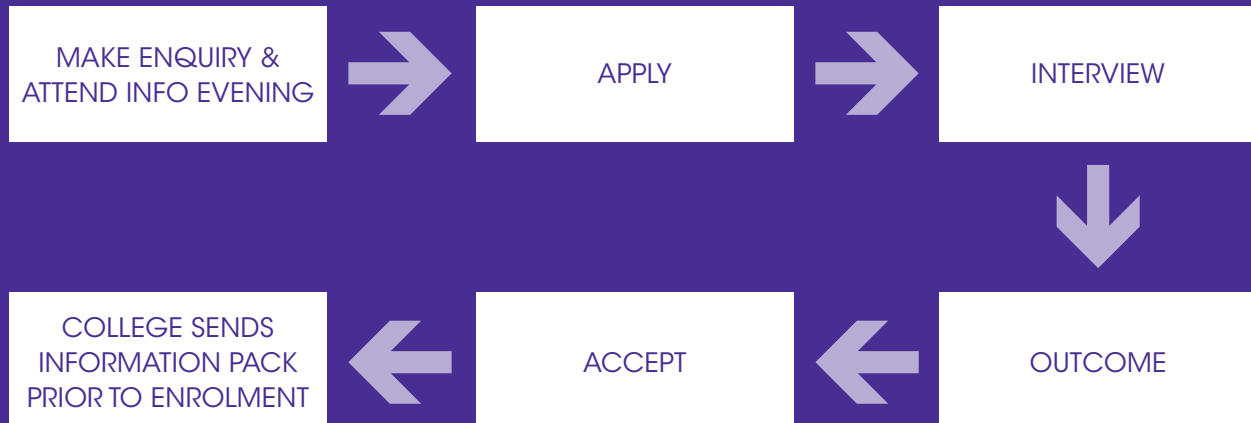
Here are some key questions to think about when you come and look around:

- What will I do on the course?
- What different skills will I learn?
- What grades do I need to get onto the course?
- How different will it be from secondary school?
- Are the tutors and staff friendly and helpful?
- How much written work will I have to do?
- Is there extra support if I need it?
- What are the studios, workshops and rehearsal spaces like?
- Will I get to try different techniques and workshops?
- Are there any extra expenses I need to think about?
- Will I get help and advice if I want to go to University or College afterwards?
- Are there things to get involved in outside the course?
- What will I be able to do after the course?
- Is there any guidance on auditions and portfolios?
- Where can I get travel information?

## Information Days for Schools

Hereford College of Arts holds Information Days, the Summer Arts Fest and Spring Into Arts, arranged through your school, for pupils in years 9, 10 and 11 where you can take part in workshops and try your hand at different art, music and performance based activities. Ask your teachers for further details (they can email us on [schools@hca.ac.uk](mailto:schools@hca.ac.uk) or look on the College website: [www.hca.ac.uk](http://www.hca.ac.uk)).

# The application process



# Entry Requirements

COURSE	MINIMUM AGE	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Level 2 Diploma in Art & Design	16	Minimum 4 GCSEs grade E and above, interview with portfolio
Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts	16	Minimum 4 GCSEs grade E and above, interview with audition
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art & Design	16	Minimum 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above, or Merit at Level 2 Diploma in Art & Design, interview with portfolio
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts	16	Minimum 5 GCSEs grade C or above, or completion of a Level 2 Diploma (Merit or above) in Performing Arts, interview with audition
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music	16	Minimum 5 GCSEs grade C or above, Level 2 Diploma in Music (Merit or above), interview with audition
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Communication & Marketing	16	Minimum 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above, including Maths and English, and interview
Level 3 Foundation Diploma	18	Minimum 3 GCSEs (A-C) & 1 A2 Level or Extended Diploma, interview with portfolio

## Preparing for Interview

Once you have returned a completed application form with a reference, you will be asked to attend an interview. The College will send you some guidance notes with your interview invitation. It's a good idea to find out as much as you can about the College and the course you are applying for beforehand and to think of some questions you would like to ask us during your interview. We always appreciate it when you bring work along that you have done outside of school.

## Interviews

We understand that the thought of an interview can be a bit daunting, so we try to make them informal and to send you plenty of information to help you prepare. Don't worry – we won't ask you any trick questions and everyone you meet will be very friendly and understanding.

The interview gives us the chance to get to know you, and gives you the opportunity to think about whether you will be happy studying with us. Bring along your strongest and latest work: make sure it demonstrates your interests and commitment.

- *For Art & Design Courses: for Level 2 Diploma in Art & Design an individual interview is carried out, which lasts around 20-30 minutes and we'll ask you to bring in some examples of your work. The Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art & Design interview is carried out in a small, informal group, lasting about 20-30 minutes, in which we discuss your ideas and ambitions and look through your portfolio of work.*
- *For Performing Arts Courses: you will be asked to attend a performance workshop and complete a short audition piece, followed by an informal interview.*

- *For Music Courses: you will be invited to play or sing informally and bring in any compositions or recordings of your own work, followed by an informal interview.*

*As part of your interview you may be asked to complete a short piece of written work.*

- *Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (18+): You will have an informal group interview, followed by an individual interview and we will ask you to bring in some examples of your work.*

*Some of the questions you may be asked at the interview include:*

- *Why would you like to come to Hereford College of Arts?*
- *Have you been here before and how did you hear about us?*
- *What do you know about the course?*
- *What do you enjoy about your subject?*
- *What are your ambitions?*
- *Discuss the reasons and thinking behind your work*
- *What are your strengths and weaknesses (in your work and yourself)?*
- *Talk about a successful project or experience you have been part of*
- *How much art/design/music/performance have you done in and outside of school?*
- *What are your interests outside of school?*
- *Which artists, musicians or performers do you admire and why?*
- *Which books/films/exhibitions/plays/music have inspired you recently?*
- *What do your parents/guardians think about your choice of career?*

## Initial Assessment & Support for your Studies

Like the majority of Further Education Colleges, during your interview we will ask you to complete an online assessment in English and Mathematics and an interview questionnaire (this will take just over an hour). This helps the College to assess whether you would benefit from additional support during your studies.

## After the interview . . .

Once you have been for an interview we will let you know our decision within ten working days. If successful, the conditions of your offer will be clearly outlined in the letter we send. You need to send back the reply slip within two weeks.

## What happens when I accept a place?

Your course will begin in August/September and the college will send you an information pack in late July. It contains details of the term dates, an equipment list, information on your holiday assignment work and other useful information. The College's Finance Department will send you a letter about costs. You should contact the college on 01432 273359 or email [registry@hca.ac.uk](mailto:registry@hca.ac.uk) if you don't receive your information pack over the summer.

## What happens once I start the course?

The first week of term gives you the chance to get to know people at the College, meet your tutors and to find out where everything is. There are lots of people around to give you help and answer your questions and you will also be given an outline of your course, your timetable, tours of the facilities and inductions.

## What's it like to study at College?

College is a more adult environment where you begin to take more responsibility for your own learning. You need to attend all of your timetabled sessions (registers are taken for all classes) and there will be periods of self-directed study when you work on your own. You will be expected to work on projects during the evenings and weekends: this is a very important aspect of the course and is necessary in order to get good grades, especially if you hope to go on to further study at College or University.

## How will I know I'm progressing well?

Your projects will be assessed throughout your course and there will be regular tutorials where you will get feedback. At the end of your second year your final assessment will be an exhibition or performance.

## How will my parents be kept informed?

Once a term we send your parents/guardians your report, which includes details of your attendance and progress and any areas of concern we might have. We invite your parents into College to discuss the reports and to view your current work. In your second year we invite parents to an evening where we discuss Higher Education (University), UCAS applications and progression options.

## What is student life like?

At College you will be treated as an adult and have a lot more independence and a more equal relationship with your tutors than you have at school. You won't be sitting at a desk all day, you can choose what to wear (although there are some requirements in workshops and rehearsals) and you'll have more freedom to express your individuality.

## Are there people to help me?

It is really important to the College that our students get help with any problems that they have, the following information will help to answer your questions.

## What can the Student Union do for me?

The Student Union is for all of the College's students: you automatically become a member when you are enrolled. The Student Union represents students and gives you the chance to have a say in your own education, as well as organising a great range of student activities. There are Student Representatives on each course and a Student Council, who meet with the people who run the College to

discuss student issues. The Student Liaison Officer is very friendly and approachable and is there to support you during your time at the College: email [studentunion@hca.ac.uk](mailto:studentunion@hca.ac.uk) or phone 01432 845346.

## How can I find out about financial support?

There are bursaries and financial support available to some students who are facing financial hardship. Please contact the college's Finance Department for further information on 01432 273359 or email [finance@hca.ac.uk](mailto:finance@hca.ac.uk)

## Can I apply for travel assistance?

If you live more than 3 miles from the College you could be entitled to travel assistance. You must first apply to the County Council that you pay your Council Tax to. For the majority of students this will be Herefordshire Council: [www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk) or 01432 260000. You can find contact details for other Councils on our website, in the 'Prospective Students' section.

## Can I talk to someone about local accommodation?

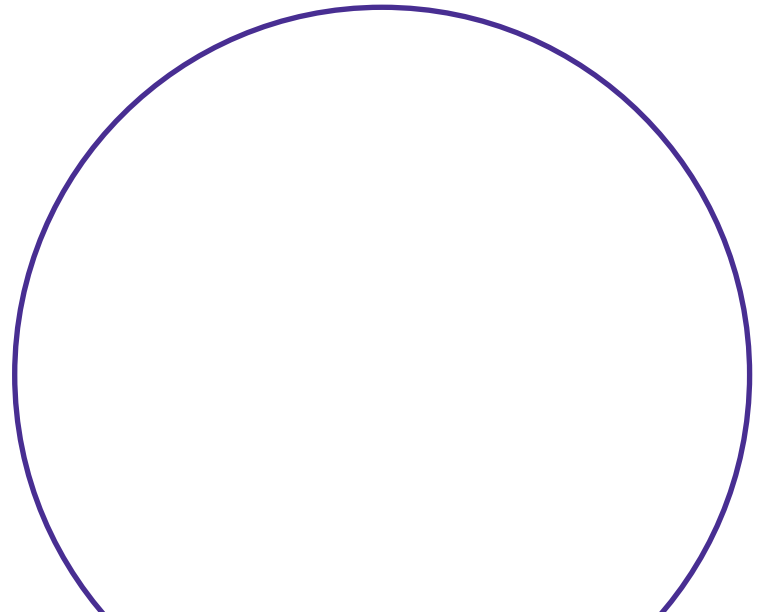
To discuss housing options in Hereford, please contact Student Housing at Hereford College of Arts on 01432 273359, or email [housing@hca.ac.uk](mailto:housing@hca.ac.uk). There is also a Student Housing section on the main college website, with helpful tips and advice [www.hca.ac.uk](http://www.hca.ac.uk)

## Learning Support

Learning Support is available for identified students throughout their course. The support provided varies and is tailored to the individual student, depending on their level of need. If you would like to ask how the College can support you during your studies, please contact the Learning Support department on 01432 273359 or [learningsupport@hca.ac.uk](mailto:learningsupport@hca.ac.uk)

## Study Plus

Study Plus is available to students who, for whatever reason, have fallen behind on one or more of their units. Students are referred to Study Plus via their tutor and the support provided is linked to outstanding units/elements of their main programme of study. If you have any questions regarding Study Plus, please contact Study Plus on 01432 273359 or email [studyplus@hca.ac.uk](mailto:studyplus@hca.ac.uk)



# Careers in the Creative Industries?

There's a lot more choice than you might think...

## Art & Design

Architect

Archivist

Art Exhibition Organiser

Art Historian

Art Teacher

Art Therapist

Art Valuer

Artisan-maker

Arts Administrator

Basket maker

Blacksmith

Body Artist

Botanical Illustrator

Bookbinder

Car Designer

Cartoonist

Ceramic Decorator

Ceramic/Pottery Maker

Clothing Pattern Cutter/Grader

Conservator/Restorer

Costume Designer

Curator

Display Designer/Visual Merchandiser

Desk Top Publishing Operator

Engraver

Exhibition Designer

Fashion/Clothing Designer

Fashion Journalist/Forecaster

Fine Artist

Footwear Designer

Furniture Maker

Furniture Polisher/Finisher/Restorer

Garden Designer

Gemmologist

Glassblower

Glassmaker

Goldsmith/Silversmith

Glass Engraver

Graphic Designer

Hat Designer/Milliner

Illustrator

Interior Designer

Jewellery Designer/Maker

Knitwear Designer/Machinist

Laminator

Landscape Architect

Leather Craft Worker

Leather Technologist

Librarian

Lighting Designer

Medical Illustrator

Model Maker

Motion Graphics Designer

Museum Assistant/Technician

Musical Instrument Maker/Repairer

Packaging Designer

Paper Marbler

Picture Framer

Printmaker

Product Designer

Prototype Manufacturer

Saddler

Sculptor

Signwriter/Signmaker

Stage/Set Designer

Spatial Designer

Stained Glass Designer

Tailor/Dressmaker

Technical Illustrator

Textile Designer

Textile Technician

Toymaker

Wallpaper Designer

Weaver

Woodturner

## Marketing, Media, Print and Publishing

Advertising Account Executive

Advertising Art Director

Advertising Creative Copywriter

Advertising Media Planner/Buyer

Agent/Manager

Animator  
Art Editor  
Assistant Director  
Audio-visual Technician  
Brand Manager  
Broadcast Journalist  
Copy Editor  
Event and Exhibition Organiser  
Fashion Model  
Games Designer  
Journalist  
Machine Printer  
Market Research Executive  
Marketing Manager  
Media Researcher  
Medical Photographer  
Multimedia Designer  
Photographer  
Photographic Stylist  
Photographic Technician  
Photojournalist  
Press Officer  
Print Finisher/Bookbinder  
Print Production Planner  
Publishing Commissioning Editor

Public Relations Officer  
Publishing Editor  
Reprographic Assistant  
Retail Designer  
Sales Manager  
Sales Representative  
Screen Printer  
Software Designer  
Special Effects Technician  
TV/Film Camera Operator  
TV/Film Director  
TV/Film Editor  
TV/Film Floor Manager  
TV/Film Producer  
TV/Film Production Assistant  
TV/Film Runner  
Typographer  
Website Designer  
Writer

**Performing Arts & Music**

Actor  
Band Manager  
Choreographer  
Circus Performer

Dancer  
Entertainer  
Film Maker  
Front of House/Management  
Lighting Director/Technician  
Make-up Artist  
Musician/Session Musician  
Music Agent  
Music Journalist  
Music Producer  
Music Promoter  
Music Publisher  
Music Retail  
Prop Maker  
Recording Artist  
Script Writer  
Set Painter/Decorator  
Singer  
Songwriter  
Sound Engineer  
Stagehand  
Stage Manager  
Theatre Director  
Wardrobe Assistant  
Voice Coach

## Useful Contacts

### HEREFORD COLLEGE OF ARTS

Folly Lane  
Hereford  
HR1 1LT  
Tel: 01432 273 359  
[www.hca.ac.uk](http://www.hca.ac.uk)

### GENERAL ENQUIRIES

[enquiries@hca.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@hca.ac.uk)

### FURTHER EDUCATION COURSE ENQUIRIES

[fecourses@hca.ac.uk](mailto:fecourses@hca.ac.uk)

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

[finance@hca.ac.uk](mailto:finance@hca.ac.uk)

### LEARNING SUPPORT

[learningsupport@hca.ac.uk](mailto:learningsupport@hca.ac.uk)

### REGISTRY (ADMISSIONS)

[registry@hca.ac.uk](mailto:registry@hca.ac.uk)

### SCHOOLS (CONTACT FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES)

[schools@hca.ac.uk](mailto:schools@hca.ac.uk)

### STUDENT HOUSING

[housing@hca.ac.uk](mailto:housing@hca.ac.uk)

### STUDENT LIAISON OFFICER (STUDENT UNION)

[studentunion@hca.ac.uk](mailto:studentunion@hca.ac.uk)

### TRAVEL ASSISTANCE (HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL)

Tel: 01432 260 000  
[www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk)

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