

### BA (Hons) Performing Arts

2025/26

Full-Time

L4 Entry

DE L5

**About this document:** This Key Information Document gives you a summary of the core characteristics of the BA (Hons) Performing Arts 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) Performing Arts. 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) Performing Arts Degree is validated by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. However, the course is designed and 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) Performing Arts <i>Full-time</i>	3 years
BA (Hons) Performing Arts Top Up <i>Full-time</i>	1 year

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 submit an audition self-tape and may be invited for a further interview. The interview can be conducted in person or remotely. This will be a supportive process where guidance will be provided on the strengths and areas for improvement.

We usually expect applicants to have achieved a minimum of 96 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 standard 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 outline any specific requirements associated with your offer.

Our Admissions Policy can be found [here](#)

## Core Modules

All programmes of study are made up of modules. Some modules comprise two or more assignments. Modules have a credit value that contributes to the achievement of the qualification. Each module has its own syllabus, handbook and assessment. 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 totalling 120 credits each year.

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

**BA (Hons) Performing Arts Level 4 (Year 1) Full time**

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Descriptor</b>
<b>Rehearsing a Performance</b>	30	<i>Rehearsing for Performance</i> is an exploratory module that serves as your foundation for all future thinking, practical exploration, interpretation, and creativity. This module focuses on traditional Western dramatic models, which are mainly text-based: a page-to-stage approach. You will be directed in a workshop performance and explore various ways in which to approach both the text and the rehearsal process.
<b>Creating a Performance</b>	30	<i>Creating a Performance</i> will allow you to be experiential and integrate theories and techniques in workshop scenarios. You will explore a variety of practitioners and different approaches, including ideas devised in response to traditional classical models and their modern incarnations, such as realism and naturalism. In addition, skills such as writing for performance, directing, choreographing and devising are actively explored. You will create a performance, script or happening as the ultimate outcome of this module.
<b>Start a Company (with work placement)</b>	20	<p>Through this module, you will acquire essential enterprise skills and gain a critical understanding of both traditional and innovative business models. You will also gain an understanding of how funding, business, politics and product often intersect.</p> <p>Over the course of this module, you and your peers will collectively form a Company, select an appropriate business model, and each individual will take a defined role in one area of the producing performing arts company. You will acquire the skills needed to organise and fund a performance.</p> <p>You will also undertake a placement or shadowing opportunity within a business or regional company.</p>
<b>Creative Laboratory</b>	20	<i>The Creative Laboratory module lays the foundation for future creative and collaborative encounters and ventures at L5, L6, and beyond.</i> You will have opportunities to work in small groups or partnerships to create, develop, and refine creative ideas. You will be introduced to basic skills and practices for collaboration, including, where appropriate, inter-disciplinary collaboration. You will develop skills in self-management, people management, communication, creativity, and collaboration. Ultimately, you will create four scratch performances, which may be shown to the public and industry panels for feedback.
<b>Performing to an Audience</b>	20	<p>This module is designed to introduce you to a variety of skills (such as movement, voice and/ or acting) for performance and to develop your own abilities as a performer and in an ensemble or collaborative group.</p> <p>Acquisition and development of new skills takes weekly skills classes and lead to a major directed performance project at the end of Semester 1 leads to a major directed performance project at the end of Semester 2.</p>

## BA (Hons) Performing Arts Level 5 (Year 2) Full time

Module Title	Credits	Module Descriptor
<b>Contemporary Performance Practice</b>	30	In this module, you will explore emerging and current practices in playwriting, performance and directing in which <i>performance</i> is key, as opposed to <i>drama</i> . For example, what does it mean to perform in a play where you are deliberately asked not to create a character? How does autobiography play a significant part in the creative act? What happens where the audience is invited to co-write or even write the text? You will demonstrate your understanding and exploration by creating short self-directed performance pieces.
<b>Emerging Technologies in Performance</b>	30	<i>Emerging Technologies in Performance</i> will allow you to explore further the emerging trends, technologies and alternative platforms, which lead to performance. This may culminate in a performance that could be a film project, something more interdisciplinary or multimedia, or even completely digital.
<b>Exploring Your Future</b>	20	This module is an opportunity for you to critically investigate and discuss business models to create your own business plan.  You will be able to begin to marry your own artistic identity with your business direction. You will form your initial ideas for your own enterprise, and you will be supported to form a business plan for yourself.  You will take part in a work placement with a business/company or set up your own project that allows for insight into the running of a business in an area of specific interest to you.
<b>Collaborative Encounters</b>	20	In this <i>Collaborative Encounters</i> , you will formally investigate models of collaboration, including interdisciplinary collaborative models. Working in small groups or partnerships, you will develop creative work and deepen your skills in self-management, people management, communication skills, leadership and collaboration. You will produce four scratch performances which may be created as a result of live briefs, external collaborations or commissions.
<b>Major Public Performance</b>	20	In <i>Major Public Performance</i> , you will undertake weekly practitioner-led skills sessions which will culminate in a major performance project. The focus of this module is technical proficiency, self-awareness as a performer, self-development and life-long learning. As such, the learning takes place at a somatic level as well as a critical and intellectual one.

**BA (Hons) Performing Arts Level 6 (Year 3) Full time**

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Descriptor</b>
<b>Professional Focus</b>	30	<p>The Professional Focus module in the final semester of the Performing Arts Degree enables you to concentrate on one particular area of study. It might be purely creative – writing, directing, choreographing or performance orientated, or it could be a very targeted vocational activity, for example, events management or marketing. In this case, the assessment of the Professional Focus module will focus on the elements of personal development that have been enhanced through research and practice, rather than on the realisation of a business project.</p> <p>Regardless of whether the area of study is artistic or business-oriented, this module provides an opportunity for you to experience guided and reflective study in self-development as a performing arts practitioner. The principle aims are self-reliance and self-confidence to be prepared for life after graduation.</p>
<b>Solo Practice</b>	30	<p>This module encourages you to engage openly and honestly with your own practice through independent research and self-analysis. It develops your abilities as a reflective practitioner and enables you to plan and develop your professional skills base. Through this process of reflection, analysis and appraisal, you will be able to narrow down the focus of your practice in readiness for the Professional Focus module.</p>
<b>Extended Research Project</b>	30	<p>Research is a crucial component of innovation. This module is designed to allow you to explore an area of interest, ultimately enhancing your personal practice. You may choose to present your findings as a written document or as a practical research project culminating in a performance of your own devising.</p>
<b>Professional Collaborative Performance</b>	30	<p>In this module, you will develop work, present and evaluate ideas, and performative material that culminates in a major public performance. This module will enable you to select appropriate methods and approaches to create original work.</p>

## Course Composition & Delivery:

The course is modular and is managed on a two-semester schedule totaling 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 research week), with breaks for Christmas, Easter and Summer.

Students will have access to college resources (studios, library, workshops, social areas) on weekdays during normal working hours and later on some days and at certain times of the year. Students may also have access to some resources during vacations, and current information on this is available upon 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 a total of 200 hours of study. 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, online learning activities, tutorials and seminar discussion groups.

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

## Blended Learning

Hereford College of Arts is completely committed to face-to-face learning and the vast majority of our education takes place on campus in our workshops, studios, library, lecture rooms.

We do use online learning when it's the best mode of delivery, for example an international artist delivering a live stream from their studio or where a student has an agreed exceptional circumstance that warrants online learning in that instance.

## Typical Delivery Plan

The tables below indicate the typical delivery schedules for the programme for each pattern of attendance. The team reserves the right to re-organise the delivery of modules per semester, in accord with resource availability and student requests (which will be accommodated where feasible).

### Full-time study

#### Level 4

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Rehearsing a Performance</b> 30 credits	<b>Starting a Company (with work placement)</b> 20 credits	<b>Creative Laboratory</b> 20 credits	<b>Performing to an Audience</b> 20 credits
<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Creating a Performance</b> 30 credits			

#### Level 5

<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Contemporary Performance Practice</b> 30 credits	<b>Exploring Your Future (with work placement)</b> 20 credits	<b>Collaborative Encounters</b> 20 credits	<b>Major Public Performance</b> 20 credits
<b>Semester 4</b>	<b>Emerging Technologies in Performance</b> 30 credits			

#### Level 6 / Top Up Degree

<b>Semester 5</b>	<b>Professional Focus</b> 30 credits	<b>Solo Practice</b> 30 credits
<b>Semester 6</b>	<b>Extended Research Project</b> 30 credits	<b>Professional Collaborative Performance</b> 30 credits

## Tuition Fees

The tuition fees for 2025/26 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) Performing Arts full-time (Home students)	4	Year 1	£9275
BA (Hons) Performing Arts full-time (Home students)	5 (Direct entrants)	Year 2	£9000
BA (Hons) Performing Arts Top Up full-time (Home students)	6	Year 1	£9000

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 & 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.
- 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.

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 £170-£580 in the first year, £250-£580 in the second year and £320-£680 in their final year, depending on the 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. In the 2023-24 academic year, the trip was a four-day visit to Paris at a cost to students of £425. This fee included a shared dorm room and all travel costs from Hereford to Paris including Eurostar tickets.

Places on the optional trips are allocated on a first-come, first-served 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 New Designers). 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 Cost Breakdown

This table is an estimate of the minimum costs a typical student may face during the course.

The nature of creative study means it is difficult to be precise with material costs. We encourage students to source sustainable materials and recycle where they can however students are free to invest in additional resources pertinent to their emerging practice.

Unless specified the cost listed refers to the whole three-years of study.

Item	Minimum Cost	Notes
Adobe	£16.24 per month	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. Adobe often runs a Black Friday deal for a year's subscription for only £13.15 per month.
Microsoft Office 365	£0	The College provides a free subscription to Microsoft 365 with all Office applications and 1TB of cloud storage upon enrolment.
Laptop/Tablet	£400+	
Print Charges for course Work	£75	The College charges 4p per page for A4 B&W printing, 20p for colour. A3 is 6p per page for standard B&W printing and 40p for colour.
Transport costs on city visits	£50	Reduced ticket pricing is available through 16-25 National Rail card. Most local/countywide trips are funded through the course budget. This example considers self-directed research trips by train to Birmingham and/or London etc
Theatres & Shows	£100	The staff team will make suggestions of shows to go and see. One performance by a professional company is provided by the college either onsite or in a professional theatre. We recommend that students sign up for the National Theatre young people scheme that gives students access to NT performances in London for a fraction of the usual price. Students also have access to various theatre/ drama online sources to watch top performances online.
Promoting own art practice (Webhosting, Domain name registration, business cards etc)	£50	
Academic texts, books, magazines & subscriptions		As well as subscribing to a wide range of magazines and journals HCA's Library is home to an extensive back catalogue of printed material. So, while students are encouraged to subscribe to course-related material it is likely that it will be freely available in our library.
Resources for Final Year Productions	£100	Depending on the project students set themselves, students may need specific resources for their final year modules
Props, costumes	£30	Although every effort is made to ensure that you have the costume and props required there may be times when you want to purchase an element of a costume yourself. If you purchase the prop or costume you maintain ownership of it and will be able to keep it after the project.
Make Up	£30	Whenever possible HCA will provide make up, however you may have specific requirements, in which case you would need to purchase the make-up yourself
Black top/leggings/joggers	£50	

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

## Locations & 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.
- **Telephone:** 01432 273359

**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](#).

Information relating to all academic regulations, including complaints procedures can be found via the UWTSD public website [here](#).