

Interview Guide



 **music**

 **games**

 **media**

 **events**

We're looking forward to seeing you for your interview. Here are a few tips to help you prepare.

YOUR INTERVIEW

Your interview is a chance to come and meet us so we can both get to know more about each other. You will be able to find out about our courses and the location of your choice, and we will find out what creative skills you have to place you on the best course to meet your needs.

Although you might feel a bit nervous, please try not to worry too much about it. We're here to help you on your learning journey, not to judge you like on *The X Factor*.

Please allow around an hour for your visit to include a 30-45 minute interview. This will include a short audition, demonstration or presentation as well as a discussion. You will also have the chance to ask questions.

We have a choice of interview slots to suit you, with options in the day and during the evening. You're more than welcome to come with parents, family or friends.

ACADEMIC SKILLS

It's important that we place you on the right level for you to succeed. While we don't have formal academic entry requirements, we do need to make sure that you will be able to undertake the work required. So to get a place on a Level 3 (A Level equivalent) course, you will need Level 2 grades which show that you are ready for the next stage.

We will ask for your actual and/or predicted qualification grades and a school reference if you are leaving school. We will also ask you about your school or college work.

Finally if you haven't achieved grade 4 (C) or above in GCSE Maths and/or English when you start the course, then we will help you to improve your skills in these subjects.

AUDITION/PRESENTATION/DEMONSTRATION

This is your opportunity to showcase your creative skills. Below are guidelines for each course, so you will know what to expect and how to prepare.

MUSIC

- **Music Performance and Vocal Artist (Levels 2 and 3)**
A short performance (around 3-6 minutes) of two contrasting pieces on an instrument and/or a vocal/rap performance. You may wish to do this to a backing track (please remember to bring this with you, or supply a link). Please bring your instrument with you if transportable. We have amplifiers, drum kits, keyboards and PA systems available for you to use. You may be asked to perform some technical exercises, such as scales/chords sequences/rhythm patterns. Please feel free to play/discuss other tracks you have created.
- **Music Technology (Level 2)**
A demonstration of your passion for music technology and a desire to gain the skills to work at higher levels. Please feel free to play/discuss any tracks you have created.
- **Music Production (Level 3)**
A demonstration of how you created a piece of music using digital software. Either bring the track with you as a software/audio file, or provide a link to an online file. Please feel free to play/discuss other tracks you have created. You may also undertake a short task based around using a digital audio workstation.
- **Sound Engineering (Level 3)**
A demonstration of your skills in using a mixing desk and/or a discussion of your skills and experience to date in either live and/or studio sound. You may also undertake a short task based around using a mixing desk or other audio kit.
- **Songwriting (Level 3)**
A demonstration of two contrasting pieces of music which you have written. These can be in a physical format, an online link, or on a USB stick. You may also bring a further portfolio of work (e.g. other tracks, lyrics etc.). You may be asked to demonstrate some technical musical knowledge.
- **Music Business (Level 3)**
A discussion of your skills and experience to date and/or future ideas about music enterprise projects or any other business ventures you have done. Please feel free to show a physical, or online, portfolio of your business work.

- **Artist Development (Level 4)**

Solo artists, producers and bands should prepare:

- Two or three original tracks, either for live audition, or for playback and discussion. Please feel free to bring other supporting material such as video, or provide links to online content (e.g. Soundcloud).
- A rationale of your music and how you see it developing.
- Any supporting material representing you as an artist, for example links to a website or social media channels, artwork, posters etc., with an appreciation of the brand/image you are trying to create.
- Ideas for your business strategy as an artist. This could be around the development of your fanbase and potential partnerships with music industry players (e.g. managers, agents, labels etc.). In the case of bands, members will need to identify individual roles within the business strategy.

GAMES

- **Games Development (Level 2)**

A passion for video games and their development and a desire to gain the skills to work at higher levels. Please feel free to bring any relevant work you have created.

- **Games Art (Level 3)**

A presentation of any characters and/or environments you have created. This may include links to online examples of your work or a physical portfolio. You may also undertake a short task based around using games art software.

- **Games Technology (Level 3)**

A presentation of any games/apps you have designed and/or programmed. This may include links to online examples of your work, or a physical portfolio. You may also undertake a short task based around games design and programming.

MEDIA

- **Digital Media (Level 2)**

A passion for digital media and a desire to gain the skills to work at higher levels. Please feel free to bring any relevant work you have created.

- **Digital & Interactive Media (Level 3)**

A presentation of a physical, or online, portfolio of any digital media work you have produced, from app and web design to content. This may include examples of your work on social media sites. You may also undertake a short task based around using digital media software.



- **Video Production & Photography (Level 3)**
A presentation of a physical, or online portfolio of any video and/or photography you have produced. This may include examples of your work on social media sites such as Instagram and YouTube. You may also undertake a short task based around using video/photo software.
- **Animation & VFX (Level 3)**
A presentation of a physical, or online portfolio of any animation and/or VFX you have produced. This may include examples of your work on social media sites. You may also undertake a short task based around using animation/VFX software.
- **Digital Marketing (Level 3)**
A presentation of any events, products or services you have marketed - please feel free to bring, or link to, a portfolio of your marketing ideas. This may include examples of your work on social media sites. You may also undertake a short task based around using social media tools.

EVENTS

- **Event Production (Level 3)**
A demonstration of your skills in using sound or lighting equipment and/or a presentation of a portfolio (physical or online) of any events you have worked on, from staging and set design through to health and safety and logistics.

CAREERS

- **Creative Careers (Level 1)**
Demonstration of the motivation to gain key work skills for a creative career and for further work at Level 2.

ACTING

- **Acting (Level 3)**
Preparation and presentation of a two minute monologue from a play of your choice. You will need to have memorised this without referring to a script.

MORE ABOUT YOUR INTERVIEW

We'll want to see your ability, potential and passion for your chosen area, plus your dedication to gaining new skills. You'll also need to demonstrate that you're able to work at your chosen level and, ideally, have clear ideas about what you want to do afterwards.

PREPARATION

Please take time to prepare fully for your interview. Come ready to talk about why you have chosen your course, what skills you want to learn and about your interests and passions. There are more tips on the opposite page.

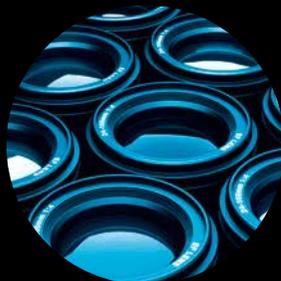
Make sure you rehearse your performance or presentation fully before your interview. Please remember to bring all the equipment you need - you can find out what you should be bringing in the audition section. Remember, if you are an instrumentalist to also bring things like leads, effects pedals, drum sticks etc.

SCHOOL REFERENCE

If you are joining us from year 11, then you will need to supply a reference from your school outlining your predicted or actual grades and any other information about your learning journey. If you can't source this in advance, we will ask for it afterwards.

INTERVIEW SUPPORT

Please let us know beforehand if you require any additional support at your interview, or access to particular resources. Access has Learning Support Tutors who can be available if needed. You can contact us to discuss this - see page 8 for contact details.



TIPS & HINTS FOR YOUR INTERVIEW

Tell us about your career goals

It's important that you have a clear idea about what skills you want to learn and what you want to do after you have finished the course. This might mean studying another course with Access, going into the creative industries, or it might mean going on to further study at university.

Ask some questions

Think of any questions you'd like to ask or areas where you require further clarification. This shows the interviewer that you have thought about what you want to do. Be sure to ask questions that relate specifically to your interests and to what you want to know about the course and Access Creative College. If you have any queries about equipment for the interview, please contact us directly before the interview day.

Make a good impression

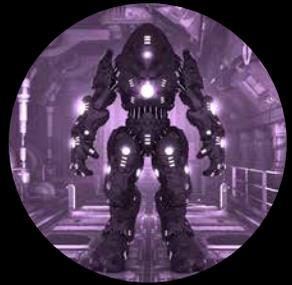
Try to avoid giving one-word answers – tell us as much as you can. Don't forget to bring a pen and paper (or an alternative device) in case you need to take notes. Double check the time and date of your interview. Make sure you arrive in plenty of time and plan ahead to ensure you are not delayed.

Useful documents to bring with you

If the course you are being interviewed for is right for you, we'd like to offer you a place on it as soon as possible. To do this we will need to see some documents, so it will help if you can bring the following with you:

- A passport OR birth certificate (OR if you are not a permanent EU/EEA resident or have lived in the EU/EEA for less than three years, please bring an ID card, Visa or Home Office document)
- Any qualification certificates or results slips for any examinations you have already taken.
- If you are still at school, please bring a reference including your actual/predicted grades.

Don't worry if you can't find these documents, or don't have them, as we can always sort this out later on.



NEXT STEPS

1. COURSE OFFER

At interview you will receive one of the following:

- **An unconditional offer** - we are offering you a place there and then.
- **A conditional offer** - we are offering you a place based on a condition:
 - obtaining proof of identity;
 - obtaining a school reference;
 - submission of actual qualification grades;
 - review of your documentation regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND);
 - investigation of an unspent criminal conviction;
 - development or assessment of additional skills.
- **Not offered** - we are unable to offer you a place at the moment.

All options will be confirmed on an interview record document that you will take away with you and we will also write to further confirm the decision.

If you are offered a place, it is important that you respond quickly to secure it. Demand for places is high, so please email or call us to accept.

In the unlikely event that you disagree with the interview outcome, you can make an appeal by emailing admissions@accesscreative.ac.uk explaining your concerns. More information on this is available after the interview.

2. ENROLMENT

Once you have accepted your place, we will then contact you with your enrolment information. Early enrolment usually takes place from May and if you enrol before 11th August 2018 you will be entered into a prize draw to win some amazing prizes.

CONTACT US

To contact us about your interview, please:

- **Call 0800 28 18 42** (free from landline and mobiles)
- **Contact our mobile 07960 956 119**
- **Email admissions@accesscreative.ac.uk**