

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 45 minute interview. This will include a discussion about your interests and creative skills and, for music performance courses, a short audition. You will also have the chance to ask questions.

We have a choice of interview slots to suit you, with the majority taking place early evenings on week days. You're more than welcome to come with parents, family or friends.

PRIOR SKILLS

To be successful in your studies, it's really important that you enrol on the right level of course. To help you do this, we have recommended entry requirements for each level of course:

- **Level 1:** There are no formal entry requirements, but you will enjoy things like taking photos, making music and designing online
- **Level 2:** A mix of GCSE grades, with the majority at 3-1 (or D-F)
- **Level 3:** Four GCSEs at grades 9-4, including English (other grades will be considered on a case by case basis)
- **Level 4:** You will need to show that you have worked successfully at Level 3 and are able to undertake creative development work at this level

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.



DISCUSSION/DEMONSTRATION/AUDITION

This is your opportunity to talk about your creative skills, what interests you, and to showcase some of your work. Below are guidelines for each course, so you know what to expect and how to prepare.

MUSIC

- **Music Performance and Vocal Artist (Levels 2 and 3)**
Please come prepared to talk about your music, which artists you like and your ambitions. For the audition element, please prepare a short performance (around 5 minutes) of two contrasting pieces on an instrument and/or a vocal performance. You may wish to do this to a backing track. Please bring your instrument with you. We have amplifiers, drum kits, keyboards and PA systems. You may want to demonstrate any original compositions.
- **Music Technology (Level 2)**
Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, the artists you like and your ambitions. This may include playing tracks you have created; talking about the equipment you have used, along with any studio or live mixing experience you may have.
- **Music Production (Level 3)**
Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, the artists you like and your ambitions. This may include playing tracks you have created; talking about the equipment you have used, along with any recording experience you may have.
- **Studio & Live Sound (Level 3)**
Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, the producers/engineers you like and your ambitions. This may include playing tracks you have recorded; talking about the equipment you have used, along with any studio or live mixing experience you may have.

- **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) and Games Art (Level 3)**

Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, the games and games art you like and your ambitions. Please bring, or supply links to, any games-related work you may have produced, such as games ideas, characters and animations. This may be in the form of an online or physical portfolio.

- **Games Technology (Level 3)**

Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, the games you like and your ambitions. Please bring, or supply links to, any games-related work you may have produced, such as games ideas and any working apps or games. This may be in the form of an online or physical portfolio.

MEDIA

- **Creative Media (Level 2)**

Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, the artists you like and your ambitions. Please bring, or supply links to, any work you may have produced, such as video, photos, illustrations and graphics. This may be in the form of an online or physical portfolio.

- **Graphic & Digital Design (Level 3)**

Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, the designs/illustrations you like, and your ambitions. Come prepared to show and discuss any work you may have produced. This may be in the form of an online or physical portfolio.



- **Film, Video & Photography (Level 3)**
Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, the films, videos and images you like, and your ambitions. Come prepared to show and discuss any work you may have produced. This may be in the form of an online or physical portfolio.
- **Interactive Media (Level 3)**
Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, the media channels and campaigns you like, and your ambitions. Come prepared to show and discuss any work you may have produced, such as web pages/sites, social media channels etc. This may be in the form of an online or physical portfolio.

EVENTS

- **Event Production (Level 3)**
Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills and events you like, and your ambitions. Please include any previous experience in events, from organising to skills in using sound or lighting equipment.

CAREERS

- **Creative Careers (Level 1)**
You will be invited for a chat to discuss how the course may best work for you. Please come prepared to talk about your interests, your current skills, and your ambitions.

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. Take time to prepare a portfolio of work you have created to show us. There are more tips on the opposite page.

If you need to undertake an audition, make sure you rehearse your performance 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.

QUALIFICATION GRADES

As you can see from the Prior Skills section on page 2, you will need to provide evidence of actual or predicted grades for all relevant qualifications you have taken or are taking. Please remember to bring these with you.

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 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 or 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.

References

References are a really useful way of helping us find out more about you. If you have a reference from a school, college, employer, or from voluntary or charitable work, then please bring it with you.





NEXT STEPS

1. COURSE OFFER

At interview you will receive one of the following:

- **A conditional offer** - we are offering you a place based on a condition such as:
 - achieving entry requirements;
 - review of your documentation regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND);
 - investigation of an unspent criminal conviction;
 - development or assessment of additional skills.
- **An unconditional offer** - we are offering you a place there and then. This will only happen if you already have all your entry qualifications.
- **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 email us, call us or log into your account to accept your place.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of your interview, you can 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.

CONTACT US

To contact us about your interview, please:

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