

BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing

2025/26

Full-Time

L4 Entry

About this document: This Key Information Document 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 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) Artist Blacksmithing <i>Full-time</i>	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 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 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 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.

You will study the following modules:

BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Level 4 (Year 1) Full Time		
Module Title	Credits	Module Description
Practice in Context 1	20	This module gives you an introduction to the broad landscape of making & historical cultural practices. Here you will learn to analyse artefacts through engaging with era, style, function, material and technique.
Practice 1	30	This module introduces you to creativity through play and experimentation. You'll engage with a variety of materials and processes, developing an inquisitive approach. Through drawing, making, rendering, and recording in sketchbooks and technical journals, you'll explore "what if" scenarios and learn by doing.
Foundations for Learning	20	Foundations for Learning serves as an introduction to the entire Arts School and its approaches to learning and community. Through a variety of workshops and taught sessions across multiple disciplines, it provides opportunities to collaborate with peers from different courses. This module is designed to foster exploration, inspiration, and personal growth, while building meaningful connections to support you throughout your studies.
Practice 2	30	This is your first design and make module, where you'll apply all the creative skills and methods you've learned. You'll respond to a set brief, generate visual research, draw, design, test, make, explore, iterate, and create forged outcomes. Workshop sessions will help you initiate, reflect upon, and evaluate ideas, as well as test possibilities. This process emphasises that design and creativity are evidenced not just by the final outcomes but also by the journey taken.
Skills 1	20	Learn the fundamentals of forging, fabrication, and welding through professional demos and hands-on exercises. Document your progress in a technical journal, culminating in a design and make project showcasing your skills.

BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Level 5 (Year 2) Full Time

Module Title	Credits	Module Description
Practice in Context 2	20	You'll strengthen your research skills, develop critical thinking, and hone your ability to communicate ideas about creative practice. The focus is on meaning and value—key factors in cultural production. This module will help you identify your interests as a practitioner and orient yourself in the broader conversation of making.
Practice 3	30	In this design and make module, you'll respond to a set brief, focusing on a specific place and considering the site. You'll generate visual research, draw, design, test, make, explore, iterate, and create forged outcomes. At the end of this module, there will be an opportunity to exhibit your final works in a curated exhibition.
Skills 2	20	You'll improve your forging skills through a technical investigation. In the first part of the module, you'll replicate a forged object, with measuring and sequencing being critical. In the second part, you'll choose a specific forging process and conduct a deep-dive technical investigation, documenting your processes through photography, sketches, and notes in your technical journal.
Practice 4	30	In this design and make module, you'll consult with tutors to design your own brief. What key themes and ideas are you keen to explore? Are you interested in architectural work, product design, or gallery work? You'll generate visual research, draw, design, test, make, explore, iterate, and create forged outcomes. This is a time to critically review your emerging practice and, at the end of the module, articulate your research trajectory for the final year
Professional Practice 1	20	In this module, you'll engage with the 'creative industries' through a Self-Devised Project or Professional Work Experience. This could involve responding to a live brief, participating in a solo or group exhibition, working alongside a designer-maker, or delivering teaching workshops in schools, hospitals, or community settings. Any practical outcome should be relevant to your own creative and professional practice goals. This experience will help you apply your skills in real-world contexts and refine your professional trajectory.

BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing Level 6 (Year 3) Full Time

Module Title	Credits	Module Description
Practice in Context 3	20	This module allows you to demonstrate advanced skills in understanding creative practice critically and informedly. By selecting a subject that resonates with your studio practice, PIC 3 helps you contextualize the body of work you create for your final studio projects and enables you to articulate your practice with fluency and confidence.
Practice 5	30	This is your fifth design and make module, where you'll clarify your research trajectory and present a proposal. You'll generate visual research, draw, design, test, make, explore, iterate, and create forged outcomes. The module emphasizes research, experimentation, and the development of ideas as well as outcomes. This is supported by a vibrant studio culture in which design methodology is explored, expanded, and critically reflected upon.
Practice 6	60	In this module, you will develop an autonomous approach to your practice. You will refine and resolve a final body of forged metalwork that reflects your career aspirations. Throughout this module, you will focus on honing and refining your skills, and pushing the boundaries of your creative practice. Your final body of work will be showcased in the degree show, which serves as the launchpad for your professional career. This event provides a platform to present your work to industry professionals, potential clients, and the wider public.
Professional Practice 2	10	This module complements your final making module with a series of visiting speakers covering topics such as employment and self-employment, tax, copyright law, ethics, online marketing, networking, and costing work. You will receive support in preparing a creative CV, artist statements, and promotional copy. Additionally, you will be supported in taking professional photographs. This module culminates in the creation of a Graduate Portfolio to help launch your career

Course Composition & Delivery:

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.

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 most 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

Semester 1	Practice in Context 1 20 credits	Practice 1 30 credits	Foundations for Learning 20 credits
Semester 2		Practice 2 30 credits	Skills 1 20 credits

Level 5

Semester 1	Practice in Context 2 20 credits	Practice 3 30 credits	Skills 2 20 credits
Semester 2		Practice 4 30 credits	Professional Practice 1 20 credits

Level 6

Semester 1	Practice in Context 3 20 credits	Practice 5 30 credits	Professional Practice 2 10 credits
Semester 2		Practice 6 60 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.

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	£9,275
BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing full time (Overseas students and EU students)	4	Year 1	£15,900

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.
- 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 personal living expenses. Further information about halls of residence and other accommodation available in Hereford can be found on our website.

In addition to tuition fees, the nature of creative arts practice means that students will need to account for some additional costs, such as PPE, some materials, sketchbooks and print costs used in the production of their work.

A typical artist blacksmithing student will choose to spend around an additional £1600-£2670 in the first year, £1200-£1900 in the second year and £1450-£2380 in their final year, depending on travel arrangements to and from the forge, how many tools they've already purchased and the scale of their work and materials chosen or other related costs. Students' expenditures vary depending on the areas they specialise in and their individual choices. We understand that not all students can invest the same amount of money in their work, and staff assessing it will not judge based on 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.

Upon completion of Level 6 (the final level of study), graduates may have the opportunity to showcase their work at a graduate exhibition (for example, New Designers). Graduates are required to contribute to financing exhibition space and fund their accommodation and are also encouraged to engage in fundraising activities and apply for grants.

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

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

Average Cost Breakdown

This table is an estimate of the minimum costs a typical Artist Blacksmithing 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
Fuel contribution / bus fare costs on getting to and from Holme Lacy Forge facility (does not including car or motorbike costs)	£450	Students are encouraged to car share. The Forge at Holme Lacy is approximately 6 miles by road from our Station Approach accommodation.
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	£250	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.
Print charges for exhibition display work	£100	HCA offers a selection of specialised high-quality printing at various rates.
Transport costs on city visits	£120	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
Purchasing tickets for museums and galleries	£80	Reduced ticket pricing available through providers such as Student Art Pass
Promoting own art practice (Webhosting, Domain name registration, business cards etc)	£150	
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.
Level 6: External Exhibition inc exhibition contribution & accommodation	£500	Students are encouraged to undertake fundraising activities & commissions to cover level 6 exhibition costs.
Craft materials for artwork and maquette making e.g. paints, paper, sketchbooks, acrylic card drawing media	£280	
Forge Consumables, grinding discs fixings and finishes, additional steel costs	£450	
Forge Tools	£250	Students are welcome to source their own equipment but are also provided with a catalogue from a recommended local supplier as part of their Summer Pack.
PPE for Forging including steel toe cap boots and safety glasses and ear defenders	£280	

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 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 & 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

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; 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](#).