

BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts

2025/26	Full-Time/Part Time	L4 Entry	DE L5	Top Up
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About this document: This Key Information Document gives you a summary of the core characteristics of the BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts 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) Contemporary Design Crafts. 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) Contemporary Design Crafts 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) Contemporary Design Crafts <i>Full-time</i>	3 years
BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts <i>Part-time</i>	6 years
BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts Top Up <i>Full-time</i>	1 year
BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts Top Up <i>Part-time</i>	2 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 submit a portfolio 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) Contemporary Design Crafts Level 4 (Year 1) Full Time

Module Title	Credits	Module Description
Practice in Context 1	20	<p>The module provides an introduction to the work of key practitioners in craft practice and jewellery, 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"> • Biographical: artist's intentions and personal factors relevant to understanding the work • Historical: political, social and cultural issues being addressed, direct and indirect influences of the historical environment • Technological: factors related to development of the technology of creative production • Art historical: precedents, influences, and relationships with contemporaries working in the same field • Social: relationships, both individual and general, relevant to understanding the work • Ethical factors relevant to understanding and evaluating the work • Cultural: values and beliefs implicit in the work derived from the cultural environment, intentionally or unintentionally included.
Practice 1	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 & present objects, artefacts or products</p>
Foundations for Learning	20	<p>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.</p>
Practice 2	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 & present objects, artefacts or products.</p> <p>Students will follow the stages set out below in response to a set brief.</p>

		<p>Stage 1 - Identify and mobilise idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify catalyst or general idea • Collect and generate primary and secondary source material • Use words to establish concepts • Form a question or debate = clarity of intention • Make a range of two dimensional investigations <p>Stage 2 - Test Possibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish fixed points through which to explore the idea • Develop designs through drawing and making • Test ideas through a variety of configurations, what are the variations • Explore equivalents between materials and chosen subject • Explore representation and expression <p>Stage 3 - Focus and Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify the qualities you want your final pieces to embody • Explore variants • Refine the quality of final outcomes • Consider the orientation of the viewer
Skills 1	20	<p>Throughout this module students will participate in an extensive range of Materials and Skills based Process Workshops including health and safety inductions. 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. 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.</p>

BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts Level 5 (Year 2) Full Time

Module Title	Credits	Module Description
Practice in Context 2	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"> • Critical reading, writing and thinking • Reading crafts as text: semiotics, context, culture and myth • Meaning, critical perspective, voice and reflexivity • Phenomenological approaches to meaning, embodiment and affect • Social identity theory and taste, interest and preference • Social meanings of things: what are craft and jewellery for? How do they change us? • Evocative objects: memory, narrative, collections and museums • The craftsman's life: (non-)alienation, engagement, quality and craftsmanship • Originality and its limitations: individuality, talent, novelty, tradition and context • Role of the craftsman in the contemporary world: what is it? • Aesthetics, form, tactility and experience • Theories of process: issues around method, rationality, ambiguity, chance, accident, associative thinking and appropriation
Practice 3	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 & 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 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.</p>

Skills 2	20	<p>Throughout this module, students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of Advanced Technical Process Workshops. It is expected that students match these to their particular area of research in order that they provide context and framework for further learning and development. Students will be expected to use these to instigate a clearly defined and in-depth body of research into both material and associated processes. It is expected that students look beyond the obvious and innovate in all aspects of the module.</p> <p>Students will negotiate, with tutorial support, an independent proposal in which they will define a specific technical investigation.</p> <p>Topics within seminars and discourse sessions will include; Approaches to generating</p> <p>prototypes and products that demonstrate innovation in all aspects and the use of constructs to promote and sustain practice.</p> <p>In addition, students will participate in a series of advanced process workshops including advanced Fusion 360 digital tools to support their emerging practice.</p>
Practice 4	30	<p>During this module, students will initiate, develop, reflect upon and evaluate 'ideas' test possibilities, and focus & 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>
Professional Practice 1	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"> • How to approach individual creative or organisations. • What different creative professions entail. • Expectations in the workplace. • How to plan content for and deliver education / community based art projects. • Working to client commission/competition briefs. • Collectives/Collaboration/Networking <p>Working with other people, How, why, what and when?</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.
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BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts Level 6 (Year 3) Full Time

Module Title	Credits	Module Description
Practice in Context 3	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. 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. 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>
Practice 5	30	<p>In consultation with their module tutors, students will generate a proposal and produce a sustained body of work of increasing 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>
Professional Practice 2	10	<p>Students will revisit and refine their Professional Development Plan and produce additional material to support 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"> • The employment landscape (portfolio careers, the gig economy etc) • Copyright Law, licensing, contracts, T&C's, insurance, taxation, NI How, why, what and when? • The differences between Self-employment and permanent employment Proactive/Reactive/business ownership/entrepreneurship • Ethics, Morality and your career, an overview of how the media operates censorship & self-censorship/audience/working ethically/sustainable choices • Representation online/ Social Media networking How, why, what and when? Consistency of brand, Effective and appropriate copy, quality of images • CV writing skills/Letter of introduction writing/application writing skills • Costing work/funding- writing applications and bids/budgeting • Evaluating projects and clients/managing clients and employers • Further study - Postgraduate courses, Teaching courses

Practice 6	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> <p>Students will follow the stages set out below in response to a set brief.</p> <p>Stage 1 - Identify and mobilise idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify catalyst or general idea • Collect and generate primary and secondary source material • Use words to establish concepts • Form a question or debate = clarity of intention • Make a range of two dimensional investigations <p>Stage 2 - Test Possibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish fixed points through which to explore the idea • Develop designs through drawing and making • Test ideas through a variety of configurations, what are the variations • Explore equivalents between materials and chosen subject • Explore representation and expression <p>Stage 3 - Focus and Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify the qualities you want your final pieces to embody • Explore variants • Refine the quality of final outcomes • Consider the orientation of the viewer
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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.

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

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/Top Up

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

Part-Time Study

Level 4 Yr 1

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

Level 4 Yr 2

Semester 1	Practice 1 30 credits
Semester 2	Practice 2 30 credits

Level 5 Yr 3

Semester 1	Practice in Context 2 20 credits	Skills 2 20 credits
Semester 2		Professional Practice 1 20 credits

Level 5 Yr 4

Semester 1	Practice 3 30 credits
Semester 2	Practice 4 30 credits

Level 6 Yr 5/Top Up Yr 1

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

Level 6 Yr 6/Top Up Yr 1

Semester 1	Practice 6 60 credits
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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) Contemporary Design Crafts full-time (Home students)	4	Year 1	£9275
BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts full-time (Home students)	5 (Direct entrants)	Year 2	£9000
BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts Top Up full-time (Home students)	6	Year 1	£9000
BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts part-time (Home students)	4	Year 1	£4625
BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts Top Up part-time (Home students)	6	Year 1	£4500
BA (Hons) Contemporary Design Crafts full-time (Overseas students)	4	Year 1	£14,150

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 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 £250-£900 in the first year, £250-£500 in the second year and £450-£750 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. 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	£50	The College charges 2p per page for A4 B&W printing, 10p for colour. A3 is 3p per page for standard B&W printing and 15p 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	£60	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	£50	Reduced ticket pricing available through providers such as Student Art Pass. The College will cover the cost of course-specific trips as much as possible.
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.
Level 6: External Exhibition for example New Designers, London inc exhibition contribution & accommodation	£300	Students are encouraged to undertake fundraising activities & commissions to cover level 6 exhibition costs.
Portfolio cases	N/A	Many students already have portfolios from previous education route; these don't become a course 'requirement' until L6 in preparation for industry interviews
Craft materials for artwork and maquette making e.g. paints, paper, sketchbooks, acrylic card drawing media	£150	Students are encouraged to source reclaimed materials from local scrap-stores/resource exchanges, which sell good quality materials destined for landfill at very low prices. Students get a discounted membership with these centres and are also taken there during study time.
3D Modelling	£0	Students use Fusion 360 for free and can continue to do so after graduating.
Specific Tools		This can vary dramatically due to the choice of process of the individual

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

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](#).