

A letter from the Principal

Welcome to our Open Day 2026! I'm Will Woods, the Principal and Chief Executive of the college, and we are thrilled to have you here and hope you enjoy exploring all that our institution has to offer.

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about our Creative Arts programmes, meet our dedicated staff, and experience our vibrant community first-hand. We're excited to have you join us and answer any questions you may have as you consider your future with us.

For the past two years we have been part of the Open University group, and the Open University accredits our degree programmes, this gives you access to a wide range of resources and opportunities.

There are many reasons that you might consider our college as an option for your study. We have learners with us who have experienced barriers to study elsewhere. We help to provide options for those who may wish to change careers and consider arts or design subjects as ones to study.

We support those who are interested in developing their own professional creative practice and expanding on what they already know. Whatever the reasons for coming today, I'm sure that you will get something rewarding from our Open Day experience and I hope to see you studying with us soon.



Will Woods



Your Journey Starts Here

Chose Your Path

We offer flexible, open-access creative education. You don't need a portfolio to begin our personal development courses, or begin of our degrees.

- **Foundation and Short Courses:** Perfect for building skills and confidence.
- **Undergraduate Degrees (BA Hons):** Choose from Painting, Photography, Textiles, Graphic Design, Illustration, Creative Writing, and more.
- **CertHE in Film and Media:** Shorter university-level qualifications.

Entry Requirements

We want to make sure you're comfortable and ready to get started from day one. To help you settle into your course, here are a few basics you'll need.

You will need a reasonable standard of written, reading, listening and spoken English. If your nationality does not feature on the list of 'majority English speaking countries' OCA requires evidence that your English Language proficiency equates to Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

To engage with our courses, you'll need a reliable internet connection, a laptop or computer, and a bit of confidence with basic digital tasks.

Undergraduate music courses require ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory or an equivalent.

Enrolment Process

Enrolling at OCA is straightforward and completed online.

1. Visit the course page on our website.
2. Complete the enrolment form.
3. Arrange your payment method.
4. Once approved, you will receive a formal confirmation of your place.

Funding & Fees

We believe art education should be accessible.

- **Student Finance:** Most UK-based students are eligible for full or partial tuition fee loans.
- **Self-Funding:** You can pay for your unit in full or via an instalment plan to spread the cost.
- **Learner Support Scheme:** We offer bursaries for students facing financial hardship (subject to availability).

When Can I Start?

Unlike traditional universities, we have multiple intakes throughout the year so you can start when it suits you.

Enrolment typically closes two weeks prior to the intake start date to allow for processing.

Need a Helping Hand?

Enrolment Advice: enquiries@oca.ac.uk
Studying with Disabilities Guidance: learnersupport@oca.ac.uk



Student Life at OCA



edge-zine is a non-profit, student-led, art publication showcasing various artistic approaches. It supports cross-disciplinary works of an international collective of students and alumni of the Open College of the Arts.

The mission is simple: to showcase work and provide insights into the process of contemporary art practices. We consider edge-zine as an evolving and developing publication and a platform for creative approaches.



OCASA activities include programming extra curricular events including workshops and lectures, working in partnership with students, OCA departments and external facilitators. OCASA sends out newsletters and event reminders, runs an engaging Instagram account and blog space and creates and supports collaborative opportunities such as the EDI Calendar, the Student Voice Festival, edge zine and the Summer of Sustainability.



A wellbeing app provided by the Open College of the Arts to encourage and support students and staff to think about their wellbeing, engage in creative activities designed to support wellbeing, create positive habits to sustain wellbeing, and to increase awareness of services available within OCA and our local communities.



Contact Us



studentadvice@oca.ac.uk

For admission related queries and assistance.



learnersupport@oca.ac.uk

For studying with Disabilities, Health Issues and Caring Responsibilities, Disabled Students Allowance and Bursary queries.



[@opencollegearts](https://www.instagram.com/opencollegearts)



The Open College of the Arts