

## Introduction

As a specialist creative arts school, Hereford College of Arts (HCA) offers a distinctive and highly individual student experience.

Small class sizes, high levels of teaching intensity, and 'personalised' studio spaces create an enriched learning environment and opportunities for collaborations across our HE courses and campus. The College is interested in your individual ideas and unique direction as a creative artist. Each course offers plenty of tutor contact time as well as opportunities for student and staff research including 'live projects' which provide you with experience of working as a creative practitioner.

We have a history of excellence in teaching and learning as evidenced through our outstanding NSS scores and 'silver' teaching excellence award. We offer a wide range of learning experiences, from the green learning spaces of Hay Festival through to discipline-specific technical workshops, and we are connected to the world through our wide range of external partners. Optional events such as 'open' lectures from A-list practitioners add to your experience and many of our tutors and technicians maintain their own creative practice alongside their role as specialist subject teachers and or technical demonstrators. This practical guide includes course-level

information, as well as information on areas such as accommodation costs and financial support and although some of the information will be relevant to current HCA students, the guide is designed to help you as a prospective student make an informed decision about which course you would like to study.

The following information aims to provide a short and accessible snapshot of the BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing course at Hereford College of Arts. To find out more please look on our website or contact course staff.

If you are intrigued by what we do, why not attend one of our open days or taster days and talk to current students about their personal experiences of life at HCA.

#### **BA (Hons) Open Days**

Held at our College Road Campus \*Not including Artist Blacksmithing

Wed 4th Oct 2017 - 11am Sat 4th Nov 2017 - 11am Wed 15th Nov 2017 - 11am Thurs 25th Jan 2018 - 4pm Wed 28th Feb 2018 - 11am Wed 2nd May 2018 - 11am Sat 9th June 2018 - 11am

Cross College Open Events Explore both our Folly Lane and College Road Campuses

> Sat 4th Nov 2017 Sat 9th June 2018

#### **Artist Blacksmithing Open Days**

At our College Road Campus Including a visit to the forge

Tue 10th Oct 2017 Tue 31st Oct 2017 Tue 28th Nov 2017 Tue 23rd Jan 2018 Tue 6th Mar 2018

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www.hca.ac.uk

## BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing

The course is **validated** by the University of Wales Trinity St David (UWTSD)

Start - September 2018 Finish - June 2021

You will be given a Course Handbook at the start of the year and Module Handbooks at the beginning of each semester. The handbooks provide detailed information about the course including assessment requirements and deadlines.

#### Who should I contact?

**Delyth Done** 

Course Leader: D.Done@hca.ac.uk

Or enquiries@hca.ac.uk

Website: www.hca.ac.uk/artistblacksmithing

Instagram: herefordanvils

#### Where will I study?

Our studios, and the majority of teaching takes place at our College Road campus in Hereford. This is located within walking distance of the city centre in a quiet residential area. Additional dedicated workshops for metal and ceramic working are located at our sister campus, a 15-minute walk or 5-minute drive away.

You will also be timetabled to the forges at the National School of Blacksmithing based at Holme Lacy Campus. There is a 15 minute drive between CRC and Holme Lacy campus and you'll be timetabled to spend either half days or full days at either campus. Students either share transport or cycle between campuses.



## BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing

#### Is the course full-time or part-time?

The course is offered full-time only.

#### What is the average class size?

We aim to enrol 18-24 students per class.

#### Is there a work placement?

During your second year (Level 5) you will organise and complete an appropriate period of professional work experience outside the environs of the college.

Many of our students choose to work with professional smiths both nationally and internationally. Alternatively, you may choose to investigate the possibility of a placement in a number of arts organisations such as arts workshops, specific community projects, art co-operatives, galleries and museums.

This will not affect the length or structure of the course and we try to be as flexible as possible to suit your individual needs.

## What kind of housing and accommodation is on offer?

HCA offers accommodation in Halls of Residence and shared Student Houses, arranged through local landlords.

Houses available to students are of a good standard and we require local landlords who provide housing to our students through the College to join an accreditation scheme to ensure that they have a professional level of training as landlords.

## What kind of support might be given in finding housing?

The College has a Housing Adviser who can give further advice by phone, email or in person.

www.hca.ac.uk/Students/Student-Housing housing@hca.ac.uk



#### Distinctive Features

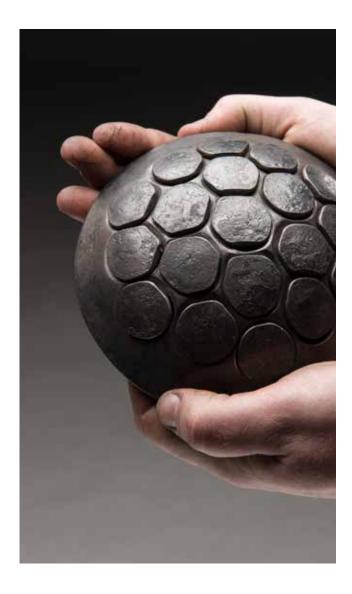
#### What are the distinctive course features?

- This course has an international reputation for its place at the forefront of education in forged metal design. Our graduates create original and cohesive bodies of work in hot, forged metal.
- You will engage not only with the traditional blacksmith's concern for material, process, and function, but also with many broader cultural, environmental and socio-political conversations.
- You can explore a breadth of practice from architectural design to interior product and sculpture. The syllabus for this degree is constantly evolving to meet the demands of a vibrant industry.
- You will be encouraged to engage with both the theoretical concepts and the practical concerns that drive contemporary forged metal design.
- You will develop traditional making skills, and also gain an understanding of digital fabrication.
- You will be given practical opportunities to learn so that you acquire the right balance of technical skills and personal attributes needed to create a sustainable practice once you've graduated.
- You will be part of a respected programme, at the forefront of contemporary forged metalwork practice.
- You will be part of a dynamic and vibrant College of Arts where your design skills will be tested, honed and developed.
- You will receive specialist forging and metalwork skills training at the National School of Blacksmithing.
- You will curate and exhibit your work in a professional environment.

- You will benefit from close relationships with other major international institutions, including the University of Gothenburg, HDK Steneby, Sweden, and the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale USA.
- You will have opportunities to work to commission on external live briefs and develop experience of working to client requirements.

#### Where could this lead?

- This programme will support you in becoming an independent, critically aware forged metal designer with an innovative design led creative practice and a range of proficient business management skills.
- Many graduates develop careers as selfemployed practitioners, producing and selling work within the domestic and architectural fields and also through galleries and public arts commissions.
- Opportunities in the creative arts include consultancy, community arts, teaching and artist residencies.
- Many graduates continue with their professional studies, either by becoming journeymen working for smiths across the world or by progressing to Masters Level study.
- As part of an international community of artist blacksmiths, you will have the opportunity to define and redefine the cultural position of forged metal design.



#### Distinctive Features

#### What skills will I learn?

Forged metal design and making skills, techniques and processes are highly specific and your knowledge here will open up pathways to innovate and experiment within your discipline.

You will have the skills to:

- Produce forged metal objects, artefacts and products that demonstrate creative development and innovation.
- Utilise new technologies alongside traditional approaches and techniques in forged metal.
- Critically evaluate and make appropriate use of the interaction between intention, process, outcomes, and context and make informed choices when selecting techniques and methodologies in the pursuit of innovative forged metal outcomes.
- Demonstrate professional and entrepreneurial skills appropriate for sustaining practice in a professional sphere.
- Set, negotiate, and meet objectives and deadlines.
- Have a critical awareness of contemporary debates regarding practice-based research within forged metal design including theoretical engagement with cultural, historical and social issues.
- Be able to analyse problems objectively and critically using the main theoretical and practical perspectives underpinning the contemporary forged metal design industry practices and employ appropriate research methodologies and strategies.

- Demonstrate an understanding of design and forged metal processes. In addition, demonstrate the ability to apply this knowledge appropriately and with confidence.
- Employ both convergent and divergent critical thinking skills.
- Generate ideas, concepts, proposals, solutions or arguments independently and/or collaboratively in response to negotiated briefs and self-initiated activity pertinent to their emerging forged metal practice.
- Research and analyse complex information using a variety of sources and references.
- Select appropriate styles of written, visual, and oral communication for complex tasks and purposes within their forged metal practice.
- Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.
- Develop knowledge and understanding and to evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses in order to make informed critical judgements on how to improve performance.

#### What extra opportunities are there at HCA?

As student practitioners at the forefront of this discipline you will get the opportunity to:

- Work with international blacksmiths across the world
- Attend our 'Masters of Metal' lecture series profiling a range of national and international forged metal designers and artists; recent contributors have included Francisco Gazitua from Chile, Fred Truus from Estonia and Patrick Quinn from USA.
- Participate in specialist masterclasses from industry professionals. Recent contributors have included Roberto Giordani from Italy and Jake James from Canada.
- Apply for our Artist Blacksmithing student exchange programme at either University of Gothenburg, HDK Steneby, Sweden, and the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale USA.

"90% of Hereford College of Arts students were overall satisfied with their course with 93% rating the quality of teaching on their course, 93% were very satisfied with their learning opportunities and 90% were satisfied with the level of access to staff."

NSS 2017

## Requirements

## What qualifications do I need to enrol on this course?

We welcome applications from students from a range of educational backgrounds and areas of expertise. Contact us if you would like to discuss your individual requirements or be given advice about how to prepare yourself for interview.

You should normally be 18 years of age by 31st December in the year of entry.

#### What if my first language is not English?

Applicants whose first language is not English must achieve Level B2 in an approved secure English Language test prior to enrolment.

For further details, please visit the UK Visa and Immigration website: https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/overview

You may be asked to complete a short written exercise after your portfolio interview.

## What if I have related work experience or academic credit from another institution?

If you can demonstrate equivalent evidence of learning, from the workplace and other environments then this can be used to count towards your entry qualifications.

At HCA we refer to this as accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL) or accreditation of prior learning (APL). If you believe that you have evidence of APL/APEL, then please contact registry: registry@hca.ac.uk who will advise you of the process you will need to undertake.

To be accepted on the course you will need to have a successful portfolio interview, and meet **one** of the following criteria:



# FOUNDATION DIPLOMA

In Art & Design Pass or Merit



**RELATED EXPERIENCE** 

#### What can I expect from a portfolio interview?

We interview all students, and treat this opportunity as your first tutorial.

You will have the opportunity to talk about your work with a tutor as part of an ongoing conversation that develops over your degree journey. We are particularly interested in finding out what inspires and informs your portfolio work.

We will discuss your personal learning requirements and occupational health as part of the interview process.

#### Can I apply through routes other than UCAS?

All full time applications must go through UCAS. However, if an applicant is an internal HCA college level applicant and they only want to apply to HCA for a degree course, then they can complete an internal RPA application form. The College will then process this with UCAS on their behalf, if they accept their place. This form/process cannot be used if applicants wish to apply to a number of institutions.

Part time undergraduate applications are made direct to the College on our HCA PT application form.

#### Where is further help available?

Further help for undergraduate applications can be found on the UCAS website: www.ucas.com Alternatively, applicants can contact registry@hca.ac.uk

## Course Structure

#### How is the course organised?

The course is modular in structure and delivered across two semesters at each level. (See module map)

In the first year (Level 4) you will study 6 x 20 credit modules if full-time.

You can find more detailed information about what you will study in each module on our course pages on the college website www.hca.ac.uk/artistblacksmithing

#### Are there any option modules?

- We offer you the opportunity to undertake option modules, which start half-way through semester one. This gives you time to consider what you would like to study, and for the college to confirm which option modules will be available (subject to numbers).
- Students are chosen to participate in option modules on the basis of a reflective statement and conversations with their course area leader to ensure that the option module you choose will support you in your creative journey.
- For academic year 2017-18, option modules are available to 2nd Year students only.
- Opportunities to undertake option modules may be affected by your timetable at the Holme Lacy forges.



## Module Map

#### **Module Map**

This module map provides a list of the modules you will study on the Course at Levels 4, 5 and 6 as a full-time student. It also gives you information regarding the credit rating of each module, weighted assignment assessment requirements and the semester in which the module is delivered.

#### Full-Time: Level 4

Module Title	Level	Credits	Compulsory/ Optional	Semester	Assessment Details
Practice in Context 1	4	20	Compulsory	1&2	Component 1-50% Coursework Essay (2,000- 2,500 words) Component 2-50% Coursework Essay (2,000- 2,500 words)
Drawing for Forged Metal Design	4	20	Compulsory	1	Component 1-100% Portfolio of Work
Introduction to Forge & Fabrication Processes	4	20	Compulsory	1	Component 1-100% Body of Work
Practice Based Design Methodologies	4	20	Compulsory	2	Component 1-100% Body of Work
Design & Make 1 - Forged Metals	4	20	Compulsory	2	Component 1-100% Body of Work
Introduction to Digital Design & Making	4	20	Optional	2	Component 1-100% Body of Work

#### Full-Time: Level 5

Module Title	Level	Credits	Compulsory/ Optional	Semester	Assessment Details
Practice in Context 2	5	20	Compulsory	1&2	Component 1-50% Coursework Essay (2,000- 3,000 words) Component 2-50% Coursework Essay (2,000- 3,000 words)
Design & Make 2 - Forged Metals	5	20	Compulsory	1	Component 1-100% Body of Work
Advanced Forged Processes	5	20	Compulsory	1	Component 1-100% Portfolio of Work
Professional Practice 1	5	20	Compulsory	2	Component 1-50% Personal Development Plan Component 2-50% Work Experience
Design & Make 3 - Forged Metals	5	20	Compulsory	2	Component 1-100% Body of Work
Advanced Digital Design and Visualisation	5	20	Optional	2	Component 1-100% Body of Work

#### Full-Time: Level 6

Module Title	Level	Credits	Compulsory/ Optional	Semester	Assessment Details
Practice in Context 3	6	30	Compulsory	1&2	Component 1-100% Coursework Essay (6,000-8,000 words)
Design & Make 4 - Forged Metals	6	30	Compulsory	1	Component 1-100% Body of Work
Professional Practice 2	6	20	Compulsory	1&2	Component 1-50% Business Plan Component 2-50% Coursework
Design & Make 5 - Forged Metals	6	40	Compulsory	2	Component 1-100% Body of Work

#### Course Structure

#### How will my work be assessed?

The course provides you with opportunities to test your understanding of the subject informally before you complete the formal assessments that count towards your final mark.

As a student at Hereford College of Arts, most of your assessment will be formative, through frequent learning conversations that help you develop your individual creative practice. Depending on the particular needs of each module, these could be:

- Group or individual discussions about your work
- Written feedback
- Individual tutorials
- Technical conversations with workshop practitioners

and effective form of assessment used for many years in the 'art school') to assess your work and give you instant feedback.

not assess through written examination.

#### What happens if I need to re-take a module?

We will talk to you about how we can best support you, and will follow UWTSD taught award regulations. These can be found in the Academic Quality Handbook: http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/ academic-quality-handbook/

#### How is the course graded?

First Class Honours

70-100%

Upper Second

Class Honours

60-69%

Lower Second Class Honours

50-59%

Third Class 40-49%

MIN 35%

We also use the 'group critique' (a very well established

There is a formal or 'summative' assessment point at the end of each module. Assessment methods include a range of coursework assessments such as essays, reports, portfolios, performance, presentations and your final year major project. The grades from summative assessments count towards your module mark.

All of our assessments are from coursework. We do



#### How will I explore my subject?

Your learning will be largely hands-on and experimental with a focus on your individual ideas and personal trajectory as a creative undergraduate. You will explore your creative practice in terms of wider concepts and ideas. You will experience high levels of teaching intensity in a range of environments, and all our courses use employers or established practitioners as expert advisors for certain modules.

Our teaching and learning is distinctively 'arts school'. You will develop a high level of technical skills specific to your discipline alongside evolving transferable skills that are sought after by employers.

ADAPTABILITY
ARTICULACY
COLLABORATION
CURIOSITY
PROBLEM SOLVING
CREATIVE & CRITICAL THINKING



You will learn these skills through doing and engaging with:

**Live projects** including assignments set with employers or established practitioners which offer the opportunity to work within commercial constraints and timescales.

Cross-college collaborative events including invitations to participate in workshops or lectures delivered by well-known external speakers or work in collaboration with students on different courses.

Work experience placements and internships involving assessed and non-assessed opportunities to work in a real-life creative arts environment.

Inter-disciplinary practice-led-research activities in which all students can attend technical inductions, experiment with techniques and use workshop facilities from across our wide range of specialist disciplines.

#### How will I be taught?

All teaching delivered on the course is designed to support the development of individual and independent learning and is organised as:

- Supported: taught time, such as lectures, seminars, tutorials etc. where students are offered direct support for their learning by staff.
- Directed: where students are carrying out tasks under the overall direction of staff, often with support available (e.g. library research, use of workshops etc.).
- Independent: study or activity completely independent of tutors (e.g. additional reading, visiting exhibitions, professional networking, etc.).

You will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, technical workshops and small group or individual studio tutorials.

As a minimum level of tutorial support all students are entitled:

- To have a planned induction programme which will prepare you for your chosen course of study and provide appropriate information about the College, the course and the range of support services available to you.
- To have access to at least one formally recorded and countersigned individual academic tutorial per semester appropriate to the specific mode of learning.

- To receive feedback on all summative assessments including verbal and written commentary.
- To give or be given reasonable notice of your scheduled personal tutorial sessions.
- To be referred, where necessary, to specialist learning support services provided by the College.
- To be given access to impartial, comprehensive and up-to-date advice about professional practice, career planning, employment and educational opportunities relevant to your needs and aspirations.

#### Will I be expected to learn independently?

When not attending timetabled sessions you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. Typically, this will involve working in the studio, reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library, or practice-led research in the workshops, and preparing coursework assignments and presentations.

Your independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities, including the library, staffed workshops, studio spaces and drop-in study support sessions.



#### What on average will be my overall workload?

You will study 120 credits at each level of the course. At Level 4 and 5 you will study 6 x 20 credit modules and at level 6 a combination of 4 modules with credit values between 20 to 40 credits.

Each credit taken requires 10 hours of study with 120 level credits equating to 1200 study hours per academic year and therefore approximately 40 hours per week across 2 x 15 week semesters. This includes supported, directed and independent study and as a full time student we will expect you to devote 5 days per week to your study commitments.

The following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different learning activities at each level of the course: Level 4: 28% of your time is spent in scheduled teaching and learning activities.

Teaching, learning and assessment: 340 Hours Independent Learning: 860 Hours

Level 5: 27% of your time is spent in scheduled teaching and learning activities.

Teaching, learning and assessment: 320Hours Independent Learning: 880 Hours

Level 6: 12% of your time is spent in scheduled teaching and learning activities.

Teaching, learning and assessment: 147 Hours Independent Learning: 1053 Hours

#### When will I be given my timetable?

Timetables are given out at the start of each year and each module. However, at interview we can give you an indicative outline of the days of attendance and professional expectations of the course.

Please contact our staff to discuss your particular requirements and to find out more about managing your time during your degree-level study.



#### What extra support might I get?

HCA has a track record of providing excellent support for all our students.

Study Plus is a drop-in service which provides you with opportunities to work on your communication skills, time management, higher level thinking skills, research projects and writing techniques facilitated by support and advice from qualified teaching staff. This service runs during term-time only. Opening hours are available at the start of each semester.

If you have a Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) in place you can access specialist support. This support is provided in various ways, such as individual tutorials, mental health mentoring, or the use of assistive technology, and is funded through the DSA.

Any student who believes they have a difficulty and or disability and would like to investigate applying for DSA, or would like more information about our services is welcome to contact the HE learning support team at helearningsupport@hca.ac.uk

#### Who will teach me?

You will be taught by a number of experienced staff who are passionate about creative arts education and will support your development as an individual.

The course leader is **Delyth Done**, a leading figure in the international community of artist blacksmiths. The course team also includes:

- Ambrose Burne
- Holland Otik
- Victoria Powell
- Dermot Clarke
- Adrian Legge
- Adam Greenwell
- Henry Pomfret

More details can be found here: http://www.hca.ac.uk/About/Whos-Who/ArtistBlacksmith

You will also work with practicing forged metal designers who can offer advice and guidance in the workshops.

#### Changes to the course?

HCA will update information in this guide and also on the college website as soon as changes are confirmed, so that prospective students have the most up-to date information on which to base their decisions.



#### Financial Information

#### **Tuition Fees for the Duration**

£9,000 per Academic Year for home and EU students

£11,000 per Academic Year for overseas students

Tuition Fees may increase in future years as the UK Government policy changes.

All EU students starting in 2017 continue to be eligible for tuition fee funding even if the course ends after the UK has left the EU.

#### Are there bursaries available?

The College does offer bursaries as follows (these will be reviewed on an annual basis).

#### **Cash Bursary**

Students may qualify for a cash bursary of £1,000 in their first year only. To be eligible for this bursary a student must meet the following criteria:

The student must be ordinarily resident in England or the European Union. This student must be a new undergraduate starting Higher Education for the first time and be liable to pay the full £9,000 tuition fee. To be eligible the student must have a declared household income of less than £25,000 per year.

#### **Progression College Bursary**

All students who have studied either at Hereford College of Arts or one of its Progression Partner Colleges on a Further Education Course within the last 2 academic years are eligible for this bursary of £500 in their first year only.

Bursaries are paid to students in 3 instalments; 25% is payable in the Autumn Term, 25% in the Spring Term and 50% in the Summer Term. Satisfactory work, attendance and progress during the year are required to ensure all payments are made.

#### **Higher Education Hardship Fund**

The purpose of this fund is to provide exceptional support to students who are experiencing financial difficulty whilst studying. This support may provide assistance with travel, materials, rent or living costs. Students requesting assistance will be required to complete an application form detailing their financial circumstances and be able to show evidence of hardship. Students must of applied for, and be in receipt of, their full maintenance loan from Student Finance England, Wales or Northern Ireland before an application can be considered.

#### Can I borrow equipment as part of my course?

Our stores service can lend out equipment such as cameras and related photography equipment on a short-term basis.

#### What do course costs cover?

Printing and material costs are not covered by the course (print costs are subsidised by HCA). Accommodation is not included in course costs.

- You will need to pay for the purchase and maintenance of your own personal Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- You will need to purchase some basic Forging Tools before you join the course and as you move through the course you'll need to purchase/make additional tools.
- You will also need drawing materials throughout the course.

As part of the curriculum each year we offer educational visits both nationally and abroad. In some cases visits will be optional and will include a financial contribution from the student. During 2016-17 examples of optional opportunities included:

#### Amsterdam

In March 2017 students from all courses were given the opportunity to visit Amsterdam for a 4 day curated educational trip which cost £270. This figure included transfers, flights insurance and accommodation.

## Accommodation & Living Costs

#### Are there any halls of residence?

Halls of Residence are available for first years only. Halls are owned and managed by the college next door to HCA's College Road Campus, RNC (Royal National College for the Blind). Halls are directly next to the campus, less than 2 minutes' walk away.

#### How are these allocated?

Spaces are limited and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis by their landlords, RNC, except in exceptional circumstances.

What are the likely costs of accommodation in and around the location of study, including college and university-owned, and, where available, private accommodation?

Prices for 2017-18 are between £72.50 and £155 per week in Student Housing and the average price is £95 per week, including the main utility bills. All Student Housing is furnished accommodation and the majority of tenancies are 10 or 11 months long.

The current average prices for private accommodation in Hereford (as of 07/07/17) are: 1 bed house or flat £453 per month; 2 bed house or flat £705 per month (according to Zoopla). More information on private accommodation prices can be found here: https://www.zoopla.co.uk/market/hereford/

## What is the likelihood that students will get accommodation if they want it, and will this change over the academic years of the course?

The number of first years requiring accommodation varies each year. At the moment approximately 80% of first year students will be able to secure a place in Halls of Residence (next to College Road Campus, owned by RNC (Royal National College for the Blind)). Individual student houses are available for remaining first years, as well as second and third year students.

## What is the average cost of living in Hereford and how does this compare with other areas?

Almost all of the accommodation available through HCA's Student Housing service includes the main utility bills, so that students know exactly how much they are paying throughout the year. The cost of living in Hereford is approximately 6.2% lower than the average cost of living in the UK. More information can be found here: https://www.salaryexpert.com/costoflivingdata/united-kingdom/hereford

#### Where is further help available?

Please visit the Student Housing pages on our website www.hca.ac.uk/Students/Student-Housing or email our Housing Adviser at housing@hca.ac.uk.

