

HCA

**KEY INFORMATION**

# **ARTIST BLACKSMITHING**



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# Key Information for the BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Degree starting in 2022/23

**About this document:** This key Information gives you a summary of the core characteristics of the BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Degree at HCA. Students may have learnt about this course from multiple sources: the college website, the college prospectus, and from conversations with staff and students for example, but we want to ensure that students have this overview for reference at any time during their studies with us as a record of the service we are agreeing to provide when a student accepts our offer of a place.

**Award:** The qualification that a student will receive upon successful completion of the programme is a BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Degree. This means that the award will be a Bachelor of Arts 'with honours'.

If a student does not complete the course, they may be eligible for a Certificate or Diploma of Higher Education.

**Validating Body:** The BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Degree is validated by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. However, the course has been designed and is delivered by Hereford College of Arts.

**Regulatory Body:** Hereford College of Arts is registered with the Office for Students (OfS) to deliver Higher Education. The OfS is an independent public body which reports to Parliament through the Department for Education <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk>. (Their aim is to ensure that every student, whatever their background, has a fulfilling experience of higher education that enriches their lives and careers.)

**Length of Course:** The standard and minimum length of this course is as follows:

COURSE	STANDARD/MINIMUM LENGTH OF THE COURSE
BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Full-time	3 years

Students will need to complete the course to gain the award.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

All students need to be at least 18 years of age at the start of the course. Applicants will normally have an interview where they will present a portfolio of work. The interview can be conducted in person or remotely. This will be a supportive process where guidance will be given on the strengths and areas for improvement.

We normally expect applicants to have achieved 80 UCAS points at entry. Whilst qualifications are important, our offers are not solely based on academic results. We may make offers based on other evidence of talent or suitability for the course. Applicants who do not satisfy the normal entry requirement but offer other qualifications and or relevant experience will be considered on an individual basis subject to satisfactory information being provided at interview.

Applicants whose first language is not English and require a student visa must achieve Level B2 in an approved Secure English Language Test (SELT) prior to enrolment. For further guidance, please visit the UK Visa and Immigration website <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Your offer letter will include any requirements specific to your offer. Our Admissions Policy can be found here; <https://www.hca.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Admissions-Policy-Apr-2021.pdf>

## **CORE MODULES**

All programmes of study are made up of modules. Some modules are comprised of two or more assignments. Modules have a credit value that contribute to the achievement of the qualification. Each module has its own syllabus, handbook and assessment. In order to pass each year, you need to achieve 120 credits. Modules vary in size from 20 credits to 60 credits.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE:

From your first day at HCA you will work as a creative, developing your skills and your own voice through a series of projects. You will develop your creative practice, practical skills alongside your critical awareness and theoretical knowledge. You will study a range of modules that build your knowledge and confidence and total 120 credits each year.

Over the course of your studies you will emerge as creative, agile, resilient and adaptable graduates with excellent problem-solving and transferable skills who are able to confidently apply research skills to keep themselves up-date with emerging developments and technologies in the field.

You will study the following modules:

<b>BA (HONS) ARTIST BLACKSMITHING Level 4 (Year 1) Full time</b>		
<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Description</b>
<b>Practice in Context 1</b>	20	<p>The module provides an introduction to the work of key practitioners in artist blacksmithing and related crafts, both past and present, across various genres of practice, to give students a broad overview of the historical development of the discipline and of the contexts which enable the work to be understood and assessed.</p> <p>The range of contexts examined in this module might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biographical: artist's intentions and personal factors relevant to understanding the work</li><li>• Historical: political, social and cultural issues being addressed, direct and indirect influences of the historical environment</li><li>• Technological: factors related to development of the technology of creative production</li><li>• Art historical: precedents, influences, and relationships with contemporaries working in the same field</li><li>• Social: relationships, both individual and general, relevant to understanding the work</li><li>• Ethical factors relevant to understanding and evaluating the work</li><li>• Cultural: values and beliefs implicit in the work derived from the cultural environment, intentionally or unintentionally included.</li></ul> <p>Students will be introduced to the context and genres within which artists and craft workers operate and the cultural and social significance of their practice. When appropriate students will be encouraged to relate past work to current issues and practices.</p>

<b>Practice 1</b>	30	<p>During this module students will be introduced to and develop an understanding of learning methods and the fundamental aspects of designing and making. This will include exploring the Design and Making process and through project based learning and application of design principles they will effectively communicate their ideas through designing and making .</p> <p>Students will explore and develop the ability to initiate, develop, reflect upon and evaluate 'ideas' test possibilities, and focus &amp; present objects, artefacts or products</p>
<b>Foundations for Learning</b>	20	<p>The foundations for learning element seeks to enable all students to thrive at HCA and beyond. It is an induction into a range of aspects of learning in an Arts School, including; academic skills, note taking skills, research skills, collaboration skills, fundamental IT skills, understanding the course structure, understanding assessment, how to give and take critical feedback, self-reflection, evaluation, time management, independent learning, staying safe, relationships and consent, sustainability in the creative sector.</p> <p>The module will aim to start students journey towards being reflexive practitioners who are able to identify their subjective relationship with the objective world, to be curious about who they are, how they have been constructed by outside influences and moulded by institutional attitudes, and how they negotiate this process to find their own voice and values.</p> <p>It also aims to introduce students to the broad range of student support services within our institution, learning resources, academic skills and learning support.</p>
<b>Practice 2</b>	30	<p>During this module, students will continue to develop an understanding of learning methods and fundamental aspects of designing and making. This will include further exploring the Design and Making process and through project based learning and application of design principles they will effectively communicate their ideas through designing and making.</p> <p>Students will continue explore and develop the ability to initiate, develop, reflect upon and evaluate 'ideas' test possibilities, and focus &amp; present objects, artefacts or products.</p>
<b>Skills 1</b>	20	<p>Throughout this module students will participate in an extensive range of Process Workshops designed to teach Forge, Fabrication and Welding skills including health and safety inductions.</p> <p>In addition, students will attend a wide range technical and skills workshops that will introduce them to other tools, materials and processes key to designing and making. These will give them the opportunity to explore and experiment with diverse materials, and to understand the various characteristics inherent through their manipulation and application. Students will also build on</p>

		this material knowledge to develop skills and basic understanding of traditional techniques and to acquire skills in manipulation of a range of traditional and non-traditional materials.
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<b>BA (HONS) ARTIST BLACKSMITHING Level 5 (Year 2) Full time</b>		
<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Description</b>
<b>Practice in Context 2</b>	20	<p>The teaching programme will provide an introduction to a number of theoretical approaches which will help students extend their understanding of how creative practice can be critically understood (meaning) and evaluated (value).</p> <p>Topics to be covered might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical reading, writing and thinking</li> <li>• Reading crafts as text: semiotics, context, culture and myth</li> <li>• Meaning, critical perspective, voice and reflexivity</li> <li>• Phenomenological approaches to meaning, embodiment and affect</li> <li>• Social identity theory and taste, interest and preference</li> <li>• Social meanings of things: what are craft and jewellery for? How do they change us?</li> <li>• Evocative objects: memory, narrative, collections and museums</li> <li>• The craftsman's life: (non-)alienation, engagement, quality and craftsmanship</li> <li>• Originality and its limitations: individuality, talent, novelty, tradition and context</li> <li>• Role of the craftsman in the contemporary world: what is it?</li> <li>• Aesthetics, form, tactility and experience</li> <li>• Theories of process: issues around method, rationality, ambiguity, chance, accident, associative thinking and appropriation</li> </ul>
<b>Practice 3</b>	30	<p>During this module, students will continue to hone and develop an understanding of learning methods and fundamental aspects of designing and making. This will include further exploring the Design and Making process and through project based learning and application of design principles they will effectively communicate their ideas through designing and making.</p> <p>Students will continue explore and develop the ability to initiate, develop, reflect upon and evaluate 'ideas' test possibilities, and focus &amp; present objects, artefacts or products.</p> <p>Students will respond to a set brief; briefs may include site specific/ product or client-led brief or a live project. Clients may contribute to the design and delivery of the module depending on the nature and scope of the live brief. The parameters will be clearly set out at the commencement of the module. External</p>

		visits to specific locations depending on the nature and scope of the set brief. Topics within seminars and discourse sessions will include exploring the specific design problems identified within the specified set brief, developing professional networks, professionalism and client interaction and outsourcing.
<b>Skills 2</b>	20	<p>This module will further reinforce students' knowledge, skills and understanding of materials, processes and techniques and tools. Students will negotiate, with tutorial support, a proposal for an in-depth investigation into specific tools, processes, materials pertinent to a student's emerging practice. Technical research, practical experimentation and analysis will be evidenced through test results/samples and documentation in a technical file. In addition, students will participate in a series of advanced process workshops including advanced Fusion 360 digital tools to support their emerging practice.</p> <p>Areas of exploration could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forming; raising, carving, modelling, throwing, casting, repoussé</li> <li>• Texturing; punching, incising, embossing, sprigging, patterning</li> <li>• Connecting; clasps, settings, multiples and repeats, hinging</li> <li>• Finishing; surfaces, coatings. glazing, colouring, photo-etching, printing</li> <li>• Specialist techniques, craft skills</li> <li>• Understanding and producing effective working specifications/drawings/patterns</li> </ul>
<b>Practice 4</b>	30	<p>During this module, students will initiate, develop, reflect upon and evaluate 'ideas' test possibilities, and focus &amp; present objects, artefacts or products. Students will in consultation with their module tutors, will undertake negotiated brief(s) pertinent to their emerging design practice. Seminars will develop professional and entrepreneurial skills appropriate for sustaining practice in a professional sphere. At the end of the module, students will critically review their practice and articulate their research trajectory.</p> <p>Topics within seminars and discourse sessions will include; Professional approaches employed by practitioners for developing and sustaining practice in a professional sphere.</p>

<b>Professional Practice 1</b>	20	<p>During this module, students will develop professional skills through independently negotiating, organising and completing an appropriate period of professional work experience.</p> <p>Opportunities for professional work experience may include, live briefs, individual and group exhibitions, participating in national or international conferences, competitions, curation, commissions, designing and delivering a socially engaged community or schools project or undertaking placements in arts organisations such as arts workshops, art co-operatives, galleries etc.</p> <p>A series of visiting speakers, ranging from artist to professionals from creative organisations and education, will provide insightful advice into areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to approach individual creative or organisations.</li> <li>• What different creative professions entail.</li> <li>• Expectations in the workplace.</li> <li>• How to plan content for and deliver education / community based art projects.</li> <li>• Working to client commission/competition briefs.</li> <li>• Collectives/Collaboration/Networking Working with other people, How, why, what and when?</li> </ul> <p>Students will document and reflect on their professional work experience(s) and create a multi-media Professional Development Plan with supporting material for summative assessment.</p>
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<b>BA (HONS) ARTIST BLACKSMITHING Level 6 (Year 3) Full time</b>		
<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Description</b>
<b>Practice in Context 3</b>	20	<p>The content of this module differs for each student, as each undertakes a research project into a self-selected topic designed to help them make sense of their own specialist area of studio practice in terms of culture, context and critical theory.</p> <p>Working closely with an individual supervisor, students are guided to select a research topic that is both manageable and appropriate to their studio interests, and are helped both to locate and organise relevant sources and to construct a critical position informed by theory.</p> <p>The project is an exercise in largely self-directed academic research, but students receive tailored individual support and are given a series of target dates for reaching set stages of the project (eg, delivery of title and synopsis, first draft, and so on) to ensure they stay on track as they progress towards the final deadline.</p>
<b>Practice 5</b>	30	In consultation with their module tutors, students will generate a proposal and produce a sustained body of work of increasing



		<p>coherence, and resolve that demonstrates informed creative, technical and academic thinking. Throughout the module, students will keep a reflective journal in which they will critically reflect on their emerging practice. Seminars will develop professional and entrepreneurial skills appropriate for sustaining practice in a professional sphere.</p> <p>There is emphasis on research, critical thinking, and the production of a body of work to build a graduate portfolio and showcase their ability as designers to launch their professional careers.</p>
<b>Practice 6</b>	60	<p>Students will develop an autonomous approach to their practice that will focus on the ability to learn independently. Through critical analysis and evaluation, students will refine and resolve a final body of work that demonstrates informed creative, technical and academic thinking. Throughout the module, students will keep a reflective journal in which they will critically reflect on their practice. Topics within seminars and discourse sessions will include; Advanced approaches to making informed critical judgements in relation to resolved practice. Pertinent topics may include understanding markets, the value of networking, packaging and presentation and the articulation of advanced contemporary craft and making philosophy.</p> <p>At the end of this module students will have a graduate portfolio and curate a final exhibition to launch their professional careers</p>
<b>Professional Practice 2</b>	10	<p>Students will revisit and refine their Professional Development Plan and produce additional material to support the generation of their graduate portfolio including the development of social media and web presences, business identity (where appropriate) ensuring they appropriately prepared to launch their professional careers.</p> <p>A series of visiting speakers, ranging from artist to professionals from creative organisations and education, will provide insightful advice into areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The employment landscape (portfolio careers, the gig economy etc)</li> <li>• Copyright Law, licensing, contracts, T&amp;C's, insurance, taxation, NI How, why, what and when?</li> <li>• The differences between Self-employment and permanent employment Proactive/Reactive/business ownership/entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Ethics, Morality and their career, an overview of how the Media operates censorship &amp; self-censorship/audience/working ethically/sustainable choices</li> <li>• Representation online/ Social Media networking</li> </ul>

		<p>How, why, what and when? Consistency of brand, Effective and appropriate copy, quality of images</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CV writing skills/Letter of introduction writing/application writing skills</li><li>• Costing work/funding- writing applications and bids/budgeting Evaluating projects and clients/managing clients and employers</li><li>• Further study Postgraduate courses, Teaching courses</li></ul>
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## **COMPOSITION OF THE COURSE AND HOW THE COURSE WILL BE DELIVERED:**

The course is modular and is managed on a two-semester schedule totalling 31 weeks of tuition. The academic year begins in September and ends in June.

**Level 4:** the course defines Level 4 as induction and core generic skills acquisition

**Level 5:** applies the new skills gained at Level 4 in a range of appropriate contexts

**Level 6:** students specialise through individual learning programmes

The total length of the academic year is 33 weeks (including enrolment, induction and a reading week), with breaks for Christmas, Easter and Summer.

The course encourages students to approach their studies in a holistic manner and to integrate the knowledge, understanding and skill acquired in each module in order to produce work that is competent, innovative and creative. A contextual studies programme including forged metal and crafts history and critical theory provides a foundation of academic engagement.

Learning through doing, individuality, intellectual and creative space, communication skills, contextualisation, entrepreneurship and open access workshops underpin the structure and delivery of the programme throughout Level's 4, 5 and 6. Students learn to employ both convergent and divergent thinking in the process of research, observation and investigation through the designing and making of artefacts, prototypes and products.

**Learning Through Doing** - the programme is at its heart a practice-based degree with an emphasis on learning through doing. Analysis and reflection are fundamental to the course, with the intention of enabling students to sustain their practice independently after graduation.

**Individuality** - the programme encourages a breadth of practice; work can be designed and made with a wide range of materials combining innovative and traditional, time honoured techniques and processes.

**Intellectual and Creative Space** - group and individual tutorials and critiques underpin very open and flexible learning opportunities. Students are encouraged to explore and take speculative risks with their practice.

**Communication Skills** - critiques encourage students to express their opinions and ideas in written and visual presentations as well as verbally in one-to-one tutorial and peer group situations.

**Contextualisation** - the programme philosophy encourages an integration of theory and practice which is reinforced by the Masters of Metal and Gravity series of lectures, when visiting practitioners talk to both undergraduate and postgraduate students about their practice. Visitors are of both national and international standing. Students are also given the opportunity to show their work externally, enter competitions and make connections with practitioners and galleries.

**Open Access Workshops.** Students enrolled on the programme are able to access all workshops after initial inductions, which facilitates a growing inter-disciplinary approach to practice.

**Entrepreneurship** - Students participate in a series of seminars exploring current business practice and complete a fully costed business plan. They are also required to create a professional portfolio and develop an online digital presence. Students have an opportunity to hone their practice and complete a marketable body of work, and engage in peer discussions about the future direction of their practice and career.

Students will have access to College resources (studios, library, workshops, social areas) on week days during normal working hours and later on some days and at certain times of the year. Students may also have access to some of the resources in vacations, and current information on this is available by request.

Students are awarded 'credits' for the successful completion of a module, totalling 120 in each academic year. A single credit is defined as ten hours of study so a 20-credit module requires 200 hours of study in total. A student must successfully achieve 120 credits. 1200 hours of study in total.

The percentage of contact time devoted to differing learning environments depends on the individual module content, but the course seeks to use a wide variety of teaching methods wherever possible. Examples of teaching methods include, process inductions and workshops, demonstrations, lectures, presentations, master-classes, on-line learning activities, tutorials and seminar discussion groups.

Assessment is almost exclusively made by submission of course work in the form of a portfolio, although written essays and reviews plus presentations are also used. There are no timed, written examinations.

## TUITION FEES

The tuition fees for 2022/23 are outlined in the table below. For more information about applying for a tuition fee loan, please visit [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance).

Please note that this annual fee will remain unchanged for the 3-year duration of your course. However, following enrolment, students transferring to an alternative mode of study, repeating or retaking modules or suspending their studies, will need to confirm fees with the Finance Department.

COURSE	LEVEL	YEAR	FEES
BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing full time (UK/EU students with settled or pre settled status)	4	Year 1	£9,000
BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing full time (Overseas students and EU students)	4	Year 1	£13,500

EU students who have pre settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme will be eligible for a tuition fee loan only.

Please note that the Higher Education Student Finance portal normally opens in mid-February. The College would encourage students to submit their student finance application as soon as possible so funding is in place for when they start their course

**All students need to ensure that the funding is in place for their tuition fees and living costs prior to enrolment.**

### **PAYMENT, SERVICE DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE ARRANGEMENTS:**

- If the tuition fee is paid to the College via the Student Loans Company, it will be paid in 3 instalments – 25% in term 1, 25% in term 2 and 50% in term 3.
- If a student is paying their own tuition fees, students can pay in instalments by direct debit only. Students will be required to pay 1/3 of their annual tuition fees each term.
- Overseas students are required to pay their tuition fees in full by June prior to the commencement of their course.
- Any of the additional costs (see additional costs section) are collected via an online secure payment system.

## **ADDITIONAL COSTS**

Additional costs are directly related to your study but exclude accommodation and student's personal living costs. Further information about halls of residence and other accommodation available in Hereford is available on our website.

In addition to the tuition fees charged, the nature of creative arts practice means students will need to allow for some additional costs, for example, materials that they choose to use in the production of work and activities such as trips to external events and exhibitions. The courses at HCA have been designed to minimise the impact of additional costs; some trips and materials will be fully funded by the college or heavily subsidised. However, typically, a student will choose to spend around an additional £250 in the first year, £375 in the second year and £400 in their final year, depending on scale of work and materials chosen or other related costs. Students spend different amounts depending on the areas in which they specialise and individual choices. We appreciate that not all students will be able to invest the same money in their work and staff assessing it will not judge work by the cost of materials or other resources.

The college shop stocks specialist materials at competitive prices and digital equipment can be loaned from the media stores at no extra cost to students.

Students on all courses will also have the chance to take part in optional trips that require additional payment. Non-attendance on the trips will not incur assessment penalties, though trips are designed to help students develop their practice. There is an optional annual cross-course overseas residential trip. During the academic year 2019-20, the planned destination was Copenhagen and the cost to students was £385 for shared dormitory rooms which included UK airport transfers, overseas airport transfers and insurance.

Places on the optional trips are allocated on a first come first serve basis.

On completion of Level 6 (the final level of study), some students also choose to take part in an optional residential trip to London for one of the various graduate showcases (for instance Free Range). Decisions about these showcases are made by the college with students on an annual basis and costed according to differing showcase fees, numbers of students taking part and ambition of display. Students are required to contribute to financing this activity and are encouraged to take part in fundraising events and grant applications.

The College is committed to ensuring that students considering studying at HCA are fully aware of the possible additional costs.

Following enrolment, students that face genuine financial hardship may apply to the College Hardship Fund.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL COST BREAKDOWN

This table is an estimate of the costs a typical BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing student may face during each of the three years on the course.

The blue figures represent realistic costs for students who purchase materials at their average costs. The Yellow figures are hypothetical costs for those who are able to invest in additional resources pertinent to their emerging practice.

These are estimated annual figures unless specified.

LEVEL OF STUDY	LV4		LV5		LV6	
Adobe CC subscription for use outside of college hours (discounted by 70%) NB Adobe CC is free to use for any student working within the college.	£16.24 per month		£16.24 per month		£16.24 per month	
Print charges for course work and exhibition display work	£100	£200	£100	£300	£150	£400
External Blacksmithing events		£120		£120		£120
Metalwork Process consumables e.g. special sized material, tool steels, nonferrous materials	£40	£80	£80	£160	£80	£250
Fuel contribution costs on getting to and from Holme Lacy * does not including car or motorbike costs	£150	£150	£150	£150	£150	£120
Forge Consumables, grinding discs fixings and finishes	£25	£50	£25	£50	£50	£100
Forge Tools	£100	£150	£50	£400	£50	£400
PPE for Forging including steel toe cap boots and safety glasses and ear defenders	£60	£140	£60	£140	£60	£140
Web hosting and domain name registration						£50
Craft materials for artwork and maquette making e.g. paints, paper, sketchbooks, acrylic card drawing media	£50	£100	£50	£100	£80	£140
Level 6: External Exhibition for example New Designers, London (exhibition contribution & accommodation)					£400	£650

## **LOCATION OF STUDY**

Our degree courses are all based at our College Road Campus but several specialist workshops and performing spaces are located nearby on our Folly Lane Campus and degree level students often work between both sites.

BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing students will also work at the National School of Blacksmithing which is based in Holme Lacy, Hereford. Students will need to arrange their own travel provisions.

Much of a student's study will also involve working in different locations in the city and surrounding area.

## **LOCATIONS AND CONTACT DETAILS:**

- **College Road Campus:** Hereford College of Arts, College Road, Hereford. HR1 1EB.
- **Folly Lane Campus:** Hereford College of Arts, Folly Lane, Hereford. HR1 1LT.
- **The National School of Blacksmithing,** Holme Lacy, Hereford, HR2 6LL

**Telephone:** 01432 273359

**Fax:** 01432 341099

If you have any enquiries please contact our registry department: [registry@hca.ac.uk](mailto:registry@hca.ac.uk)

## **COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCESS**

Our full complaints policy can be found here; Our full complaints policy can be found here; <https://www.hca.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/student-complaints-policy-and-procedure.pdf>

Information relating to all academic regulations, including complaints procedures can be found via the UWTSd public website. <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/academic-quality-handbook/>

