

Course Information

Award: BA (Hons) Costume Construction

UCAS Code: B5L2

Location:

South Essex College of Further & Higher Education
Bob and Tamar Manoukian Costume Centre
High House Production Park,
Vellacott Close (off London Road),
Purfleet RM19 1TT

And

South Essex College Thurrock Campus
High Street
Grays
Essex
RM17 6TF

The course timetable is split between the two campuses - All year groups of students will be expected to attend both campuses.

Awarding body:

UAL (University of the Arts London)

Students who complete the course successfully will receive a degree from UAL. The agreement between University Centre South Essex College and UAL is reviewed every four years for developmental purposes and was originally validated in 2015.

Professional body accreditation:

None

Duration:

3 years (Full time)

Academic year:

Teaching Starts Week commencing 28th Sep 2020 – 29th May 2021

Part-time study:

No

Work placements:

Work placements are a required unit within the second year. Each student should complete a minimum of 120 hours during the designated work placement dates. If unsuccessful in obtaining a work placement, this unit will be linked to a live project brief to attain the credits required. (The live project brief will require a similar time commitment to a placement and will run alongside other on-going projects).

Timetables:

Timetables are normally available one month before registration, though we endeavor to let you know an outline as soon as possible. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure that timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled teaching can take place on any day of the week. Typically year groups are expected to attend for 13 hours a week spread over two and a half days. We expect students to build on this learning through Independent Study for at least a similar period. For this time, we usually have space available within the campus or at the Forum in Southend.

Further details can be obtained from the Course Leader [Lou.Cox@southessex.ac.uk].

Entry Requirements:

Award: BA (Hons) Costume Construction

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Entry requirements 2020-21:

You will need a minimum of 64 UCAS points from one or more of the following:

- At least two A-levels
- BTEC/UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma/Diploma/Subsidiary Diploma/Certificate [RQF]
- BTEC National Award/Certificate/Diploma [NQF]
- Access to Higher Education Diploma (15 credits at Merit or above)
- International Baccalaureate
- AQA Baccalaureate
- Progression Diploma
- Advanced Diploma

You will also need GCSE English at grade C (old specification) or Grade 4 (new specification) or above OR a Level 2 equivalent such as functional skills qualification.

To find out how many points your qualifications are awarded, [view the UCAS Tariff tables](#).

You will also be required to undertake a portfolio-based interview. Portfolios should include examples of recent project work and may reference a variety of media.

Exceptional Entry:

Applications from mature students who do not possess the entry requirements as listed above, but who possess related professional experience or professional qualifications are welcome to apply. You will need to demonstrate by interview, exceptional entry portfolio (this is likely to include evidence of paid or unpaid work experience) and/or written assessment that you are

suitable for the course. In the first instance, we suggest you contact HEAdmissions@southessex.ac.uk to discuss your application.

International applicants:

If English is not your first language you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum score of 5.5 in each component (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking), or an equivalent English Language qualification.

Additional requirements:

Credit transfer and accreditation of prior learning or experience:

If you have achieved a qualification such as a foundation degree or HND, or have gained credit at another higher education institution, you may be able to enter the course at level 5 or level 6. For further information please visit our Credit Transfer page [link]. Other qualifications and relevant work experience may also count for academic credit. Further information is available at in the Higher Education Admissions Policy for students studying on the University of Arts London Degree.

Course Overview:

Course Name: BA (Hons) Costume Construction

The BA (Hons) Costume Construction programme places an emphasis on the knowledge and use of both historical and contemporary pattern cutting, construction, textiles and finishing techniques. Areas of study may include opera, dance, theatre, musical theatre, performance art, film and television.

The programme is unique as it has been developed in collaboration with the Royal Opera House (ROH).

This programme is delivered across two locations, the first at our Grays Campus, where our newly updated costume and print studios are based. The second at the ROH Costume Centre at Purfleet, this centre has been purpose built for the ROH and houses their archive collections, costume store and one of their workroom departments. Both campuses provide students the opportunity to utilise industry standard machinery and resources.

The course operates on a unit basis, most units count for 15 or 30 academic credits, although the Final Costume Realisation unit in the third year is weighted at 45 academic credits. Total study time includes scheduled teaching, independent study and assessment activity. All students take a total of 120 credits per level and 360 credits for the degree as a whole. This full-time course typically starts in October and completes at the end of May.

All students take a total of 120 credits per level and 360 credits for the degree as a whole. Your overall grade for the course and your degree classification are based on the marks obtained for units taken at level 6.

The full-time course has one start point in October and completes at the end of May

A copy of the rules and regulations governing the course is available
<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/higher-education-policies>

Unit Information:

Unit Map

Year 1 (Level 4)

Year 1 for full-time students (Level 4) develops the underpinning knowledge and skills in areas such as concepts of pattern cutting, garment production techniques and textiles.

DCC110 Costume in Context

Compulsory Unit - 15 Credits

This unit offers a theoretical understanding of the history of dress and how gender, identity, class and cultural issues impact on the basic silhouettes of clothing through history. It is intended to provide an introduction into the theory of the changes of clothing and for them to develop, utilise, recognise and analyse the factors involved with this to support their own work practice. This unit will prepare students for utilising the research methodologies and academic writing skills that are required for DCC212 Costume Conservation.

DCC111 Textiles for Costume Construction

Compulsory Unit - 30 Credits

This unit aims to offer a broad exploration of traditional and contemporary textile applications relating to costume making. Textile methods, processes and applications are introduced including fabric dyeing, embroidery and printmaking techniques. Consideration of fabric properties, sustainability and the importance of Health and Safety is also covered. This unit supports skills for units DCC112 & DCC113.

DCC112 Introduction to Costume Construction

Compulsory Unit - 30 Credits

This unit introduces students to fundamental pattern cutting and garment construction skills. The unit also provides opportunity to develop understanding through creative solutions, of different materials utilised within costume construction.

DCC113 Costume Interpretation

Compulsory Unit - 30 Credits

This unit extends the knowledge gained in DCC112 to translate two-dimensional designs, images and characters into a three-dimensional costume. You will be introduced to historical and/or contemporary pattern cutting and construction techniques to enable you to identify appropriate methods and fabrics to produce a final garment/costume.

DCC115 Technical and Skills Portfolio

Compulsory Unit - 15 Credits

An introduction to the skills and practical elements underpinning the fundamental construction and finishing skills required at levels 5 and 6. This includes basic elements of costume making, with an emphasis on fastenings, hand finishing, pressing, measuring, block drafting and dart manipulation and covers fitting etiquette, communication and time management.

This unit underpins all practical elements within the course specifically enabling students to elevate the finish and quality of their work. The outcome is to produce a portfolio that students will utilise for levels 5, 6 and after graduation.

Stage 2 – Development

The units you will study in Year 2, Stage 2, Level 5 are as follows:

Studies in Stage 2 have the overriding emphasis on expanding skills and knowledge gained at the first stage, whilst aligning various theories with costume design and construction practices.

DCC211 Costume for Performance

Compulsory Unit - 30 Credits

This unit offers the understanding and development of skills covering the production and alteration of garments. Consideration of performers needs, body shapes, movement requirements and flexible construction. The acquired knowledge will be applied to create a garment for a specific performance utilising a given design.

DCC212 Costume Conservation

Compulsory Unit - 30 Credits

This unit will enable the understanding and application of skills in the care and possible conservation of costumes and other costume related artefacts.

This will be achieved through a range of practical and theory based activities, which will include; packaging, storing, cleaning and historical authenticating, to ensure that all costumes can be effectively conserved and archived for future generations.

DCC213 Work Placement

Compulsory Unit - 30 Credits

This unit will provide the opportunity to develop and demonstrate a dedicated and professional work ethos through understanding of the roles within costume construction/designer/textiles or conservation through the undertaking of a work placement or live project. This could be within one of the following areas: performance art, theatre, opera, dance, music, musical theatre, film and TV. The placement/live project will give awareness to the business of costume construction/design/textiles or conservation and allow students to analyse the roles, responsibilities and the necessities of communication, teamwork and the development of their own personal skills within the industry. The student should complete a minimum of 120 hours this could be several placements throughout the second-year period.

Research for this unit will begin at the end of year 1 (level 4). Students will be encouraged to undertake the majority of work placement between level 4 and level 5.

DCC215 Costume Design and Realisation

Compulsory Unit - 30 Credits

This unit combines the discipline of costume design with realisation. Students will be required to undertake in depth analysis of a given/chosen text and characters which will inform design ideas. A range of advanced pattern cutting and construction processes will build upon skills gained in year 1. Professional skills are developed by producing a technical folder demonstrating effective use of time management and communication skills.

Stage 3 – Final Year

The units you will study in Year 3/4, Stage 3, Level 6 are as follows:

In this stage the emphasis is on self-directed study and the ability to undertake different modes of assessment all requiring the production of work to levels of professional quality. You are expected to demonstrate the necessary skills required to produce a qualitative outcome in the form of a live exhibition and a cultural and historical study.

DCC310 Cultural and Historical Study

Compulsory Unit - 30 Credits

This unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop a critical awareness, undertake in-depth research and to form a sustainable argument for an area of investigation. Students will negotiate with a supervisor a line of enquiry that is relevant to their chosen field of study and undertake an avenue of research that could be, but is not limited to conservation of costume, performance art, theatre, opera, dance, music, musical theatre, film and TV.

This unit builds on theoretical and research skills built in DCC110 and DCC212.

DCC311 Personal Project

Compulsory Unit - 30 Credits

This unit will allow individuals to establish and produce a theme/subject/issue relevant to costume construction. The unit will enable learners to produce an in-depth research and development programme which will include; originality, creative analysis, prototyping, textiles, design work, productivity with other learners and generic skills to support learning. The context of the unit will be defined by the learner; through consultation and ongoing communication with Tutors. It will actively encourage independent learning, self-directed research and time planning and necessitate a rigorous approach. Research for this project will begin at the end of year 2 (Level 5)

DCC312 Professional Portfolio

Compulsory Unit - 15 Credits

This unit will underpin professional practice by supporting the student's understanding of the roles, responsibilities and potential progression routes within the Costume Industry. Students will build on their DCC213 Work placement unit by looking at marketing, self-promotion and presentation techniques in preparation for the workplace and/or freelance work, particular attention will be given to students producing traditional and online portfolios.

DCC313 Final Costume Realisation

Compulsory Unit - 45 Credits

This unit will provide a platform for the realisation of the knowledge, skills and understanding gained from the enquiry and exploration within Levels 4 and 5. Students will be expected to work to current industry standards and articulate their ideas through suitable construction processes.

The unit will encourage students to push the boundaries of creative construction and design by implementing and executing a range of skills and knowledge gained during the programme. The work produced will be of a high level of sophistication and fluency, along with evidence of a dedicated and professional work ethos.

Teaching and Learning:

Course Name: BA (Hons) Costume Construction**UCAS Code: B5L2****Teaching**

The BA (Hons) Costume Construction course places an emphasis on the knowledge and use of both historical and current pattern cutting, construction, print and finishing techniques. These are applied and accurately tailored to fit a modern day figure whilst effectively interpreting a certain shape, silhouette or era of a given design. Areas of study will include opera, dance, theatre, musical theatre, performance art, film and television.

Teaching is undertaken in small groups (Between 15 - 30), with a studio/making focus.

Teaching/learning/ assessment methods:	Description:
Presentations/lectures	Presentations/lectures provide students with knowledge and theory. These are supplemented with reading lists.
Workshops	Workshops provide a forum for discussion, role-play, peer-to-peer learning and team working. Students work with conflicting ideas and build confidence and skills in group facilitation and presentation.
Seminars	Students present their own work with the support of the group. Encourages active learning and peer-to-peer learning.
Tutorials	Individual tutorials allow students to discuss specific projects, respond to feedback and reflect on learning and practice.
Case Studies & Educational Visits	Case studies in class and visits enable students to link theory to practice and work through examples.
Independent Study	Independent study and reading enables students to develop skills in working autonomously and to identify, plan and carry out a project.

Coursework, Research & Dissertation Feedback	Students are given the opportunity for individual feedback from tutors on drafts of essays and other work before submission for assessment. This enables students to respond to feedback, develop knowledge and critical skills; as well as refining communication skills.
Student presentations	Develops skills in communication, debate, dialogue and teamwork as well as providing opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and engaging with different perspectives.
Learning Journal	Students keep a journal to relate learning to their own experience which enables active engagement between practice and learning.
Research Skills, Methods and Dissertation	Research methods and skills are delivered through dissertation preparation units. Research methods workshops develop skills in research design, planning and implementation; presentation skills and report writing, bibliographic skills; management and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data with applications relevant to the programme.
Reflective Inquiry	Reflective inquiry learning sets encourage students to take ownership of learning and encourage continual cycles of reflection, refinement, action and experimentation.
Participatory Learning Methods	A wide range of methods are used to enable experiential and embodied learning and to link theory to practice.

Independent learning:

When not attending lectures, studio sessions or other timetabled sessions, students will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. Typically, this will involve reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library, preparing coursework assignments and presentations, and preparing for garment construction. Your independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities, including the library, HE Breakout rooms and the two professional standard costume studios.

Overall Workload:

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours of around 13 hours per week, including assessment activity plus group critiques as well as a similar amount of independent learning, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 8 hours. (120 credits per year).

The following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

Level 4:

50% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities

Teaching, learning and assessment: 390 hours

Independent learning: 390 hours

Level 5:

50% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities

Teaching, learning and assessment: 390 hours

Independent learning: 390 hours

Level 6:

45% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities

Teaching, learning and assessment: 330 hours

Independent learning: 450 hours

Assessment & Feedback:**Assessment:**

Coursework is assessed in a range of different ways in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles and aptitudes including portfolio and sketchbook submissions, group presentations, written essays and research folders.

There are no examinations.

Percentage of the course assessed by coursework:**Year 1**

100% coursework: 88% Studio based with a written element 12%

Year 2

100% coursework: 75% Studio based with a written element 25%

Year 3

100% coursework: 75% Studio based with a written element 25%

Feedback:

You will receive formative feedback as part of your one-to-one sessions with your unit teachers. You will also receive summative feedback on all formal assessments undertaken by coursework. Feedback is intended to help you learn and you are encouraged to discuss it with your unit leader tutor. Feedback can be given in a range of different ways in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles and aptitudes including group critiques, recorded verbal feedback and written feedback.

We aim to provide you with feedback within 20 working days of hand-in (for all formal studio based coursework assessment). For the third year Dissertation Unit you will receive feedback and grades at the same time as your Final Creative Output Unit.

Academic Support:

Our Academic Support Team provides help in the following areas:

- Study skills (including reading, note-taking and presentation skills)
- Written English (including punctuation and grammatical accuracy)
- Academic writing (including how to reference)
- Research skills (in conjunction with the library)
- Critical thinking and understanding arguments
- Revision, assessment and examination skills (including time management).

Our Disability Advice and Support Service helps students with additional needs resulting from disabilities such as sensory impairment or learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

Teaching Staff :

You will be taught by an experienced teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the units on the course. The team includes senior academics, professional practitioners with industry experience, co-ordinators and technical officers. Our teaching is informed by the research and consultancy we undertake, and all of our lecturers have a teaching qualification or are working to acquire one.

Course Cost:

Course Name: BA (Hons) Costume Construction

Duration: 3 years (Full Time)

Fees

For the academic year 2020-21 the tuition fees for this course are:

	UK/EU
Full-time	£9000

Part-time N/A (Full-time route only)

The following course-related costs are included in the fees:

- Annual £30 printing allowance
- Car Parking at Purfleet Campus
- Third Year students will showcase their work at the end of their studies. Exhibition costs (with the exception of costumes developed for the FMP) will be funded by the Faculty of HE.

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- Purchase of fabrics and basic materials required to develop and produce costume outcomes (around £150 per year, on average)
- Additional visits to museums, productions and exhibitions in the UK
- Additional printing over and above the £30 annual allowance
- The cost of books that you might wish to purchase.
- Car Parking at Grays Campus

Accommodation and living costs not included in the fees:

This information can be obtained from our Accommodation Services home page

<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/accommodation>

Sources of financial support:

If you receive funding from Student Finance you may be eligible to apply for additional benefits.

Details can be obtained from our Student Services home page

<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/fees-and-funding>