



National Academy
of Creative Arts

Academy Brochure

Turn your
Passion into
a **Profession**

nationalacademy.co.uk



Welcome to the National Academy of Creative Arts

A New Home for Creative Education

The **National Academy of Creative Arts (NACA)** is a new institutional framework for creative education bringing together specialist schools, experienced educators, and industry professionals within a single academy dedicated to arts and design.

Built on more than two decades of specialist creative education, NACA unifies disciplines including interior design, photography, fashion design, garden design, graphic design, and creative writing within a cohesive academic structure.

Our focus is clear: to deliver creative education that is practical, portfolio-led, and aligned with the realities of today's creative industries.

As the global creative economy continues to expand, more people are seeking flexible, career-focused pathways that allow them to develop professional capability while balancing

study with work and life commitments.

NACA was created in response to this shift.

By bringing together specialist schools within a single academy, we provide students with access to:

- structured creative pathways
- portfolio-led, practice-based learning
- industry-informed teaching
- a connected creative community

Whether you are exploring a new creative direction, developing professional capability, or working toward a recognised qualification, NACA provides a framework where creative ambition can evolve into professional confidence.

Here, ideas evolve into practice, portfolios take shape, and creative futures begin.



Our Schools

Specialist Schools.
One Academy.

The National Academy of Creative Arts is organised into a series of specialist schools, each focused on a distinct creative discipline.

This model combines deep subject expertise with the broader perspective of a multidisciplinary creative education.

Each discipline is delivered in partnership with an established academy, drawing on more than two decades of teaching experience, professional practice, and industry credibility.

Together, these schools form the academic foundation of NACA.

School of **Interior Design**

Delivered in conjunction with the British Academy of Interior Design

Students develop professional interior design capability through portfolio-led projects exploring spatial planning, materials, colour, technical drawing, digital visualisation, and client-focused design presentation.

School of **Photography**

Delivered in conjunction with the British Academy of Photography

Courses explore the technical and creative dimensions of photography, from lighting and composition to digital editing and visual storytelling, supporting the development of a professional photographic portfolio.

School of **Fashion Design**

Delivered in conjunction with the British Academy of Fashion Design

Students learn garment construction, pattern cutting, fashion illustration, and collection development while gaining insight into contemporary fashion practice and the commercial realities of the industry.

School of **Garden Design**

Delivered in conjunction with the British Academy of Garden Design

Students develop the skills required to design inspiring outdoor spaces through projects exploring planting design, landscape principles, and professional garden planning.

School of **Graphic Design**

Delivered in conjunction with the British Academy of Graphic Design

Students learn visual communication across digital and print media, building skills in typography, branding, layout design, and digital design tools.

School of **Creative Writing**

Delivered in conjunction with the British Academy of Creative Writing

Writers develop voice, craft, and narrative structure through guided assignments and tutor feedback, building confidence across fiction, non-fiction, and storytelling formats.

School of **Digital Marketing**

Delivered in conjunction with the British Academy of Digital Marketing

Students develop digital marketing capability through projects exploring SEO, social media, content strategy, analytics, paid advertising, and digital campaign planning.

Faculty and Industry Leadership

A Faculty of Creative Practitioners

At the National Academy of Creative Arts, learning is led by a faculty of practising creative professionals, educators, and subject specialists working across the creative industries.

Our faculty combine professional practice with teaching expertise, bringing real-world insight into every programme. From interior designers and photographers to writers and graphic designers, they understand how creative work operates in studios, agencies, and independent practice.

Students benefit from tutors who can translate professional experience into practical learning – guiding them through portfolio development, project briefs, and the creative decision-making that defines professional practice.

This practice-led approach ensures that learning remains grounded in the realities of contemporary creative industries.

The Creative Arts Advisory Council

The National Academy of Creative Arts is supported by a Creative Arts Advisory Council, bringing together artists, educators, industry professionals, and employers from across the creative sector.

The Council provides strategic guidance on both academic standards and industry relevance, helping ensure that programmes remain aligned with contemporary creative practice and professional expectations.

Working alongside the Academy's academic leadership, the Council contributes to:

- curriculum development and programme review
- alignment with industry practices and emerging trends
- the maintenance of academic standards across all schools
- the continued relevance of portfolio-led learning

“This governance structure ensures that the Academy’s programmes are not only creatively inspiring but also academically robust and professionally relevant. It also supports the Academy’s wider academic standards framework, helping ensure consistency, quality assurance, and relevance across all specialist schools.”

Joana Moreira, Quality Assurance Manager

Creative Pathways

Choosing the right creative arts course begins with clarity about what you want to achieve. Our courses are structured around two distinct pathways:

- **Explore & Upskill:** Creative and professional development
- **Degree Pathway:** Accredited Higher Education through to BA (Hons) Degree level



Which pathway is right for me?

If you're seeking a nationally recognised qualification with academic progression and the option of future postgraduate study, our Higher Education pathway provides a comprehensive and accredited route through to BA (Hons) level.

If your goal is applied professional capability without formal academic credit, our Certificate, Diploma, and Professional Diploma pathways provide a focused, practice-led route into creative industry practice across selected disciplines.



Explore & Upskill:

Turn creativity into capability

This route is designed for students who want to explore creative arts, build professional capability, or prepare for client-facing practice.

It includes three courses:

- Certificate (Creative Foundations)
- Diploma (Professional Foundations)
- Professional Diploma (Advanced Practice)

Certificate (Creative Foundations)

Certificate courses introduce the language and principles of each creative discipline.

Students explore core design concepts through structured assignments that develop visual awareness, creative thinking, and practical skills.

Certificates are ideal for:

- beginners exploring a creative interest
- hobbyists seeking structured learning
- individuals considering a future career change.

Diploma (Professional Foundations)

Diploma programmes build applied creative capability through project-led learning.

Students begin working with professional-style briefs, developing skills in research, design development, technical execution, and presentation.

Professional Diploma (Advanced Practice)

Professional Diploma programmes extend foundational knowledge into advanced professional capability.

Students learn to manage projects from concept through to final presentation while developing portfolio-ready work aligned with industry expectations.

These programmes are well suited to students preparing for professional practice or freelance careers.

CPD Standards Office Accredited

Our Diploma and Professional Diploma courses in Interior Design, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Photography and Digital Marketing are accredited by the CPD Standards Office, confirming that the programmes meet recognised Continuing Professional Development standards.

This accreditation reinforces the professional relevance of your studies and supports structured career progression within the design industry.



Higher Education Pathway

Find Your Voice. Shape Your Future.

Students seeking recognised higher education qualifications can progress through:

- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) – Level 4** (Interior Design, Photography, Graphic Design, Fashion Design)
- **Higher National Diploma (HND) – Level 5** (Interior Design, Photography, Graphic Design, Fashion Design)
- **BA (Hons) Top-Up Degree – Level 6** (Interior Design, Photography, Graphic Design)

These programmes combine academic study with portfolio-based design projects, allowing students to develop both critical thinking and professional design capability.





**“The details
are not the
details.
They make
the design.”**

Charles Eames

Accreditation and Academic Rigour

Academic quality and professional relevance are central to the National Academy of Creative Arts.

Programmes across the Academy are developed within a structured academic framework that combines portfolio-led creative practice with recognised higher education standards.

We are approved to deliver Pearson BTEC Higher National Certificates and Diplomas, and our BA (Hons) Level 6 Top-Up Degree is validated and quality assured by the University of Hertfordshire.

Programme design and delivery are aligned with recognised higher education frameworks including:

- The QAA Quality Code
- Subject Benchmark Statements
- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- Advance HE principles

This ensures academic rigour, external quality assurance, and internationally recognised higher education standards.

Flexible Study

Creative Learning Designed Around Your Life

For students balancing study with work, family, or other commitments, our flexible study model allows you to progress at your own pace without compromising academic quality.

You can access your course at any time through the Online Learning Centre, allowing you to structure your studies in a way that fits your schedule.

Through the OLC, you can:

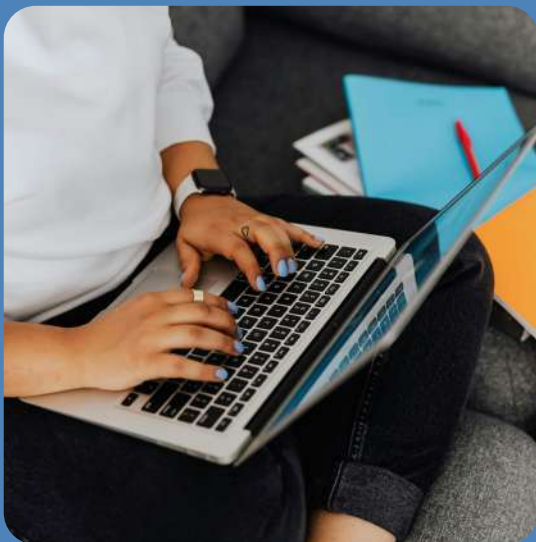
- Access all course materials and learning resources
- Submit assignments and receive detailed tutor feedback
- Communicate directly with your tutor for guidance and support
- Track your progress as you build your portfolio

There are no fixed timetables, giving you the freedom to study when and where it suits you.



Enhance Your Learning Experience

All students have the option to enrich their learning through additional practical teaching and live engagement.



Live Online Classes

Students attend Live Online classes led by industry professionals, from anywhere in the world.

These classes provide practical demonstrations, group discussion, and opportunities to ask questions and receive guidance.

In-Person Classes

Students attend In-Person classes led by industry professionals, delivered in locations across the UK - including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff and Bristol.

These classes focus on hands-on skill development, creative confidence, and peer collaboration.



Both options are designed to complement your online study and deepen your practical and professional capability.

A Flexible Model, Designed Around You

Our approach allows you to choose the level of structure and flexibility that suits your goals, while maintaining a consistent and rigorous academic experience.

- Study flexibly at your own pace
- Add Live Online classes or In-Person classes

Whichever option you choose, your learning journey is supported by expert tutors and grounded in a consistent, high-quality academic framework.

Work Placement & Industry Engagement

Our Work Placement option is available to Professional Diploma graduates, and students completing our Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma or Degree Top-Up courses. Designed to support employability and professional confidence, this option provides opportunities to gain real-world experience in creative arts environments.

Placements vary by location and availability but are always focused on helping learners apply their skills in practice, understand professional workflows, and build confidence working within industry settings.



What you'll gain:

- Exposure to real creative art studios or professional environments
- Insight into industry workflows, expectations, and standards
- Opportunities to apply portfolio skills in live contexts
- Increased confidence transitioning from study to professional practice

Work placement opportunities are subject to availability and may vary by location. Participation is optional and dependent on individual readiness and programme completion. The Academy supports employability development but does not guarantee placement or employment outcomes.

Why study with NACA?

Choosing where to study is an important decision.

At the National Academy of Creative Arts, our goal is to provide an environment where creative potential can develop into professional capability.

Students benefit from:

- specialist schools with subject expertise
- portfolio-led, practice-based learning
- flexible study designed for real life
- industry-informed teaching
- structured creative progression pathways
- access to a growing lifelong learning and creative membership network



Built on more than two decades of creative education experience, the National Academy of Creative Arts provides a credible foundation for students seeking to develop their creative ambitions.

"I've always loved architecture and interior design - renovating my own home and helping friends with their spaces made me realise that I could make a career out of it."

Anna H.,
Higher National Certificate Student





Course fees

Course	Home Study	Home Study plus Live Online classes	Home Study plus In-Person classes
Certificate	£565	£775	—
Diploma	£895	£1,725	£2,255
Professional Diploma	£1,465	£2,245	£2,945
BTEC Higher National Certificate	£2,295	£3,245	£4,275
BTEC Higher National Diploma	£3,845	£5,975	£7,845
BA (Hons) Degree	£5,995	£7,385	£9,565

*(Easy-pay Plans available)

University of Hertfordshire **UH**

 **Pearson**
BTEC

 Accredited
cpd
Activity
The CPD Standards Office
50135
2021 - 2027
www.cpdstandards.org

 **BAC**
BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
IARC
THE REGISTRATION TRUST

nus
national union of students



Start Your Creative Journey

Every creative journey begins with a decision to take your creativity seriously.

Whether you are beginning with a course, progressing to higher education, or seeking ongoing professional development through the NACA creative community, the Academy offers a structured pathway for long-term creative growth.

Explore our schools, discover the pathways available, and take the first step toward your creative future.

Ready to begin?

Email info@nationalacademy.co.uk to schedule a call with our Admissions Team to discuss your options.