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Performing Arts at The Manchester College



Get career ready from day one

Our courses are designed with employability in mind, giving you real-world skills for roles in acting, dance, musical theatre and backstage production, and more - all linked to Greater Manchester's thriving performing arts sector and beyond.



Learn from industry experts

You'll be taught by experienced tutors who bring real performing arts knowledge into the classroom, helping you understand what employers are looking for right now. Find out more about your tutors on our website: **tmc.ac.uk/performing-arts.**



Experience performing arts in action

Through work placements, employer-led projects and visits to top employers, you'll build practical experience that looks great on your CV.



Discover what inspires you

Start with a solid performing arts foundation, then specialise in areas that match your goals and interests as you progress – from acting for film and TV to classical and contemporary performances, choreography and stage management.



Go beyond the classroom

Take part in enrichment activities, enterprise challenges and networking events that develop your confidence, leadership and problem-solving skills - all key for success in the performing arts sector.





Job figures

There were approx. **2,630** employees working in the **performing arts** sector in Greater Manchester in 2025. This is predicted to increase by **7.9**% by 2028.



Average earnings

The average wage in Greater Manchester is £35,840 per annum (2024).



Replacement demand

Around **418** of the current workforce will be reaching retirement in the next 10 years, , meaning those jobs will need replacing.

Types of jobs
Actor
Choreographer
Community Arts Worker
Dancer
Dance Movement Psychotherapist
Dramatherapist
Presenter
Stage / Set Designer
Stage Manager
Stagehand

Skills needed
Communication
Editing
Management
Marketing
Planning
Project management
Sales
Short films
Social media
Television production

Examples of GM Employers
Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG)
BBC
Home Manchester
ITV
Manchester International Festival
NHS
Octagon Theatre Bolton
The Bridgewater Hall
The Royal Exchange Theatre
Z Arts

Data sourced from Lightcast April 2025.

Careers
information





Where to find us

With excellent transport links, modern classrooms and vibrant social spaces, you can study Performing Arts courses right in the heart of Manchester.



GET DIRECTIONS







- Two professional theatres on-site, including the fully equipped Longmore
 Theatre with 180-seat capacity
- Five double-height multi-purpose rehearsal studios with semi-sprung floors
- Dedicated performance assessment studio with panoramic city views
- Ensemble and 1-to-1 singing rooms for focused practice
- On-site scene dock, set design workshop and costume design area
- Grab a Starbucks or a slice from the pizza bar choose from hot and cold food options
- Hot-desk study zones
- Library with study areas, laptop loans and space for Careers and Support teams.



Get career ready with us

We're here to help you achieve your goals and get career-ready. Our courses are designed with top employers to focus on in-demand skills.

From day one, you'll gain hands-on experience to build confidence. By the end, you'll have the qualifications, knowledge, and experience to stand out and take the next step in your career.



Building your employability

To get you career-ready, you'll take part in activities that boost your skills and understanding of the world of work. You'll be supported by a dedicated Employability Co-ordinator who will support you to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours you'll need to thrive in the workplace.

Real-world experience that counts

As part of your course, you'll complete work experience with an employer. We'll help you find a placement where you can:

- Shadow professionals and see how the job is done day-to-day
- Contribute to real projects that develop your skills and strengthen your CV
- Grow in confidence as you put learning into action

Many of our students make such a strong impression that they even secure part-time or full-time jobs with their placement provider!

We work with leading employers to deliver our placements, including:







Discover where performing arts can take you

We'll introduce you to a wide range of career options in the performing arts sector through:

- Masterclasses, Q&As and workshops with industry professionals and alumni
- Live auditions, mock interviews and mentorship from sector experts
- Trips and live briefs offering real-world experience in performance and production.





This will help you decide which path to take after your course — whether that's progressing to degree-level study, starting an apprenticeship or going straight into employment.



Courses

We offer qualifications from Level 1 to Level 3. If you haven't already obtained a Grade 4 GCSE in English or maths, you'll study to work towards achieving this qualification.



Acting Courses

Performing Arts (Acting)

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester

Train in the heart of Manchester's thriving arts scene and develop your acting skills for film, TV and theatre. Learn from industry professionals, explore contemporary and site-specific performance, and build your confidence in voice, movement and audition techniques. Gain insight into freelancing, networking and current industry trends, while taking part in real performances and work placements. With access to professional theatres and links to top studios and festivals, this course prepares you for a successful career in acting, either on screen or in a theatre..

Performing and Production Arts (Acting)

Level 2 | City Campus Manchester

Do you want to develop your acting skills and learn more about your future career? This course is designed to give you a taster of what you could expect as a professional in the performing arts sector. You'll discover what it takes to work for a theatre company and explore both on and off stage job roles. Of course, we'll be helping you to develop your own talent. You'll learn different acting techniques and find out how to effectively research a role. This course equips you with the knowledge and skills needed to progress to Level 3.

Music, Performing and Production Arts

Level 1 | City Campus Manchester

If you're interested in performing and want to increase your knowledge and skills, this could be the course for you! Over the year, you'll learn basic professional acting skills and techniques. You'll also discover more about the roles of key people within the performing arts world, such as playwrights and directors. By the end of the course, you'll have grown in confidence and ability and you'll be ready to progress to a Level 2 qualification.

Dance

Performing Arts (Dance)

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester

Train like a professional in the heart of Manchester. You'll refine your technique across styles such as ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, commercial, acro and lyrical, with the chance to specialise in your passion. Taught by industry professionals, you'll gain insight into life as a performer, develop your own choreography and take part in live performances. With audition training, networking skills and real industry experience, you'll graduate ready for the next step in your dance career.

Performing and Production Arts (Dance)

Level 2 | City Campus Manchester

Turn your passion for dance into a future career with this hands-on, one-year course. You'll train in a range of styles including ballet, tap, jazz, commercial and contemporary, while developing your technique, creativity and performance skills. Learn to choreograph your own routines, perform in live shows, and gain insights into working as part of a dance company – both on and off stage. With expert tutors and real industry experience, you'll develop strong foundation skills in dance, preparing you to progress with confidence onto our Level 3 course.

Musical Theatre

Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester

Step into the spotlight with this dynamic Musical Theatre course, building your skills as a triple threat in singing, acting and dance. You'll train with industry professionals in the heart of Manchester, refining your technique in jazz, ballet, tap and vocal performance while building a standout repertoire. With audition training, networking support, full-scale productions and real industry experience, you'll gain the skills and confidence to thrive in musical theatre and move closer to a professional career.

Performing Arts and Production Arts (Musical Theatre)

Level 2 | City Campus Manchester

Turn your passion for performing into a career with this hands-on, one-year Musical Theatre course. You'll train in singing, acting and dance, developing technique, creativity and confidence through rehearsals, live performances and original projects. Learn from industry professionals, explore both on-stage and behind-the-scenes roles, and gain real insight into life in musical theatre. With expert guidance and plenty of performance opportunities, this course prepares you for the next stage in your journey as a performer. By the time you finish you'll have the knowledge and skills needed to progress to Level 3.



I chose The Manchester College for its focus on both theatre and screen. I've gained practical experience, built industry connections, made great friends, and really valued learning from tutors still working in the industry.

Luke

Level 3 Performing Arts (Acting)

SUPPORTED LEARNING

Promoting independence through accessibility and inclusion.

Have you received learning support in the past? Do you have an Education, Health and Care Plan or an identified Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) need? Our Supported Learning team can help students with SEND to achieve their aspirational career goals.

We provide a highly personalised offer for students to create a supportive learning environment for all. Whatever course you choose to study, our provision is specifically designed to support you on your journey to independence and into further education or employment.

Find out more about how we can help you: tmc.ac.uk/supported-learning







Additional Learning Support Team: specialistsupport@tmc.ac.uk
Transition Team: transitionteam@tmc.ac.uk





DEGREE LEVEL

Once you've completed one of our Level 3 Diplomas, you'll be able to audition for one of our degrees at The Arden School of Theatre.

- BA (Hons) Acting
- BA (Hons) Dance and Performance
 - BA (Hons) Musical Theatre
- BA (Hons) Theatre and Performance
- BA (Hons) Technical Theatre and Stage Management
 - HNC Performing Arts (Acting)
 - HNC Performing Arts (Musical Theatre).

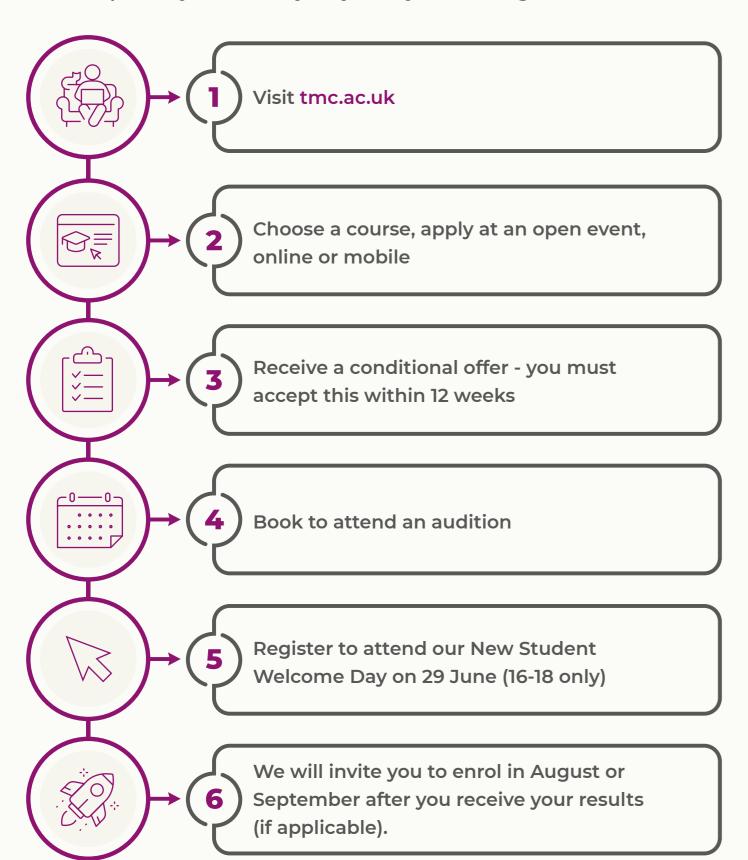
For more information or to apply visit ucenmanchester.ac.uk





How to apply

Applying to study at The Manchester College is really easy. Just follow these steps and you'll be on your journey to amazing in no time.



What's next?

You've explored what's possible, now it's time to take your next steps.

To discover more about Performing Arts, and to start your application, scan the QR code or visit: tmc.ac.uk/performing-arts.





Visit us

There's no better way to get a feel for college than visiting in person.

Join us at one of our open events to:

- Learn more about our courses
- Tour our industry-standard facilities
- Meet our expert tutors
- Ask any questions you may have.

Secure your place now: tmc.ac.uk/events





- **f** The Manchester College
- (a) @TheMcrCollege | @TMC_PerformingArts
- X @TheMcrCollege
- @TheMcrCollege

Contact Us

Got a question about one of our courses, about The Manchester College or just need to get in touch? Contact us:

- enquiries@tmc.ac.uk
- 03333 222 444

