



BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Level 4 Tools and Equipment List

We're looking forward to welcoming you to BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing in September. To help you settle in and start the course with confidence, please arrive with the tools, clothing, and equipment listed below.

Our workshops include a wide range of shared resources, but there are some personal items you'll need to bring with you, especially when working at the National School of Blacksmithing. These will help you work safely, build confidence in the forge, and get the most from your practical sessions. The lists below outline the PPE and forging tools you'll need at the start of the course.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The National School of Blacksmithing will provide some safety glasses and ear defenders, but you'll also need to purchase the following items before you begin:

- **Appropriate forge clothing:** Please wear fire-resistant clothing, such as heavy cotton or fire-retardant materials. Loose-fitting clothing is recommended to help protect you from radiant heat. Shirts should cover at least to the elbow, although long sleeves to the wrist are preferable. Please avoid clothing with rips or tears.
- **Work boots:** Steel toe-capped boots are required in the forge and must be worn at all times during practical work.
- **Trousers** should cover the ankle area to help reduce the risk of injury from hot coke. Please note that rigger boots and skinny jeans are not suitable.
- **Overalls/coats:** A warehouse coat, lab coat, or overalls made from cotton or fire-retardant material is required in the National School of Blacksmithing welding and fabrication workshop.

Tools for the Forge

You'll need a basic set of forging tools from the start of the course. If you already have tools from previous experience, please bring them; otherwise, please arrange to purchase the essentials before you arrive.

You can buy basic engineering tools, welding equipment, and some forge tools from local suppliers. You may also wish to order one of the student toolkits from our alumnus Dan Moss at The Blacksmith Shop. Details of the toolkit options are included with this information.

Dan forges the tongs to order, so if you would like to buy one of the sets, please contact him in early August. This will give him enough time to make and prepare the tools before the course begins.

Please mark all your tools and equipment clearly with your name or personal identification, as many students will have similar items.

Required items

- 1 ¾–2 lb shoe-turning or ball pein hammer
- 2 lb cross pein hammer
- 2 pairs of tongs:
- 1 pair of square hollow bit tongs — 16 mm or 20 mm
- 1 pair of 10 mm open flat tongs
- 1 wire brush (butcher's block brush preferred, as ordinary brushes wear out quickly)
- Large centre punch (heavy duty)
- Rule (300 mm minimum; folding rules of 300–600 mm are preferable). Steel rules are suitable, but brass is better as it resists discolouration from hot metal and is easier to read. Avoid aluminium or printed-division rules, as they are unlikely to last.

Toolbox for the Forge

- Minimum length for tongs: 600 mm (2 feet)
- Ex-army ammunition boxes are highly recommended as toolboxes due to their strength and durability compared to modern options.
- Toolboxes must be fireproof (plastic or wooden ones are not allowed).
- Toolboxes should be lockable for security purposes.

Optional Items Recommended for Forging

- A leather apron for protection
- Additional pairs of flat bit and hollow bit tongs in sizes ranging from 6 mm to 20 mm
- A welding screen or helmet, with the option to purchase a light-reactive welding helmet during attendance
- A set of 250–300 mm engineer's files, including flat, half-round, square, round, and triangular shapes
- Welding gauntlets, goggles, and a protective hat
- A durable metal set square

Come prepared, stay curious, and be ready to make the most of your first steps into the forge. We look forward to seeing what you create.