



Key Information for the BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Degree starting in 2020/21

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 or perform an audition. In exceptional cases this can be conducted 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 tier 4 student visa must achieve Level B2 in an approved secure English Language test prior to enrolment. For further guidance please visit the UK Visa and Immigration website www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-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/HCA-Admissions-Policy-Procedures-2017.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:

BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Level 4 (Year 1) Full time		
Module Title	Credits	Module Description
Practice in Context One (Artist Blacksmithing)	20	<p>Practice in context modules provide incremental contextual learning over the three years of study. Context one provides an introduction to the history and context of practices relevant to the Artist Blacksmith. It also equips you with the study skills required to research, critically analyse and write about practice. The module explores history and contemporary developments in art, design and crafts in general and artist blacksmithing specifically, exploring the wider cultural and creative contexts in which practice is situated. You will be shown methods to identify and research primary and secondary sources - objects and texts; academic writing skills - undertaking a literature search, writing an abstract, draft and construct an essay, and how to reference sources.</p>
Drawing for Forged Metal Design	20	<p>Drawing is a fundamental activity for the forged metal designer. It is an essential means of recording observations, communicating information, exploring and testing of ideas and a procedure for examining the visual world in all its complexity. A good understanding of drawing, and the ability to visually articulate, will provide the basic single most valuable skill required to begin solving complex visual communication problems in the design process.</p> <p>It is essential that forged metal designers have the ability to employ drawing skills for a variety of contexts – some linked to technical requirements, others to design development. As such diverse approaches to drawing are explored including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Observed and explorative drawings reflecting investigation and experimentation using a range of drawing methods and materials - Basic technical drawings - Presentational /working drawings. - Modelling and construction methods within drawing to investigate extend and translate surface, shape and form
Introduction to Forge & Fabrication Processes	20	<p>This module provides you with an introduction to the technical Forge & Fabrication Processes that you'll be working with throughout the course (and career), forge skills, fabrication and welding skills will be taught throughout this module. Forge theory lecture topics will encompass basic metallurgy, critical temperatures, stock estimation and workshop calculations, joining techniques, fixed/moveable joints, workshop finishes and the outline history of ironwork.</p>

		<p>In addition to work at the forge, you will be set a number of tasks designed to develop an inquisitive and questioning approach to blacksmithing though using a range of materials including paper, wire, wood, plastic, clay, non-ferrous metals, copper, brass and aluminium.</p> <p>Technical research, practical experimentation and analysis are essential components; you need to keep a Technical Journal throughout this module.</p>
Practice Based Design Methodologies	20	<p>This module introduces you to practice based design methodologies - the ways creative ideas are generated and practice is developed. It looks at strategies or frameworks that can be adopted to enable the collection, analysis and application of information in order to answer a specific 'question, idea or hypothesis'. It also aims to establish that design and creativity are not solely evidenced according to the final outcomes made but also the creative journey travelled. This module makes the range of practice based research methodologies and the design process explicit through 'doing', student develop the fundamental skills of research, analysis and design through the creation of a body of work and written critical reflection, this provides the foundation of best practice for future modules.</p>
Design & Make One – Forged Metals	20	<p>The Design and Make modules provide a suite of learning experiences that reoccur over the three years of study. These build the development and advancement of core design skills and making techniques that develop increased autonomy in the development and creation of your work as you progress.</p> <p>The Design and Make 1 module provides an opportunity for you to develop design and making skills through the creation of a body of work whilst at the same time developing further your understanding of the design process journey. You will participate in range of design development tasks and work in workshops making artefacts, prototypes and products throughout the module.</p> <p>You will identify and expand your ideas through designing; develop and test ideas through material experimentation and model making; record the processes you have employed in a technical journal; and reflect on the design process that you have gone through by compiling a learning journal.</p> <p>At the end of the module, you will have a range of finished forged outcomes, design drawings, models and material samples that will be supported by a technical and learning journal.</p>

Introduction to Digital Design and Making	20	<p>Whilst the programme celebrates the rich making tradition of the blacksmith it also embraces new modes of designing and making. This module provides an introduction to digital design and manufacture and the exciting, quick and economic ways it provides to create hyper realistic visualisations of concepts; prototype designs through laser cutting and additive manufacture; and outsource production. You will complete a series of technical exercises using Autodesk's AutoCAD, developing skills that will enable you to develop your own projects from an initial sketch through to CAD drawings that will better communicate your ideas or allow you to export your files for laser cutting and 3D printing.</p> <p>The module covers an introduction to the Drawing area and use of Draw and Modify tool pallets on the ribbon; how to prepare and export a DXF file for use on the Laser cutter; introduction to the 3D Modelling workspace, Primitives and Solid modelling for exporting as files for 3D Printing; and an introduction to Fusion 360.</p>
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BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Level 5 (Year 2) Full time		
Module Title	Credits	Module Description
Practice in Context Two (Artist Blacksmithing)	20	Building on the learning developed in Practice in Context 1 this module introduces you to different theoretical approaches to extend your understanding of how blacksmithing practice and forged metal design and the broader context of material culture in which it operates can be critically understood and developed. Through lectures and seminars discourses around artefact's production and consumption are explored, themes such as the social and cultural meanings of things, materials and values, the role of the craftsman, and the value of creative practice are considered. Two written assignments present opportunity for you to apply research and critical analysis skills to considering meaning and value in relation to an artefact relevant to your practice.
Design & Make Two – Forged Metals	20	Building on the foundation of design and make skills developed in the first year module, Design and Make 2 extends the theoretical and making knowledge developed and considers it within a framework of production where you will consider creative ways to identify and mobilise ideas, test possibilities and focus on and present concepts. In the module you will explore your own personal creative interests through a personally defined project brief that starts to explore your own individuality and creative aspirations as a creative practitioner.
Advanced Forged Processes	20	This module focuses on the development of technical skills across a diverse range of materials applicable to the design and realisation of forged metal designs. You will learn through responding to a series of short materials based exercises. A multi material approach will be explored in the Queens Workshop and hot metal specific

		<p>understanding developed at the Forge, both are designed to develop an inquisitive and questioning approach to using a range of materials.</p> <p>In the Queens Workshop you will work with paper, card, copper, aluminium, and plastics, considering ways to think through and convey the material qualities and aesthetics of forged metal, and how innovation could be developed through combining these materials with forged iron and steel. At the Forge you will be introduced to advanced materials, processes and techniques. Practical forge techniques, fabrication processes and welding skills will be taught throughout this module, underpinned by weekly forge theory lecture topics that cover basic metallurgy, critical temperatures, stock estimation and workshop calculations, joining techniques, fixed/moveable joints, workshop finishes and the outline history of ironwork.</p>
Professional Practice One	20	<p>Whilst professional practice is discreetly touched upon in many previous modules, a duo of modules in years 2 and 3 deal directly with this subject. Professional Practice 1 concentrates on developing knowledge and experience of working in the creative industries, which you can use to inform your future career planning. The module requires you to organise, undertake and reflect upon a 'work experience' through either a traditional work placement with a company, individual artist/designer/maker or arts organisation, or, through engagement with professional practice in the public realm by curating an exhibition, organising a community arts project or undertaking a residency. Module content provides you with the skills to organise your own 'experience': visiting speakers provide insight into how to approach individuals/organisations for placement, or how to plan and deliver a community based art projects etc., seminars/workshops with peers and tutors unpack emergent speaker themes. You are not limited to the number of work-based learning experiences you engage with multiple experiences give richness. The professional experiences undertaken provide important material to populate your curriculum vitae, creating a distinctiveness t, from your undergraduate peers and that will provide prospective employers and/or commissioners with confidence in you.</p>
Design & Make Three – Forged Metals	20	<p>This module continues the developmental learning of the Design and Make modules, it provides an opportunity for you to develop your design and making skills through the creation of a body of work in response to a set design brief defined by an external client or organisation. Briefs may include a client-led commission for a site specific sculpture or product, or undertaking an external competition brief.</p>

		<p>Learning how to unpick, appreciate, understand and work with the client's sometimes complex requirements, and how to marry this with your own creative voice and values, will be key features of this module</p> <p>Existing and developing technical knowledge, process and skills enable you to drive ideas and concepts forward into working prototypes, artefacts and products, depending on the requirements of the set brief, further developing your professional working practices and experience of working to industry standards.</p>
Digital Design & Visualisation	20	<p>Converting creative thinking and 3D making skills into a financial income relies on your ability to sell your ideas visually to prospective customers and clients. This module focuses on preparing presentational drawings and imagery to communicate your designs, and the graphical skills to make your creative offer stand out to others.</p> <p>A core part of this learning takes place in a simulated professional pitch to a client, during which you will present the appropriate designs, drawings, costings, models etc., as well as your own in-depth research into a potential 'client', in order to win them over and secure your work with them.</p> <p>A range of drawing and graphical skills and software are explored including ways to create working drawings and specifications - Third angle or First angle projections, Isometric projection or oblique projection, design and image generation software – Photoshop, Fusion 360.</p>

BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Level 6 (Year 3) Full time		
Module Title	Credits	Module Description
Practice in Context Three: Dissertation (Artist Blacksmithing) (Dependent on which option is chosen)	30	<p>The final module in the trio of Practice in Context modules provides and opportunity for you to apply the research, critical analysis and written communication skills developed in previous modules to the undertaking of a dissertation into a self-selected topic, that, helps you make sense of your studio practice in terms of culture, context and critical theory. The dissertation is challenging but immensely rewarding and to guide you through the process you are assigned at dissertation tutor. The dissertation requires a prolonged immersion into the specific subject area chosen. It demands in depth research to identify relevant texts, extensive reading around the subject, the ability to critically analysing texts and formulate an argument, and, importantly to communicate your thesis through an extend piece of writing.</p>

Design & Make Four – Forged Metals	30	<p>This module expands and deepens your self-initiated design practice, increasing the focus and specificity of your work through the development of autonomous learning. It encourages creative risk-taking and exploration of new modes of expression. Through critical analysis and evaluation, you will investigate the potential in your design practice, producing a body of work that demonstrates intellectual enquiry, rigor, creativity and professionalism.</p> <p>The module commences with a critical review of your previous practice, this informs the writing of a project proposal. A learning journal is used as a space to identify aims and objectives, continually record contextual and practical research, and analyse and evaluate practice. ‘Real world’ professional skill such as time management and project costing skills are developed and evidenced through the work you make. Your final outcomes will demonstrate a high level of skill and understanding, conform to professional standards of design and making, and, provides the foundation for the final module.</p>
Professional Practice Two	20	<p>This module develops and enhances your professional practice skills in order to ensure that you are appropriately prepared for a career within the creative industries, and helps you to actively define your future career trajectory. Alternative employment models, from self-employment and freelance design working within private companies and public bodies operating within the creative industries, working in education etc., are all explored. The Module provides you with an understanding of, and confidence in, a range of areas - setting up a business, career/business planning, and personal development. You will understand the importance of self-promotion when preparing for your future - creating a portfolio, developing an online presence and making presentations to members of the creative industries.</p>
Design & Make Five – Forged Metals	40	<p>This final module will provide the intellectual and creative space for you to fully realise your design ambition evidenced through the production of a comprehensive and sophisticated body of work. Particular emphasis will be placed upon your ability to demonstrate a high level of professionalism and good project management; including the facility to work independently.</p> <p>The module requires you to ‘assemble’ a body of work that will underpin the next stage of your creative development and enable you to establish a professional career. Your design practice will clearly evidence appropriate levels of sophisticated research, highly resolved and finished outcomes will demonstrate an understanding of commercial opportunities and your place in the international context of design practice. Your final years practice will be immortalised in the creation of a professional portfolio which will be the basis for acquiring future employment opportunities upon graduation.</p>

Composition of the course and how the course will be delivered:

The course is modular and is managed on a two semester schedule, each of 15 weeks duration. 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 32 weeks (including enrolment, induction and a reading week), with breaks for Christmas, Easter and Summer.

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 2020/21 are outlined in the table below. For more information about applying for a tuition fee loan, please visit 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)	4	Year 1	£9,000
BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing full time (Overseas students)	4	Year 1	£12,500

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.

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 2018-19, the destination was Rome and the cost to students was £400.

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

Complaint handling process

Our full complaints policy can be found here; <https://hcalive.b-cdn.net/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>



