

Study creative arts in the UK

Where can I study creative arts in the UK?

If you want to study creative arts, you'll find courses on offer in the UK at over 160 universities.¹ And with such a huge amount of variety in the areas taught, alongside world-class teaching and facilities, you have plenty of opportunities to find the course you want, and which will prepare you for your chosen career.

What is the application process?

Applying for a creative arts course in the UK typically involves both academic qualifications and a demonstration of your artistic potential. Most institutions will expect you to submit a portfolio of your work or attend an audition, depending on your chosen discipline. This allows admissions teams to assess your skills, creativity, and suitability for the course.

Entry requirements vary by university and course, but you'll usually need to meet academic criteria such as A levels, the International Baccalaureate, or equivalent qualifications. For international students, proof of English language ability—often through IELTS or another recognised test—is usually required.

In addition you may be asked for a personal statement that highlights your passion for the subject, relevant experience, and future ambitions. It's also common for universities to hold interviews or applicant days, giving you the chance to talk about your work and ask questions about the programme.

How long does it take to graduate?

Most creative arts undergraduate degrees take around three years to finish in the UK, with many offering opportunities to gain a year of work experience or study abroad. Postgraduate degrees are usually between one and two years.

What is the course structure?

¹ [UCAS, 2025](#)

Creative arts courses in the UK are designed to combine artistic development with professional insight. Most programmes begin by introducing you to core creative techniques, studio-based practice, and contextual studies. As you progress, you'll have the flexibility to specialise in areas that reflect your individual interests and strengths—whether that's performance, design, visual arts, or digital media. Courses typically balance hands-on project work with critical analysis and industry engagement. You'll often collaborate with peers, experiment with materials and technologies, and have opportunities to build your portfolio through real-world briefs, exhibitions, or performances.

What will I study?

What you study will depend on your chosen creative discipline, but UK programmes are known for offering a blend of practical, conceptual, and professional learning. You might explore themes such as visual storytelling, performance technique, design thinking, or multimedia production. Many courses also include historical and theoretical modules to help you understand your field in broader cultural and artistic contexts. Whether your focus is fashion, fine art, filmmaking, or animation, you'll also develop key skills in communication, creative problem-solving, and entrepreneurship—essential for building a career in today's fast-changing creative industries.

What is creative arts teaching like in the UK?

UK creative arts teaching is globally respected, with many lecturers bringing real-world experience as practising professionals. From day one, you'll be encouraged to think creatively, collaborate with others, and explore your artistic direction. You'll also train on the latest in industry-standard equipment.

Why is the UK a good choice to study creative arts?

The UK has a unique arts heritage and a creative industry that is now worth £124.6bn.² We're also home to the largest public broadcasting organisation in the world, and with almost one in ten UK businesses part of the creative industries, the sector provides over 2m jobs – 71% of them outside London.³

Studying in the UK means following in the footsteps of iconic figures such as Alexander McQueen, David Hockney and Anish Kapoor, and with our rich cultural calendar, you'll find plenty of exhibitions, concerts, talks, and film festivals to inspire your studies.

Are there any scholarships for studying creative arts?

² [UK Government, 2025](#)

³ [UK Government, 2025](#)

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study creative arts in the UK. These range from part-funding, for example paying part of your fees, to full-funding which covers programme fees, living expenses, and return flights to the UK.

You can search our database of scholarships at study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities.

What are my work options after I graduate?

From working as an industrial designer to composing video game soundtracks, the choice of career opportunities for UK creative arts graduates is growing all the time. So whether you want to find work in exhibitions, pursue full time roles in advertising and graphic design, or find a successful career in fashion, you will be joining a network of graduates who have gone on to diverse and creative roles worldwide

The UK's Graduate route allows international students to apply to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, upon graduation. International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate, master's degree or PhD have the option to apply to stay in the UK for an agreed period, following their studies. The Graduate route does not require you to secure sponsorship.

To find out more about studying creative arts in the UK and to find a course, visit study-uk.britishcouncil.org