

# COURSE GUIDE

2026/27

## Hello...

We're Access Creative College, the UK's largest creative training provider. We're a part of the Access Education Group that also includes Access Sport, Access Industry (apprenticeships), and dBs Institute (undergraduate and postgraduate creative courses).

We've specialised in creative education for over 30 years and have campuses in Birmingham, Bristol, Lincoln, London, Manchester, Norwich and Plymouth. We deliver creative college courses in music, media, games, esports and computing.

Our welcoming campuses are loaded with the facilities you'll need to bring your creative ideas to life, and friendly tutors with real industry experience who will guide you every step of the way.

Our campuses aren't just where you'll go to learn; they are the focal point of a diverse creative community. So not only will you feel completely at home studying with us, you'll get to collaborate with like-minded people who share similar interests and aspirations to you.

We believe this combination of our facilities, our specialist creative courses, our staff and creative community make Access Creative College the best place to study your creative course, but don't just take our word for it... our alumni include Ed Sheeran, Jess Glynne, Rita Ora, Amy Love from Nova Twins, Freelance Animator Isaac Bouanga (Disney, One Punch, Shangrila Frontier), BAFTA Award winning game designer Aysheq Hussain, and many, many more.

This mini guide will give you an overview of Access Creative College and what makes studying with us a unique and exciting experience. However, the best way to find out about studying with us is to visit us at an open day or taster day, and experience what we can offer you in person.

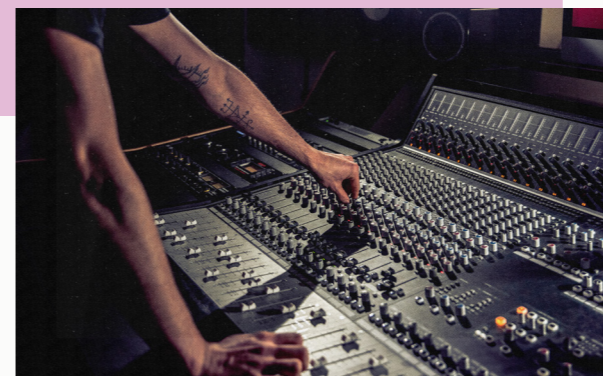
We hope to see you very soon!

## Our Facilities

Our Manchester campus is split across two locations less than a 10 minute walk from each other; one that is dedicated to music, situated in the St James' Building on Oxford Street, and the other dedicated to media and games on Hulme Street. Both buildings are creative and social with spaces for you to chill out and network with your coursemates and fellow students between lessons.

### Music Facilities

Write and produce your own songs in our music labs using Logic Pro X, practice in our dedicated rehearsal spaces kitted out with amps, drums, keyboards and microphones, and perform in our own performance space complete with PA system, Allen & Heath mixing desk and Chamsys lighting desk. We also have a professional grade recording studio with Audient mixing desk, Focusrite audio interfaces and Kemper amp modelling for you to record, mix and master your tracks, ready for release.



### Media & Design Facilities

Create your best content in our media lab with Apple iMacs loaded with all the software you'll need, including your own Adobe Creative Cloud licence that you can use on your own computer at home (whilst you are studying with ACC). You will also have access to a range of bookable cameras, lenses, lights and production hardware. Everything you'll need to create great photography, design or moving image content.

### Games Facilities

Get ahead of the game in our games lab equipped with gaming PCs by Overclockers, VR headsets and production software including Unreal Engine, Unity, 3ds Max and Blender, the same tools used by the industry. Everything you'll need to develop your ideas into a finished game, ready for release.



accesscreative.ac.uk



## Open Days & Taster Days

Find out what studying with us is really like by visiting us at an Open Day and Taster Day.

To book your place at an Open Day and Taster Day, visit [accesscreative.ac.uk/events](https://accesscreative.ac.uk/events) or scan the QR code.



### Open Days

Sat 18 Oct 2025	11am - 2pm
Sat 29 Nov 2025	11am - 2pm
Sat 24 Jan 2026	11am - 2pm
Sat 21 Mar 2026	11am - 2pm
Sat 27 Jun 2026	11am - 2pm

### Taster Day

Sat 18 Apr 2026	11am - 4pm
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**Find us online**  
[accesscreative.ac.uk](https://accesscreative.ac.uk)

**Find us in person**  
Music: 65 Oxford St, M1 6FQ  
Media & Games: 24 Hulme St, M1 5BW

**Speak to us**  
Oxford Street: 0161 552 6872  
Hulme Street: 0161 504 9013

**Find us on Instagram**  
[accesscreativecollege](https://www.instagram.com/accesscreativecollege)  
[accesscreativecollegemanny](https://www.instagram.com/accesscreativecollegemanny)

**Find us on TikTok**  
[accesscreativecollege](https://www.tiktok.com/@accesscreativecollege)



## Ready to join us?

Now you've seen what we have to offer, you might be thinking "what happens next?"

### Book yourself onto an Open Day and Taster Day

Find out what studying with us is really like by visiting us at an Open Day and Taster Day.

At our Open Days, you can tour our campus, check out our amazing facilities and get all your questions answered by our friendly staff and student ambassadors. You usually attend an open day with a parent or guardian.

Taster Days are where you can get hands-on and try out the course or courses you're interested in studying with us. You could record a song, make a short film, design a magazine cover or create a 3D game asset.



To book your place at an Open Day and Taster Day, visit [accesscreative.ac.uk/events](https://accesscreative.ac.uk/events) or scan the QR code.



### Apply and book an interview

If you feel like you're ready to apply, you can apply using our easy online application form at [accesscreative.ac.uk/apply](https://accesscreative.ac.uk/apply) or scan the QR code. It only takes a few minutes, and once you've submitted your application you'll be able to book your interview at a date and time to suit you.

Got a question? Contact our friendly admissions team at [admissions@accesscreative.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@accesscreative.ac.uk) and we'll be happy to help!

## Progression

Like A Levels, our Level 3 courses generate UCAS points that are recognised and accepted by universities and training providers nationwide. This means you'll have lots of progression options to choose from after successfully completing your course, including studying a degree at university, doing an apprenticeship or going into the industry.

## The Creative Industries



The UK is a global leader in creativity, and the creative industries are a vital part of the economy. IT, software & games, film & television, advertising & marketing, publishing and music & the arts are among the highest performing industries.

The creative industries are a financial powerhouse, annually contributing over £120 billion pounds to the UK economy.

The creative industries consistently grow faster than the overall UK economy.

There are over 2.4 million people employed in the UK creative industries, up by 318,000 since 2019.

## Apprenticeships

### Study an apprenticeship with Access Industry.

Access Industry offers apprenticeships where you earn while you learn, combining on-the-job training with college study. On completion, you can advance to the next level, work freelance or employed in your field, or continue to university.

Access Industry works with high profile employers including Disney, The National Trust and the Royal Opera House!

### The apprenticeship standards offered by Access Industry include:

#### Level 2 Apprenticeships

- Customer Service Practitioner
- Community Activator Coach

#### Level 3 Apprenticeships

- Creative Industries Production Technician - Live Event Pathway
- Creative Industries Production Technician - Creative Venue Pathway
- Creative Industries Production Technician - Screen Lighting Pathway
- Cultural Learning & Participation Officer
- Event Assistant
- Multi-Channel Marketer
- Content Creator
- Business Administrator
- Customer Service Specialist
- Community Sports & Health Officer
- Teaching Assistant
- Team Leader

#### Level 4 Apprenticeships

- Marketing Executive
- Sports Coach
- Sustainability Practitioner

#### Level 5 Apprenticeship

- Operations Manager



For more information about apprenticeships, scan the QR code.

# Levels of Study

We offer courses at Level 2 and Level 3. Find out what the difference is between each level and what their entry requirements are below, to help you pick the right course and level for you.

Level	Equivalent To	Course Duration	Entry Requirements
Level 2	4 GCSEs	1 Year	3 or more GCSEs at Grade 3 or above, including English Language or Literature.
Level 3	3 A Levels	2 Years	4 or more GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including English Language or Literature.

Find your perfect course with Access Creative College.



# Games

For more information on our games courses, scan the QR code.



## Level 2 Games Development (One Year)

This course provides an introduction to both games art and games development. Learn about game engines as you develop your own games and animations. Understand how to market your games via traditional and social media channels, while researching the games industry and careers.



## Level 3 Games Development (Two Years)

Learn game development tools such as game engines and 3D modelling software. Create game-ready animated 3D assets, learning skills such as anatomy modelling, retopologizing, textures and much more. Gain an understanding of player psychology, game mechanics and narrative techniques, exploring how these combine to create engaging gameplay.

## Level 3 Games Art (Two Years)

Develop a strong portfolio of 2D and 3D art with a focus on concept art and games design. Use 3D modelling tools to create game-ready animated 3D assets, learning skills such as anatomy modelling, retopologizing, textures and much more. Gain an understanding of player psychology and narrative technique, exploring how these combine to create captivating games.

## Career Progression

From Level 2, progress onto a Level 3 or T Level course, or apprenticeship.

From Level 3, progress to university, an apprenticeship, freelancing or employment. Typical careers include games developer, games artist, level designer, QA tester, animator, or VFX artist. You can also pursue careers in the wider creative industries.

# Media & Design

Media is a rapidly growing industry with many career opportunities including social media marketing, film and television production, journalism and more.

## Level 2 Videography, Photography & Design (One Year)

Develop practical skills in videography, photography, design and animation. Create a varied portfolio of work using cameras, tripods, lighting equipment and graphics tablets. Learn to use Adobe Creative Suite including Photoshop, Premiere and Indesign.

## Level 3 Animation & Visual Effects (Two Years)

Develop your skills in 3D modelling, live action sequence compositing and digital 2D and 3D animation, while building your understanding of film language and animation pipelines and processes. Use our media lab with Adobe Creative Suite, game engines and 3D modelling software.

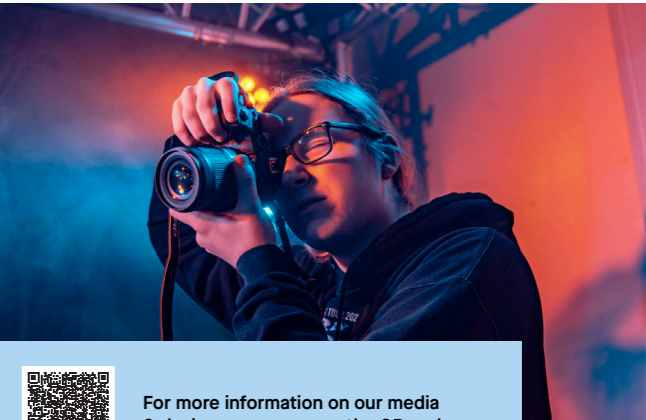
## Level 3 Graphic & Digital Design (Two Years)

Learn to convey messages through digital and traditional art using our media lab with Adobe Creative Suite. Learn to create infographics, motion graphics, illustrations, and digital art, including image manipulation techniques. Create an industry focused portfolio of work showcasing your creative and technical skills.



## Level 3 Film, Videography & Photography (Two Years)

Develop practical and theoretical skills in film, video and photography. Learn pre-production, camera technique, composition and lighting, as well as photo, video and audio editing. Use cameras, tripods, lenses, portable lights and sound recording equipment, plus a photography studio and media lab with Adobe Creative Suite for post-production.



For more information on our media & design courses, scan the QR code.

## Career Progression

From Level 2, progress onto a Level 3 or T Level course, or apprenticeship.

From Level 3, progress to university, an apprenticeship, freelancing or employment. Typical careers include filmmaker, director, photographer, graphic designer, animator, VFX artist and content creator. You can also pursue careers in the wider creative industries.

# Music

For more information on our music courses, scan the QR code.



## Level 2 Music Performance & Technology (One Year)

Explore working as a producer, performer, composer or instrumentalist. Develop skills in composing, rehearsing, recording, production and performance. Learn about the music industry, how money is made, how your favourite artists influence your own sound and how music styles and scenes are influenced by technology and history.



## Level 3 Music Performance (Two Years)

Work with expert staff to develop your setlist and stagecraft, and gain stage performance experience. Explore music theory, composition and arrangement to turn your ideas into complete songs. Develop employability skills through industry and marketing lessons, learning how to build a successful career in music.

## Level 3 Vocal Artist (Two Years)

Gain performance experience, establish your artistic identity and refine your vocal skills. Work with expert staff to develop your setlist and stagecraft. Explore music theory, composition, lyricism and arrangement to turn your ideas into complete songs. Develop employability skills through industry and marketing lessons, learning how to build a successful career in music.



## Career Progression

From Level 2, progress onto a Level 3 or T Level course, or apprenticeship.

From Level 3, progress to university, an apprenticeship, freelancing or employment. Typical careers include singer, musician, producer, DJ, sound engineer, composer or music journalist. You can also pursue careers in the wider creative industries.

# Maths & English

If you're aged 16-18 and don't have a GCSE Grade 4 in Maths and/or English, you'll have to retake it while studying with us. Our curriculum uses the creative subject you're studying to give you real-world examples of Maths and English, so you can retake your exams with a new-found confidence.



For more information about Maths & English, scan the QR code.

# Student Support



We support students with learning difficulties and differences, disabilities and medical conditions, young people who are in or leaving the care system, students who are carers and students who are estranged from their families.

We can also provide financial support through bursaries\* that help towards costs including travel, meals, essential course materials, trips, childcare and support for vulnerable young people.

\*Subject to eligibility



For more information about our student support services, scan the QR code.

# Professional Development

Professional Development is an important part of your study programme, developing your skills for work and life. We'll help you reach your potential and find your path to the next big step. In your weekly Professional Development lessons you will:

- Build skills that employers everywhere are looking for: our Skills For The Future
- Make confident, informed choices about your future
- Be ready to successfully take your next steps
- Develop life skills and confidence to help with adulthood and future success
- Keep track of your progress and get involved in key college and careers activities

Professional Development is also about showcasing and celebrating your talent, including the chance to be selected for an award!



# Self Directed

If you study games, media or music, you'll have access to our self-directed online learning programme, built to complement what you're learning in college, and to help you level up in your creative field. Expect videos, demonstrations, and a range of course related activities. Plus, you'll learn from industry professionals as well as our own expert Access Creative tutors! We've got lessons from AAA and indie games devs, touring musicians, professional content creators, TV actors, game artists, professional photographers, animators and more.

Self-directed lessons put you in control. You can study the lesson anywhere and at any time you choose - your space, your pace!