

Visual Arts




SCAN HERE
to view online



The
Manchester
College®
be amazing

**WE ARE THE NUMBER ONE COLLEGE IN GREATER
MANCHESTER FOR OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT***

**Latest National Achievement Rates Tables.*

Contents

Five reasons to study	3
Careers information	4
Where to find us	6
Get career ready with us	10
What you can study	12
Courses for adults	16
Supported Learning	18
UCEN Manchester higher education	20
Your next steps	22
Open events	23



5 Reasons to Study



Visual Arts at The Manchester College



Number 1 in Greater Manchester

Our achievement rates are the highest of all colleges in Greater Manchester for the 8th year running and we're one of the top 3 in the country.*



Progression that opens doors

Over 94% of TMC students move on to a positive destination such as employment, an apprenticeship or degree-level study.**



Ofsted recognition

In our most recent Ofsted inspection, we were rated 'Good' overall and 'Strong' for our contribution to skills.



Over 1,000 employer partners

We work with employers across lots of industries, so you can build your confidence through a meaningful work placement, industry talks and live projects.



Get career ready from day one

Designed with your next step in mind, our courses help you build real-world skills, confidence and experience so you're ready for work, an apprenticeship or university.

* Latest National Achievement Rates Tables.

** Latest Internal Progression Data.



Careers information



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	Skills needed	Examples of GM Employers
Art Therapist	Adobe Illustrator	Bee Thrive
Community Arts Worker	Adobe Photoshop	FLOW Creative
Costume Designer	Communication	Hadley Interiors Limited
Exhibition Designer	Detail oriented	HOME Exhibition
Fashion Designer	Innovation	Manchester Craft and Design Centre
Garment Technologist	Management	Manchester International Festival
Graphic Designer	Marketing	Mustard Tree
Illustrator	Prototyping	N Brown
Interior and Spatial Designer	Research	Represent Clothing
Photographer	User Experience (UX)	Sosandar

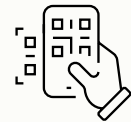
Data sourced from Lightcast and The National Careers Service April 2025.



FIND OUT MORE HERE

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.



Get Directions



City Campus 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.

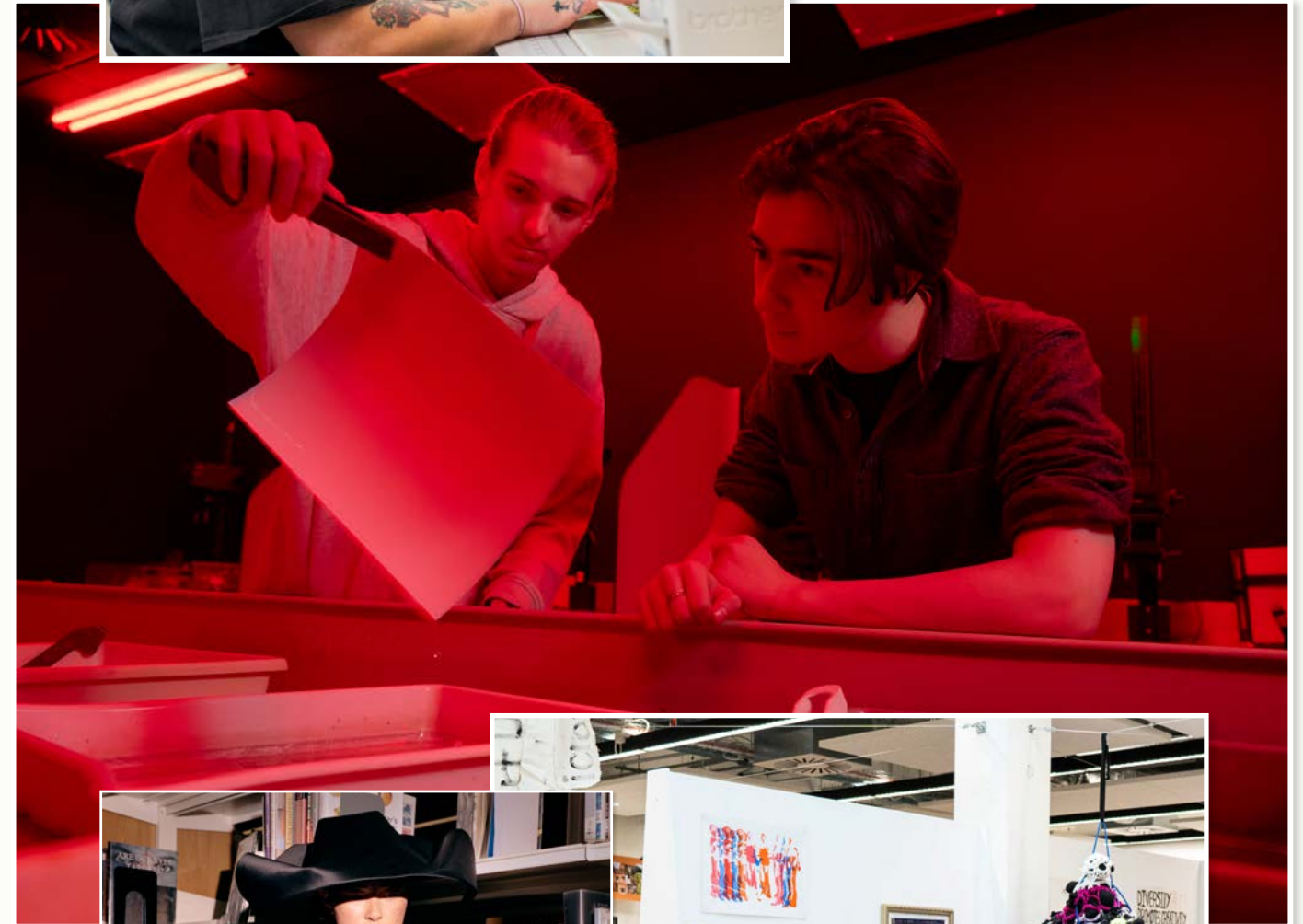


Image credit: Ewen Spencer for i-D Magazine.

Featuring in i-D magazine has been an incredible experience, working alongside so many talented creatives. My course and the College have helped open doors to opportunities like this and supported my creative journey.



Mia
Level 3 Creative Practice:
Art, Design & Communications - Fashion

Our students star in the iconic i-D magazine 'Class of 2026' feature, a biannual magazine dedicated to fashion, music, art, film and youth culture.



Image credits: Ewen Spencer for i-D Magazine.

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 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 placements
- Work with NOMA Manchester to deliver community-led projects that create positive local impact.
- 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.



What you can study

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 also work towards achieving this alongside your main course.



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 and 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

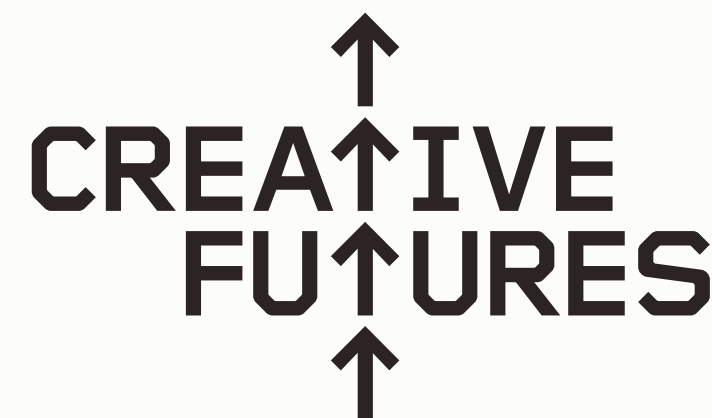
Level 2 | City Campus Manchester

This Level 2 course is ideal if you're aiming to progress to a Level 3 art and 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 and 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 Rutherford 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 skills in visual arts? 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.

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
me further.*

Got a question about funding?
Get in touch with our friendly team.



careers&welfare@tmc.ac.uk



tmc.ac.uk/funding



Scan here
to view online



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.



Scan here
to view online

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

Thinking about your next step after college?
Discover degree-level courses that'll get you ready for anything.

ROOTED in the NORTH

school of sport, health and wellbeing Salford Quays
Spinningfields MANC Curry Afflecks
football The Ritz mile The Smiths
PICCADILLY GARDENS CHINA TOWN oasis media city
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LAW the lowry
MUSIC UCEN MANCHESTER
Chorlton ARDEN SCHOOL OF THEATRE
WAREHOUSE Parklife PRINTWORKS
PROJECT PRIDE Manchester film school
SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND CYBERSECURITY northern soul
school of construction and engineering FACTORY RECORDS art galleries
Castlefield bridgewater hall
CANAL STREET
BELIEVE IN DIFFERENT school of art, media and make-up



**EXPLORE
DEGREES**

ucenmanchester.ac.uk

DEGREE LEVEL

Once you've completed one of our Level 3 Diplomas at College, you'll have the opportunity to progress on to our degree-level qualifications through our higher education partner, UCEN Manchester.

ART, MEDIA AND MAKE-UP COURSES

Benefit from hands-on, practical learning, small class sizes and state-of-the-art facilities.

Choose one of our higher education pathways in:

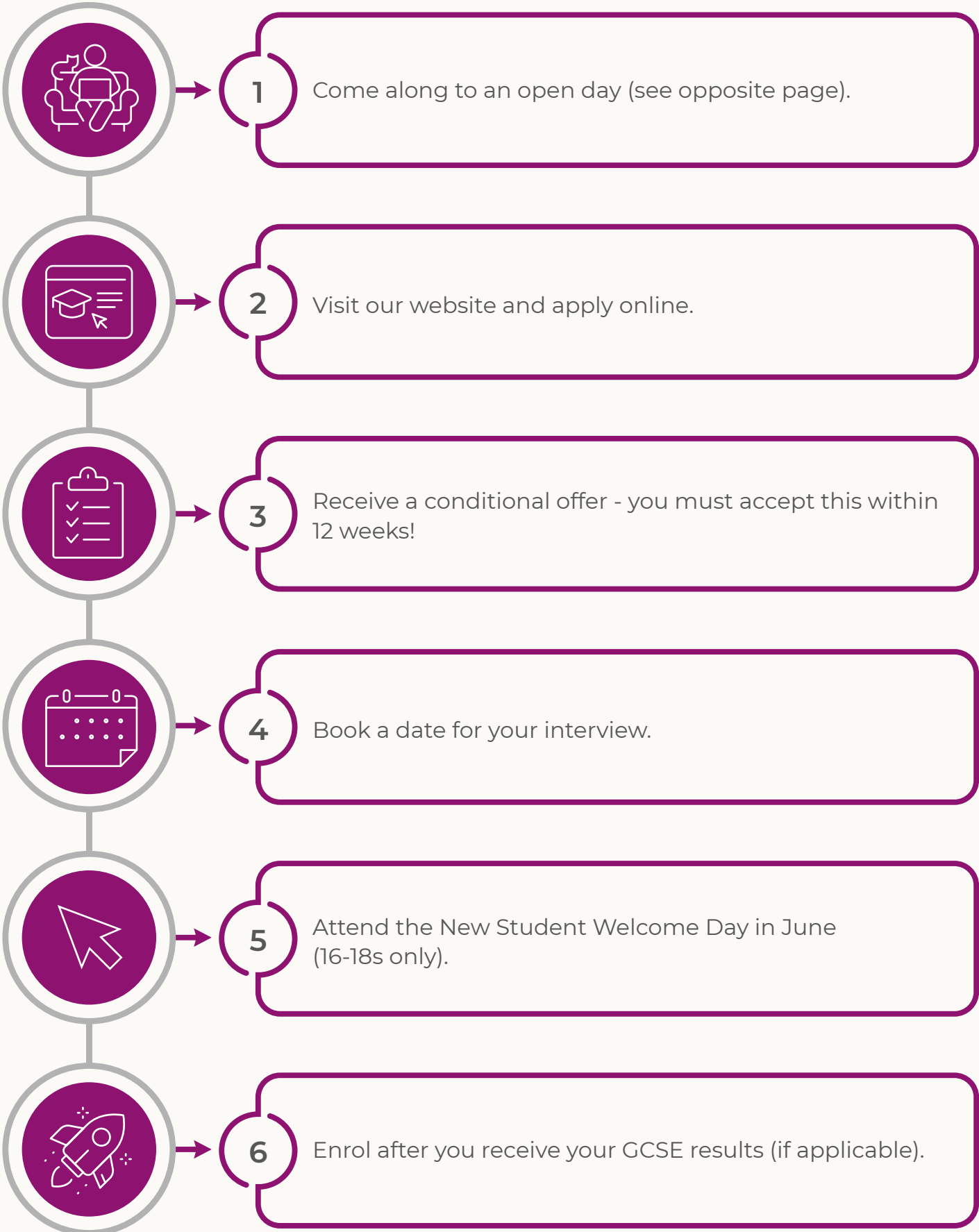
- > Fashion and Textiles
- > The Animation Industry
- > Make-Up Artistry
- > Special Effects Make-Up Artistry
- > Graphic Design and Branding
- > 3D Game Art and VFX
- > Photography and Social Practice.



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

Your next steps

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.



Open events

Come and see what makes us the number one College in Greater Manchester* for yourself.

Open events are the perfect place to speak to our tutors, explore our amazing facilities and chat to our support teams.

School Leavers

**Tuesday 6 October**
5-7pm

**Saturday 14 November**
10am-1pm

**Thursday 4 March**
5-7pm

Adults

**Thursday 20 May**
5-7pm



Book your place
tmc.ac.uk/events



* National Achievement Rates Tables.





The
Manchester
College®
be amazing

Find us on social



Top right cover image credit: Ewen Spencer for i-D Magazine.

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

All information is correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change. For the latest details, please visit tmc.ac.uk.

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.

Version 1. Printed September 2026