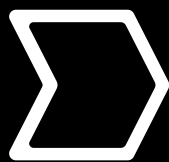


# PERFORMING

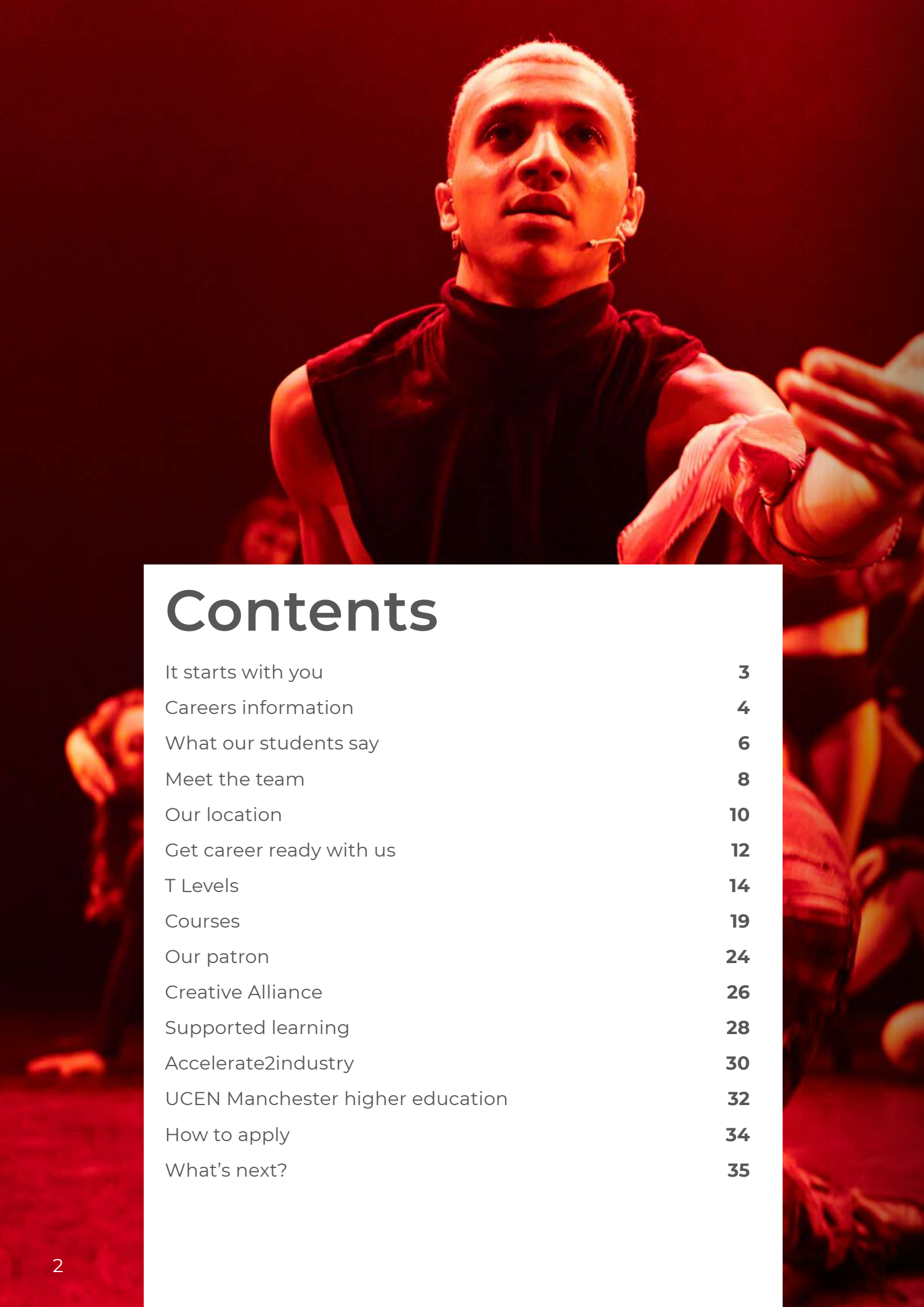


The  
Manchester  
College®  
be amazing



# ARTS





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# It starts with you

Do you dream of performing on a West End stage? Or perhaps you have your heart set on starring in a hit TV series or award-winning film? Maybe you want to dance in venues across the globe? Whichever exciting career in Performing Arts you're aiming for, The Manchester College can help you to achieve your ambitions.

You'll need drive, determination, resilience and bag loads of energy to succeed. You'll also need professional training, which is where we come in. We offer courses in Acting, Dance, Musical Theatre and Technical Theatre. While many people enjoy performing as a hobby, we focus on arming students with the skills they need to enjoy a successful and sustainable career.

Previous students have gone on to act in programmes like Casualty, Coronation Street, Doctor Who, Hollyoaks and Heartstopper, perform in the West End and at theatres in shows such as The Phantom of The Opera, Standing at the Sky's Edge, Lion King and Everybody's Talking About Jamie, and dance with The X Factor, Motionhouse, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Rita Ora, Take That and Akram Khan, and in touring musicals like Miss Saigon and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.

If you were born to perform, you'll love the passion, enthusiasm and creative atmosphere that infects everyone in our Performing Arts department. Our tutors continue to work in the industry, having performed for audiences all over the world, they still choreograph and direct professionally. They have undertaken extensive training to enable them to share their skills with students.

It's a fast-moving sector, with changing trends and demands, so we're constantly updating our curriculum to make sure it's relevant and gives you the right skills to stand out. We are also aware of the pressures of a changing industry and work with you on building mental well-being and developing the tools for self-care as a performer.

Our industry connections are second to none. Coronation Street star Sally Carman is our patron and many members of our teaching team still work in the sector. You'll also benefit from guest speakers, such as directors and choreographers, and have the opportunity to take part in workshops and masterclasses with experts in their field.

You'll be learning your trade in the heart of Manchester in our new City Campus Manchester - which comes complete with extraordinary performance and rehearsal spaces, and industry standard technology and equipment.

So if you think you have what it takes, and you want to learn from the best in one of the most vibrant, dynamic cities in the UK, we look forward to welcoming you.





# Careers information



## JOB FIGURES

There were approx. **1,592** employees in the Performing Arts sector in Greater Manchester in 2021.



## AVERAGE EARNINGS

The average wage in GM is **£28,841 per annum (2021)**.



## REPLACEMENT DEMAND

**17.2%** of the current workforce will be reaching retirement age in the next 10 years, meaning those jobs will need replacing.



## WORKFORCE SPLIT

Currently **57%** of the workforce are male.

Types of jobs available	Skills needed	Examples of GM employers
Actor	Communication	Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG)
Choreographer	Content creation	BBC
Community Arts Worker	Creativity	Home Manchester
Dancer	Customer service	ITV
Dance Movement Psychotherapist	Editing	Manchester International Festival
Dramatherapist	Management	NHS
Presenter	Photography	Octagon Theatre Bolton
Stage / Set Designer	Self-motivation	The Bridgewater Hall
Stage Manager	Short films	The Royal Exchange Theatre
Stagehand	Writing	Z Arts

Data sourced from Lightcast March 2023.

FIND OUT  
MORE HERE







## What our students say

I was the only pupil from my school that came to The Manchester College and everyone was so welcoming and approachable. I loved it straight away. The thing that attracted me to the College was that the course was 80% practical based. Also, the facilities are brilliant and I felt excited to dance in them. My tutor has spoken to me about her time dancing on the cruise ships and how amazing it is, and I've had careers workshops and presentations. I've also participated in the College fashion show at the Manchester Art Gallery and helped at open events which have both helped in preparing me for my future career.

Evie Jones  
Level 3 Performing Arts (Dance)

I chose to come to The Manchester College because of the emphasis they place on both theatre and screen work, whereas a lot of other places focus mainly on theatre. I also preferred the BTEC to the A Level because there's more performance work than written work. I've been able to work with people who I would never have thought to group up with and made some great friends. I've already recommended The Manchester College to some friends because it's in the centre of Manchester, there are great networking opportunities and you are learning from people who are still in the industry, so you get a first hand experience of what it's like.

Luke Taylor  
Level 3 Performing Arts (Acting)



The Manchester College is an amazing college to be at. It provides a safe and welcoming environment where everyone is accepted. My tutors have given me a clear outlook about the pathway I have when leaving college. I have attended workshops, received advice on work experience and I have expanded on my knowledge of employability skills.

Caitlin Jones  
Level 3 Performing Arts (Dance)

The experience at the College and meeting new friends has been incredible. My tutors have always been caring and supportive, they are patient and always tried to help me achieve my goals.

Phoenix Van Assen  
Level 2 Performing Arts (Acting)



# Meet the team

Our tutors are proof that you can have a successful career in the entertainment industry, if you're prepared to work for it. They've performed at the West End, on cruise ships and at venues across the globe, as well as appearing on TV. Many still work as professional dancers or actors. All our tutors have undertaken considerable extra training to be able to share their knowledge and skills with our students.



**Maria Foran**  
**Assistant Principal - Creative Industries**

Maria taught Visual Arts courses across our campuses for 14 years before she was appointed as Head of Department in 2019, and then became Assistant Principal in 2024. Initially graduating in Textile Design, she played a lead role in founding the ground-breaking collaborative project, Future Creatives with Manchester Art Gallery, which our students now benefit from each year.



**Charlotte Swindells**  
**Head of Department**

Charlotte has worked as a professional dancer and choreographer for a number of companies, including Stageworks Worldwide Productions, Showstoppers Productions, Vibe UK and Princess Cruises. She's achieved advanced dance and teaching qualifications in Cecchetti Ballet, ISTD Tap and ISTD Modern.



**Helen Cheung**  
**Department Team Leader**

Helen has worked as a professional dancer around the world. She's performed on cruise ships for Costa Cruises and Princess Cruises and has been on numerous dance tours. Helen has trained in America and Italy as well as the UK and holds teaching qualifications in ISTD Tap, ISTD Modern and ISTD Ballet. She owns three dance studios and teaches more than 300 students a week.



**Melissa Gumbs**  
**Tutor**

Melissa trained at Northern Ballet School in Manchester, focusing on ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and contemporary dance, alongside acting and singing. She worked on two high-class ships, Carnival Cruise Line and Norwegian Cruise Line, traveling to the Caribbean, USA, Europe, and Alaska. Melissa was also part of the West End show 'Thriller Live,' touring the UK, Europe, and China, and recently worked with Phoenix Dance Theatre for the National Windrush monument reveal at Southbank Theatre.



**Scott Hughes Lewis**  
**Tutor**

Scott, a Royal Northern College of Music graduate, majored as a vocalist and keys player in performance. Currently, he is a Musical Theatre tutor at The Manchester College, specialising in vocals, ensembles, and leading the TMC choir. With training in jazz, soul, musical theatre, and pop, Scott fosters excellence and helps students grow on their vocal and musical journeys.



**Michael Markey**  
**Tutor**

Michael holds a first-class Dance and Musical Theatre Degree from Bird College Conservatoire. His extensive performance background enriches his teaching of ballet, tap, and jazz. Michael has starred in musicals such as Ghost, Elf, and Grease, as well as productions like The Pajama Game. His expertise in singing and dance motivates students to explore their full potential in performing arts.



**Scan here**  
to read more  
about our tutors



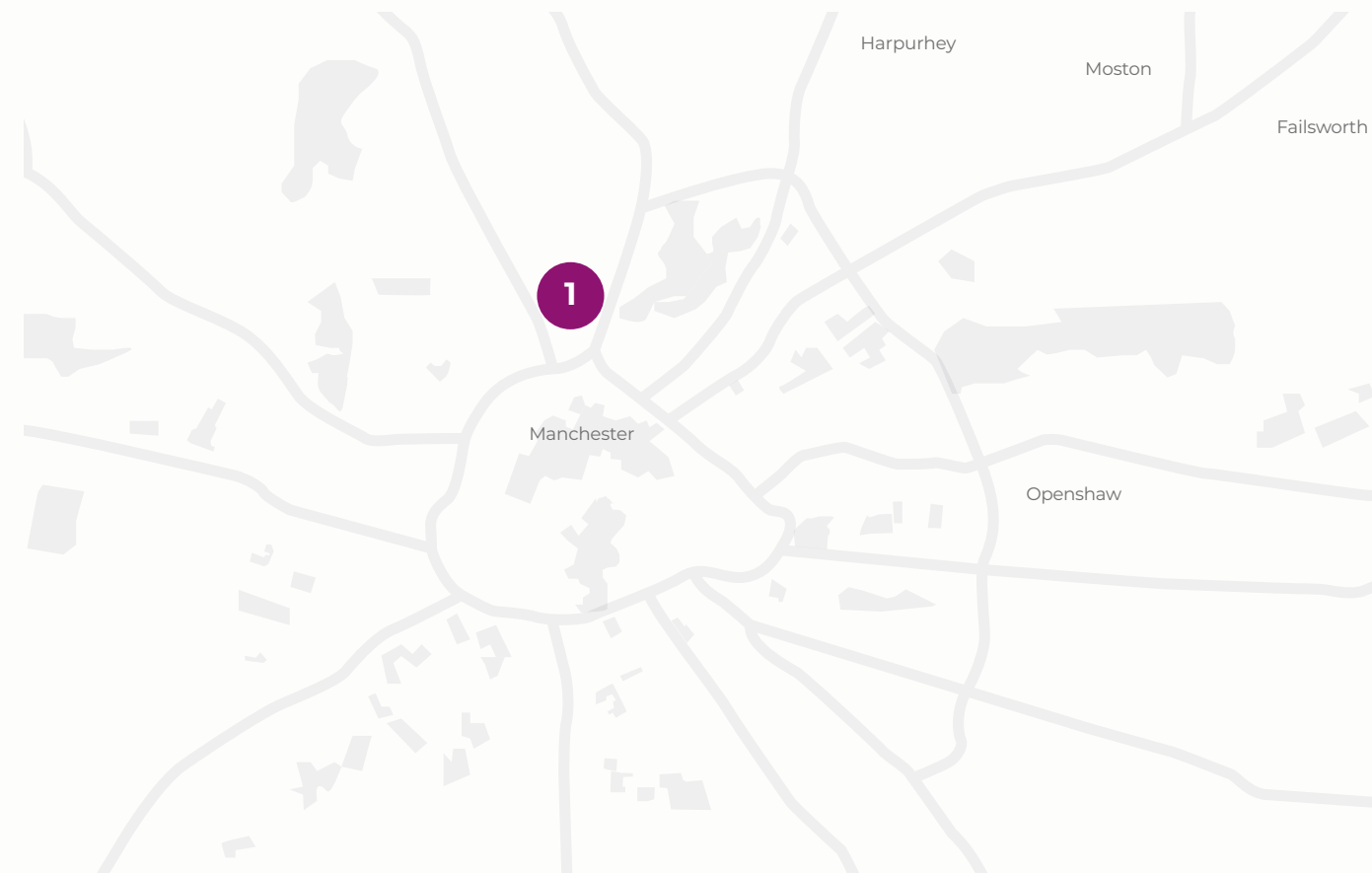
# Our location

Choosing to study Performing Arts at The Manchester College means you'll benefit from our extraordinary performance spaces, state-of-the-art technology, industry-standard equipment and two fully-equipped theatres. And where better to study than Manchester?

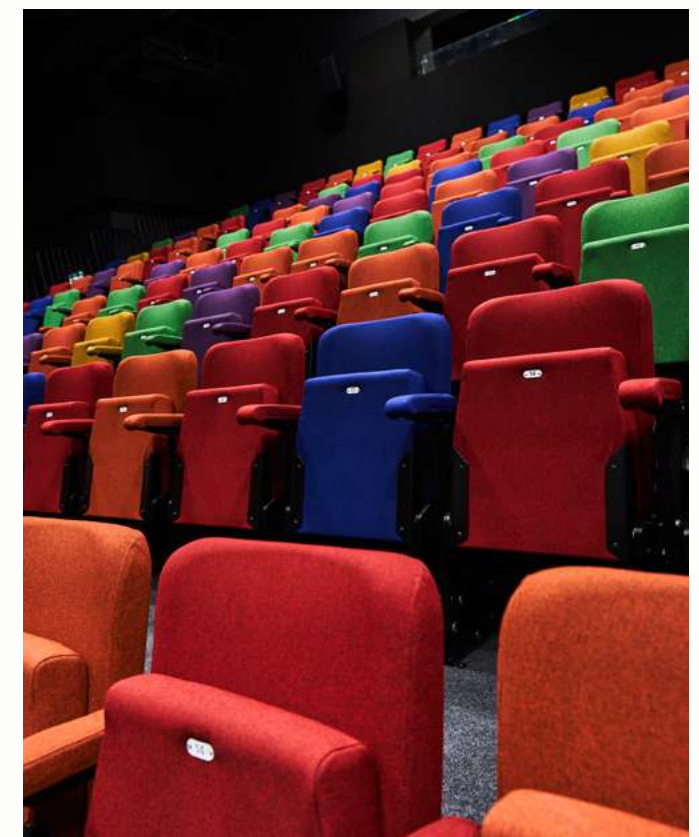
This city has a rich musical and performing arts tradition and boasts countless theatres, as well as the country's longest running TV soap.

Our Performing Arts provision is at our City Campus Manchester, located just a stones throw from the AO Arena and Victoria Station.

With the 21,000 seat arena on your doorstep, and exciting performance venues within walking distance, such as Home, The Royal Exchange Theatre, Hope Mill, The Palace, and the Opera House, you'll find inspiration and entertainment at every turn.



- 1 City Campus Manchester**  
60 Great Ducie Street, Manchester M3 1PT





# Get career ready with us

**We passionately believe in helping you reach your ultimate goal, focusing on your future employability and developing the knowledge, skills and behaviours you will need to have a successful career.**

Many of our programmes of study have been co-developed with industry partners. Working so closely with industry partners means you'll benefit from courses that are aligned with current industry skills and demands as well as a range of industry-level activities and lessons.

Once you complete your journey with us you will have the qualifications you need to take the next steps towards an amazing career, as well as the knowledge, skills and behaviours that will help you stand out to future employers.

## **Study Programmes**

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. This is a mandatory requirement and it's also essential you achieve this for many careers.

## **Employability**

To prepare you for your future career, you'll take part in a range of 'employability' activities to equip you with the knowledge and experience of the careers available to you.

You'll be assigned an Employability Co-ordinator and will take part in a wide range of activities which will help you develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours you'll need to thrive in the workplace.

## **Industry Expertise**

You will get the opportunity to take part in masterclasses and lessons delivered by industry experts, visits from guest speakers within the sector and industry-standard projects, that will see you working on the kind of tasks you'd be completing once you begin your career in the performing arts industry.

## **Work Experience or Industry Placement**

As part of your course you are required to take on external work experience. We will help you find a suitable placement. While there, you'll help with day-to-day tasks and shadow staff to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours that are expected in the workplace and broaden your knowledge of the industry.

Previous students have worked with:

- The Royal Exchange Theatre
- ITV
- BBC on programmes such as Waterloo Road
- Company Chameleon
- AO Arena
- Original Theatre
- Out of Kilter Theatre.

You may be able to apply for an industry placement offering a longer period of experience with a leading employer, depending on your course.

An industry placement gives you in-depth knowledge of the industry, allows you to gain hands-on experience and gives you an insight into career pathways.

With a placement, you're taking that all important first step onto the ladder; many of our students even go on to gain paid employment with their industry placement employer at the end of the year.

## **Work Related Activity**

There are so many careers in the performing arts sector and we want to help you explore as many as possible during your studies.

We organise lots of work-related activities to help you discover more about the opportunities that might be open to you. You could soon be taking part in activities such as:

- Q&As with directors, choreographers, agents, alumni and other professionals
- Guest masterclasses, lectures and workshops led by experts in their field
- Live auditions and mock interviews from employers
- Mentorship from those working in the industry
- Trips to learn what it's like to work in this dynamic sector
- Live briefs working on performances, activities and briefs.

## Study for a Technical Level (T Level) qualification in Media, Broadcast and Production

**T Levels are a two year technical programme that provide you with a high-quality alternative to A Levels.**

They have been developed in collaboration with employers, and combine theory, practical and classroom learning with a minimum 45-day industry placement. If you opt to take a T Level you will spend 20% of your time on an industry placement and 80% in the classroom.

After completing the course you can progress directly into work, on to a Higher Apprenticeship or even move on to study a university degree, as T Levels are awarded UCAS points.



## T Award

Those successful in gaining a place on a T Level will be eligible for the 'T Award', a package of benefits that includes:

- £300 per year bursary\*
- Access to an industry-standard laptop\* (as appropriate)
- Opportunities to take part in exciting college-wide competitions
- Minimum 20% delivery by industry experts
- Minimum 45-day industry placement
- Free branded work wear
- Masterclasses
- Digital upskilling
- Bursary incentive if progressing to UCEN Manchester
- Guaranteed progression to a higher education course at UCEN Manchester
- Use of industry based software
- And much more.

\* Subject to requirements, including 95% attendance, positive attitude and grade profile.





# Courses

## Level 3 | T Level | Events Production City Campus Manchester | Two Years

During the two-year programme, you will learn the core knowledge and skills that are needed for entry to a range of live sound and events production occupations through the events and venues technician specialism.

You will develop an understanding of a broad range of issues relevant to the sector, including:

- The creative economy
- The individual in the creative industries
- Cultural context and vocabulary
- Audience and consumer needs
- Legal and regulatory requirements
- Professional standards and conduct in the workplace
- Equality, diversity and inclusion requirements
- Research skills
- Project methodology and administration
- Continued professional development.

You will learn to expertise in a range of roles with range of professional settings: theatre, live music venues, festivals.

For those who don't meet the entry requirements and would still like to pursue a T Level, there is the option of a one-year Level 2 T Level Foundation Year. This Foundation Year will allow you to gain a qualification and move on to study a T Level the following year.

## Level 2 | T Level Foundation Year | Performing and Production Arts (Technical Theatre) City Campus Manchester | One Year

If you want to work in theatre production or music events but don't want to be on the stage, you could help make the magic happen behind the scenes instead.

You will develop knowledge and understanding through college-based workshops and then apply your learning and skills in a practical work placement.

The course will teach you how theatres and music events are supported and how the industry operates. You will learn about job opportunities and roles within the sector as well as the essential key skills in backstage and events support: sound, lighting, set design and construction, and health and safety protocols.

## Jump Start To T Levels

Both our T Level and T Level Foundation Year require you to complete our Jump Start to T Levels programme as an entry requirement.

This programme is a two-week introduction to our T Level and Foundation Year programmes, where you can meet your tutors and experience what studying a T Level at The Manchester College is like.

To apply or find out more about our T Level and T Level Foundation Year programmes, visit our Industry Excellence Academy website: [industry-excellence.tmc.ac.uk/t-levels](https://industry-excellence.tmc.ac.uk/t-levels)





# Acting Courses

## Level 1 | Music, Performing and Production Arts (Acting Pathway)

### City Campus Manchester | One Year

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 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.

## Level 2 | Performing and Production Arts (Acting)

### City Campus Manchester | One Year

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.

As well as acting out scenes using existing scripts, you might even write your own plays to produce.

You'll be able to put your new skills to the test by performing to audiences, including in one of our two theatres!

## Level 3 | Performing Arts (Acting)

### City Campus Manchester | Two Years

Do you want to explore your acting skills in the heart of a vibrant, artistic city? At The Manchester College, you'll be developing your performance skills under the guidance of industry professionals.

You'll learn about current trends and practices, both within theatre and out in the world of film and television. You will soon be discovering more about contemporary theatre, site-specific theatre, movement, voice and a whole lot more.

We'll also help you to prepare for the next stage in your journey towards a professional career. You'll be honing your audition skills, learning how to network and finding out more about life as a freelance performer.

You'll also be strengthening your CV by undertaking relevant work experience. Our city is home to The Manchester International Festival, the BBC, ITV and numerous other studios and venues, and we have the connections to help you land a rewarding placement.

Plus, you'll get to perform to an audience in one of our professional theatres.





# Dance Courses

## Level 2 | Performing and Production Arts (Dance)

### City Campus Manchester | One Year

Do you want to develop your skills in a variety of different dance styles and learn what your life could be like as a professional dancer?

During this one year course, you'll explore the world of dance and improve your techniques in a range of styles to include ballet, tap, commercial, contemporary and jazz. You'll perform set pieces and be taught how to choreograph your own routines.

Your tutors will also share their experiences of working as professional dancers. You'll learn more about life as part of a dance company and all the different on and off stage roles open to you.

You'll be putting all your new skills into practice through live performances at one of our own theatres.

## Level 3 | Performing Arts (Dance)

### City Campus Manchester | Two Years

Do you want to develop and master your dance skills and gain a qualification that's prized by professional companies? The Manchester College is an ISTD-approved dance centre right in the centre of this vibrant, artistic city.

You'll be taught by tutors who have enjoyed successful careers in the dance world. Some of them have travelled the globe on cruise ships, appeared on TV and worked with dance companies and they're ready to share their experiences with you.

While you'll specialise in the type of dance that you're most drawn to, you'll also develop your abilities in other styles, including classical ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, commercial, choreography, improvisation and acro. You'll be performing set pieces, as well as choreographing your own routines and working on projects. You'll also get plenty of opportunities to perform in front of an audience in one of our professional theatres.

Our main aim is to help you to succeed in a career within the dance world, so you'll improve your audition skills and learn how to network and present yourself as a professional performer.

You'll also strengthen your CV and gain crucial experience with a work placement at a local theatre, dance company or other relevant employer.

By the time you finish your course, you'll have the skills, experience and confidence to progress onto further study at degree-level.





# Musical Theatre Courses

## Level 2 | Performing and Production Arts (Musical Theatre)

### City Campus Manchester | One Year

If you enjoy acting, dancing and singing, you probably have your heart set on a career in musical theatre. From West End musicals to pantomimes and variety shows, this high-energy sector is great fun and incredibly rewarding. It's also very competitive, so you'll need the right training to succeed.

At The Manchester College, you'll learn from tutors who have extensive experience of both teaching and working as professional performers. You'll learn a wide variety of skills and techniques, discover what it takes to work in musical theatre and explore both on and off stage job roles.

You will study all the key aspects of musical theatre, developing your skills in singing, dance and acting, and will perform in front of a live audience in one of our professional theatres.

## Level 3 | Performing Arts (Musical Theatre)

### City Campus Manchester | Two Years

From Les Misérables to Hamilton, musicals are some of the most energetic, upbeat and memorable shows ever performed. On this course, you'll move one step closer to a career in musical theatre.

You'll learn from industry professionals who've performed across the globe and you'll have numerous opportunities to wow audiences yourself, including in our own professional theatres.

During the two-year course, you'll further develop your skills to become a triple threat in singing (ensemble and one to one) acting and dancing. You'll learn about current industry trends and practices, study a wide variety of musicals and develop your repertoire. You'll prepare for the next stage in your journey by perfecting your audition skills and gaining valuable work experience with a relevant employer.

By the time you complete the course, you will have developed the skills, knowledge and confidence progress to further training at degree-level.



# Our patron

When actor Sally Carman isn't treading the cobbles of Coronation Street, you'll often find her here at The Manchester College, as she's our very first patron of Performing Arts. Sally supports our students in a range of ways, including through exclusive acting masterclasses and Q&A sessions.

Sally has been working as an actor for more than 20 years. She's best known for her roles as Abi Franklin in Coronation Street and Kelly Maguire in Shameless, but has also appeared in Holby City, Doctors, Prisoners' Wives, Silent Witness and numerous other TV programmes.



# “

*Being a patron of the Performing Arts department is amazing. It's so important to be able to express yourself and be happy in your own skin. It's not only about actors and acting, it's about creating fully formed human beings and not losing the importance of arts and creativity.”*

Sally Carman  
Actor





# Creative Alliance

**Our Performing Arts department is committed to bringing you together with industry professionals.**

We believe that the best way to shape the performing and creative artists of the future is for the industry itself to design, develop and deliver our curriculum.

Our Creative Alliance brings together an artistic collective of professionals from across the performing arts sector, who provide masterclasses, work experience, live briefs and mentorship amongst other amazing opportunities to ensure you get the most up to date and industry relevant training.

out of kilter  
theatre

Company  
Chameleon

Original.





# 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](https://tmc.ac.uk/supported-learning)





# We'll help you Accelerate2industry

As soon as you enrol on a Performing Arts course, we'll start talking to you about the opportunities that could be open to you in the future.

To guide you through the process and help you achieve your aspirational career goals, we've teamed up with our higher education partner, UCEN Manchester, on an exciting initiative.



Ultimately, the aim of Accelerate2Industry is to help you progress into either higher study, higher education with UCEN Manchester, or your chosen career.

The initiative runs throughout the academic year and there are three distinct phases:

## Step 1 - Plan >>>

Find out about the options available to you at the end of your study programme.

## Step 2 - Pass >>>

Your tutors will speak to you about what you're planning on doing next year and support you to secure the grades you need to move on to the next phase of your journey.

## Step 3 - Progress >>>

Your tutors will ensure that you have all of the information and support you need to re-join us in September or progress on to university, employment or an apprenticeship.

## Progressors Award >>>

Do you want to study with a higher education provider that offers something a little bit different and delivers courses that are career focussed and lead you straight into employment? If so, our Progressors Award is just for you.

The award is open to all Level 3 students at The Manchester College that, upon completion of their course, enrol onto a higher education course at UCEN Manchester. The Progressors Award is currently £200. Please check the amount, eligibility, and terms and conditions ahead of making your progressors application to UCEN Manchester during your final year of Level 3 study.

Book a campus tour, taster session or other support session with the UCEN Manchester Outreach Team by contacting [HEfutures@ucenmanchester.ac.uk](mailto:HEfutures@ucenmanchester.ac.uk).

Scan for more information, advice and guidance.





## 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](https://ucenmanchester.ac.uk)





# How to apply

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



## Step 1

Visit **tmc.ac.uk**



## Step 2

Choose a course, apply at an open event, online or mobile



## Step 3

Receive a conditional offer - you must accept this within 12 weeks



## Step 4

Book to attend an interview



## Step 5

Register to attend our New Student Welcome Day on 30 June (16 - 18)



## Step 6

We will invite you to enrol in August or September after you receive your results (if applicable)

# What's next?

## Find out more and apply

To find out more about Performing Arts at The Manchester College and to apply scan the QR code or visit: **tmc.ac.uk/performing-arts**



## Visit us

Join us at one of our open events throughout the year to learn more about our courses, tour our facilities, speak to our tutors and much more. To find out when our next open event is taking place and to register your place visit: **tmc.ac.uk/events**

## Stay in touch

Follow us on our social media channels:

 **The Manchester College**

 **@TheMcrCollege**

 **@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**





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*The Manchester College is committed to equality of opportunity, non-discriminatory practices and supporting individual learners. This information is also available in a range of formats, such as large print, on request.*