Visual Arts















Contents

Five reasons to study	3
Careers information	4
Where to find us	8
Get career ready with us	10
Courses	12
Courses for Adults	16
Supported Learning	18
UCEN Manchester higher education	20
How to apply	22
What's next?	23







Visual 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 fashion, photography, art and design, and more - all linked to Greater Manchester's vibrant visual arts sector.



Learn from industry experts

You'll be taught by experienced tutors who bring real visual 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/visual-arts.



Experience visual 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.



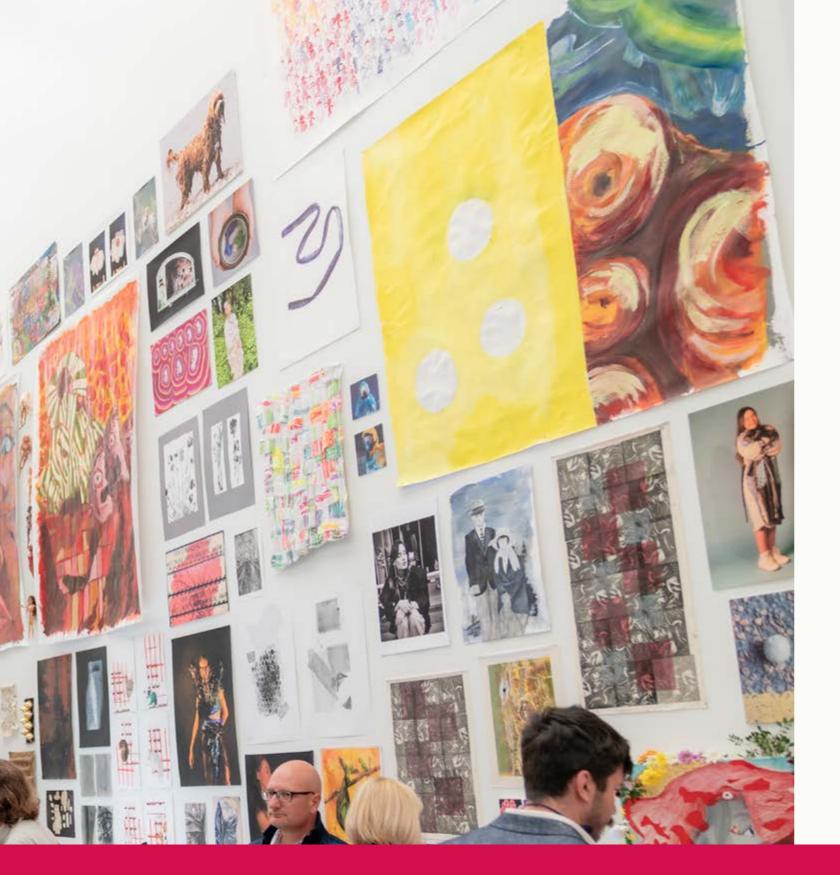
Discover what inspires you

Start with a solid visual arts foundation, then specialise in areas that match your goals and interests as you progress - from fine art, illustration and digital design to photography and exhibition curation.



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 in the visual arts sector.





Job figures

There were approx. 13,614 employees working in the visual arts sector in Greater Manchester in 2025. This is predicted to increase by 0.9% by 2028.



Average earnings

Average wages nationally range from £26,000 to £45,000 per year (2024).



Replacement demand

Around **2,899** of the current workforce will be reaching retirement in the next 10 years, meaning those jobs will need replacing.

Types of jobs
Art Therapist
Community Arts Worker
Costume Designer
Exhibition Designer
Fashion Designer
Garment Technologist
Graphic Designer
Illustrator
Interior and Spatial Designer
Photographer

Skills needed
Adobe Illustrator
Adobe Photoshop
Communication
Detail oriented
Innovation
Management
Marketing
Prototyping
Research
User Experience (UX)

Examples of GM Employers
Bee Thrive
Boohoo
Hadley Interiors Limited
JD Sports
Manchester International Festival
Missguided
Mustard Tree
N Brown
Represent Clothing
Sosandar

Data sourced from Lightcast and The National Careers Service April 2025.

Careers information





The College helped me plan my future. The tutors helped me find the right course and taught me there's no wrong answer in art. I now want to study graphic design and become a freelance designer.



Level 3 Foundation Art and Design



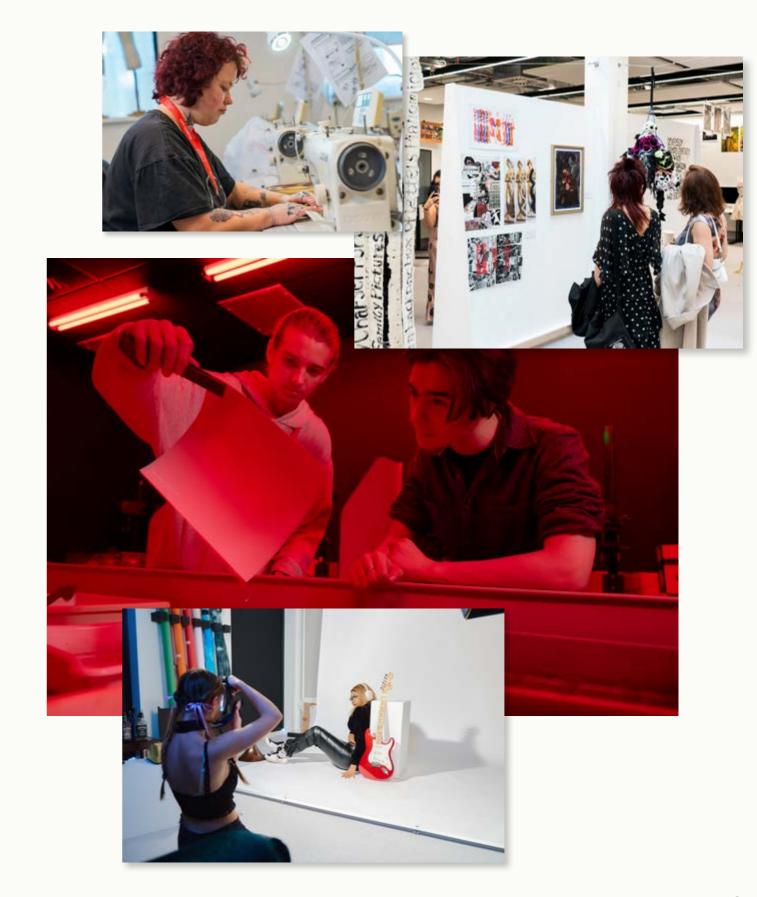
Where to find us

With excellent transport links, modern classrooms and vibrant social spaces, you can study Visual Arts courses in our state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of Manchester.



- Jewellery studio with 2 brazing hearths, fume cupboard, laser cutter, polisher, and plastics room
- Ceramics studio with potter's wheel, cold store and two kilns
- Textile print studio
- Print making studio with hot plate, screen print tables, and storeroom with exposure unit and drying cabinet
- Garment construction studio with sewing machines, eyelet and fusing presses
- 3D workshop with various saws and cutting machinery
- Fashion and pattern cutting workshop
- Photographic studios and developing suites

- 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.



8

DIRECTIONS

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 parttime or full-time jobs with their placement provider!

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



Manchester Art Gallery

Discover where visual arts can take you

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

- Q&As with industry experts
- Masterclasses from contemporary artists and makers
- Employer and partner visits to explore careers in the art industry
- Work experience placement
- Opportunity to exhibit at Manchester Art Gallery and Manchester Craft and Design Centre through the Future Creatives project.





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



Courses

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



T Level Textiles and Fashion Maker



Level 3 | City Campus Manchester

Develop the creative and technical skills needed for a career in the textiles and fashion industry on this two-year T Level. You'll explore key techniques like stitch, knit, weave and print, while experimenting with tools, materials and processes. You'll respond to creative briefs, refine your ideas and produce work for a range of contexts. The course includes a 45-day industry placement and prepares you for employment, further training or progression to degree-level study.

Fashion and Textiles

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester

This creative Level 3 course is perfect if you're passionate about fashion, styling or textiles. You'll explore design, garment construction, embroidery, print, and experimental techniques while also learning self-promotion through photography. Taught by industry experts, you'll gain the technical and transferable skills needed to thrive in roles across the fashion industry — from high-street design to editorial styling. You'll also build key professional skills like teamwork, communication and working to deadlines.

Art and Design

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester

Explore a wide range of creative disciplines on this hands-on Level 3 course, from fine art and fashion to photography, ceramics and 3D design. You'll work on live briefs set by industry professionals, collaborate with top venues like Manchester Art Gallery and Whitworth Art Gallery, and exhibit your work across the city. With a focus on experimentation, creative thinking and professional practice, you'll develop the skills needed for further study or a successful career in the creative industries.

Art and Design – Foundation Diploma

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester

This Level 3 Foundation Diploma is ideal if you're aiming to study a specialist Art & Design subject at university. You'll explore a wide range of media including painting, sculpture, illustration, textiles, and photography, while developing your creative voice and technical skills. With live briefs, industry links, and the chance to exhibit at Manchester Art Gallery, you'll build the confidence, experience and portfolio needed for higher education or a creative career.

Photography

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester

Turn your passion for photography into a career on this dynamic Level 3 course. You'll explore genres like portrait, fashion, documentary and experimental image making, while learning studio and location techniques. Develop creative concepts, respond to live briefs, and master editing using both darkroom and digital tools. You'll also take part in exciting projects like Greater Mancunians, gaining real-world experience to prepare you for industry, further study or freelance work.

Art and Design

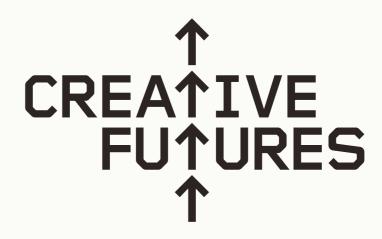
Level 2 | City Campus Manchester

This Level 2 course is ideal if you're aiming to progress to a Level 3 Art & Design qualification but don't yet meet the entry requirements. You'll explore areas like graphic design, fashion, textiles, drawing and 3D work while developing creative thinking and practical skills. With live employer briefs and a focus on study skills such as reflection, problem solving and self-management, you'll gain valuable industry experience and build a strong foundation for your next steps.

Art and Design

Level 1 | City Campus Manchester

New to Art & Design? This Level 1 Diploma is the perfect starting point. You'll build essential creative skills through hands-on projects in areas like animation, fashion, and photography — including live briefs with real employers. You'll also develop study and teamwork skills to support future progression. Awarded by University of the Arts London, this course is the perfect first step into the creative industries. We can't wait to welcome you and help you begin your creative journey.



Creative Futures: Shaping the Next Generation of Artists

Based in the heart of Manchester's thriving creative scene, our Visual Arts department is home to Creative Futures – a flagship partnership with Manchester Art Gallery, now celebrating its tenth year.

This unique collaboration gives students from across Greater Manchester, including some of the UK's most economically challenged communities, the opportunity to develop their artistic skills, build industry connections, and join a vibrant creative community.

Through mentorship, live projects, and professional workshops, Creative Futures equips students with the confidence, experience, and portfolio to thrive in the creative industries. Recent highlights include showcasing student and staff work at the Manchester Contemporary Art Fair, with selected pieces joining the historic Rutherston Loans Collection – a cultural treasure first donated to the gallery in 1925.

Our home at the state-of-the-art City Campus Manchester rivals the UK's best art schools, offering specialist workshops in ceramics, jewellery, printmaking, fashion and textiles, 3D design, and more – plus a spectacular triple-height open-plan art studio. Here, students benefit from industry-standard equipment, expert teaching, and an environment designed to spark creativity.

Creative Futures is more than a course enhancement – it's a launchpad for artistic careers and a lasting legacy that connects past, present, and future generations of Manchester's creative talent.

Courses for Adults

Are you aged over 19 and looking to upskill, retrain or progress your artistic skills? We've got a wide range of courses for you to help strengthen your CV, start a new career or go further in your current role.

We believe finances shouldn't be a barrier to your success, so if you have any questions about course fees, finance or funding, then get in touch with us.

Art and Design – Foundation Diploma

Level 3 | City Campus Manchester

Photography

Level 2 | City Campus Manchester

Pattern Cutting

Level 2 and 1 | City Campus Manchester

Jewellery Making

Level 2 and 1 | City Campus Manchester



I really like the campus and the freedom it offers. The tutors are supportive and helpful, and they've guided me in the right direction, influencing me to continue in a photography-based career and pushing



careers&welfare@tmc.ac.uk



tmc.ac.uk/funding







me further.

Tahnee Level 3 Photography

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

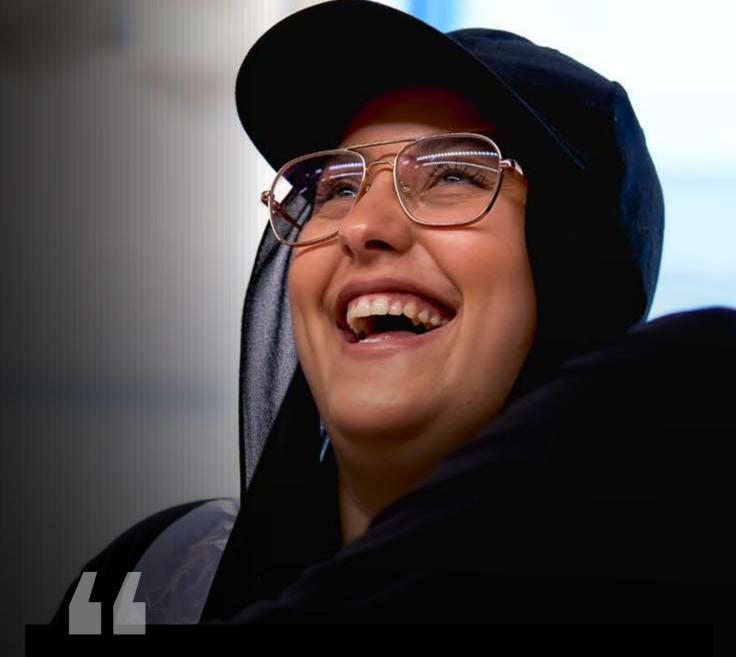
Once you've completed one of our Level 3
Diplomas, you'll have the opportunity to progress
onto your choice of degree level courses
through our higher education partner – UCEN
Manchester at City Campus Manchester.

Choose between one-year degree-level courses to build your skills and confidence or three-year degrees.

Courses available in:

- HND Fashion and Textiles 2 Years
- HNC The Animation Industry 1 Year
- HND The Animation Industry 2 Years
 - FdA Make-Up Artistry 2 Years
- FdA Special Effects Make-Up Artistry 2 Years
- BA (Hons) Graphic Design and Branding 3 Years
 - BA (Hons) 3D Game Art and VFX 3 Years
- BA (Hons) Photography and Social Practice 3 Years.

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



When I came to an open day I absolutely fell in love with UCEN Manchester. Thanks to the new building with massive workshops, we were able to collaborate with people on other courses and I was able to produce something so big here.

Studying at UCEN Manchester has been the best time I've ever had. I've never experienced so much in my life and I've never felt so confident before. Now I feel like doors are open for me.

Deena Nasser Former Art, Media Make-Up Student

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 Visual Arts, and to start your application, scan the QR code or visit: **tmc.ac.uk/visual-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.

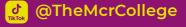
Secure your place now: tmc.ac.uk/events











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



range of formats, such as large print, on request.