

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS FOR ENTRY IN 2021

General

This document sets out the terms and conditions of the agreement formed between the College and students on our courses. If we make you an offer of a place on a course at Plymouth College of Art and if you accept that offer then the basis of the agreement formed between us at that time is as set out in this document. (Your acceptance of an offer of a place to study with us is subject to a 14 day 'cooling off' period so will not come into effect until 14 days after you have accepted the offer). It is therefore important that you read and understand these terms and conditions. If you would like any further details about any aspect of these terms and conditions please contact Admissions (admissions@pca.ac.uk).

Every effort is made to ensure that information provided during the application and admissions process prior to starting at the College is accurate. This includes information provided at events such as UCAS fairs, Open Days, during discussions with us, and from our website and our prospectus.

The College was awarded Taught Degree Awarding Powers in 2019 meaning we are an approved degree-awarding body with overall responsibility for the academic standards and quality of our BA and Masters level qualifications.

The title of courses, course specifications and an introduction to academic staff are provided on our website on individual course pages - <https://www.plymouthart.ac.uk/courses> and the College takes reasonable steps to ensure the provision of the educational services as described in our Prospectus. Undergraduate and postgraduate courses are delivered through a series of individual modular units in each year of study, and descriptions of these units are also available from our website under the "course and units" section of each course page. However, all these details are under constant academic review and will change from time to time. It is important to appreciate that we will be responding continually to your feedback as a student to make improvements and naturally this will include modifications to curriculum content. Equally, from time to time new staff will join and existing staff will leave, and courses may be discontinued or replaced. Wherever relevant, we will take all reasonable steps to keep students abreast of potential developments and to minimise any disruption which might result from any changes. Our Student Protection Plan is also published on our website (under Reports and Legal Information) to explain the measures we take to protect students' interests in the event of material change i.e. a significant event or major change affecting students on one or more programmes. This plan makes reference to our policy on financial compensation and refunds of tuition fees that the College will consider paying to students affected by the closure/withdrawal of an academic programme (Student Tuition Fee Refund and Compensation Policy, also available from our website).

It is important for you to understand that the course specification and unit descriptions provide a description of the structure of the programme of study, of the learning outcomes (i.e. what you will learn), and of the strategies for learning, teaching and assessment. The size of a modular unit is measured in academic credits. In accordance with practice across the UK higher education sector, PCA allocates 1 credit for 10 hours of notional learning time. Notional learning time includes all activities required for a student to achieve the learning outcomes including contact hours (lectures, demonstrations, seminars, tutorials etc), directed study, independent study, and assessment activity (including preparation for assessment). Notional learning time is a benchmark and the actual time each student takes to achieve the required outcomes may be shorter or longer depending on the knowledge and skills of students at entry and their rate of progression through the programme.

Contact hours for Academic Year 2021/22

Contact hours in academic year 2021/22 for all PCA undergraduate courses (i.e. the time each week when a student is in contact with a tutor through lectures, demonstrations, seminars, tutorials, etc) will equate to approximately 12 hours per week across all years of study. Note there will be variation above and below this average from week to week. Our undergraduate academic year is delivered across 30 weeks from October to June. Our full time postgraduate academic year is delivered across 45 weeks over 12 months from October to September. The year includes standard breaks for Christmas and Easter.

If we are still operating under Covid-19 in academic year 2021/22, we will be able to maintain the contact hours specified above, but delivery on all courses will be a mix of both on-line and physical attendance in College, and we will continue with some of the on-line delivery even if Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted where this has proved a more successful format. On-campus work would always be prioritised for activities such as studio practice, practical projects, creative experimentation and development of production work, and technical workshops, although elements of all these activities can be achieved through on-line delivery as well. On-line ('live') delivery could therefore include lectures and seminars, tutorials, group critiques, studio briefs, technical workshops and demonstrations.

BA(Hons) courses with Distance Learning

A small number of our courses have been validated with the first year studied through distance learning. This first year of distance learning comprises 27 teaching weeks and 3 'enrichment' weeks and runs from January to August 2021. Our distance learning model is based on synchronous learning so that students engage with tutors and each other in real-time (timetabled learning sessions, chat, video, co-creation and collaboration) as they move through the curriculum. This is augmented by open or pre-arranged synchronous drop-in / 1:1 support sessions. Students will have 12 hours of structured learning per week, plus further structured time to engage with their studies and each other. This may be in response to a previously set activity or a new activity to engage with as part of learning. This is an intensive programme of study that requires the self-discipline and commitment for 40 hours study per week, with full attendance to the timetabled sessions.

Part of the conditions for a student to be accepted onto a programme with distance learning is access to appropriate resources, including IT access suitable for distance learning and access to suitable space and equipment for individual creative practice. For students able to travel into Plymouth, access to our physical campus is possible, but this is not a requirement until preparation for transition to the second year.

Offers

Decisions to make an offer of a place to study at the College are taken by the College in good faith on the basis of statements made in your application, predicted grades where relevant and appropriate, examples of your current work and discussions with you. If it is discovered that a false statement has been made or significant information has been omitted, the College reserves the right to withdraw or amend our offer or terminate a student's registration according to the circumstances.

Your place at the College will be subject to you meeting any offer conditions that we specify and tell you about in writing (and through UCAS for full time undergraduate applicants), such as obtaining particular qualifications and/or satisfying all necessary legal and other requirements to study with us e.g. immigration clearance. Your place is also conditional upon you registering at the start of your course and enrolling at the start of each subsequent academic year.

Criminal convictions

UCAS no longer requires applicants to declare criminal convictions in line with the aim of ensuring higher education is open to everyone. Likewise, the College does not wish to create unnecessary barriers for individuals with criminal records from taking advantage of the opportunities provided by Higher Education and we will not ask applicants to declare any spent convictions.

However, the College has a responsibility to ensure that it provides a duty of care to its staff, students and other stakeholders, and also to providing appropriate guidance for anyone with a relevant criminal conviction or who is involved in ongoing criminal proceedings. Therefore, potential students who have an unspent conviction, ongoing or pending criminal proceeding, will be asked to disclose this as part of the enrolment and registration process. The College will make a decision on whether to proceed with registration or how best to support the student, or for example whether it may be more appropriate for the student's place to be deferred until after any criminal proceedings are complete.

Students coming to the College with ongoing proceedings, spent or unspent convictions are encouraged to advise the Admissions Office before arrival to be signposted to relevant support services and gain additional support as part of their transition into higher education. Disclosure of any convictions/proceedings is dealt with in strict confidence. This guidance is set out in our Admissions Policy (available from our website under '[Study](#)').

Rules and Regulations

Becoming a student of the College carries with it the responsibility to comply with College Academic Regulations, and the student Code of Conduct which defines acceptable behaviour in terms of mutual courtesy and respect, and refers to expectations for studentship including attendance, rules regarding use of College information technology, as well the responsibility for payment of fees and other costs, covered further below.

Code of Conduct

Providing and maintaining an environment conducive to your learning and enjoying a rich and positive student experience requires all members of the College community – students and staff – to treat each other with dignity and respect. The College requires all students to behave responsibly and maintain good standards of conduct at all times whilst complying with our academic regulations and student code of conduct. Anti-social behaviour or any form of misconduct, inside and outside of the College, can disrupt the learning and wider experience of other students, and adversely impact on staff and others, including the general public. Breach of the code may result in disciplinary action with serious or persistent breaches having the potential to lead to enforced termination of your studies, in accordance with our disciplinary procedures for students. The Code of Conduct can be found within the Student Handbook, available from our website (select 'Study', scroll to the bottom of the page, select either undergraduate or postgraduate then '[How to Apply](#)').

Please note that if we are still operating under Covid-19 for the academic year 2021/22 there will be requirements for compliance with particular conduct to maintain safety. This will include using your ID card to 'swipe in' at entry to the College and into different areas/floors (supporting any requirement arising for track and trace), reporting any absences promptly and particularly for symptoms of coronavirus, complying with government advice on testing and self-isolation, social distancing measures in the College, and with any protocols considered necessary by the College for using face coverings.

Academic Regulations

Our Academic Regulations are available from our website (under ['How to Apply'](#)). They define the rules, procedures and requirements governing successful progress in BA(Hons) and MA programmes from initial registration through to final award, and explain how you achieve the academic credits leading to your award. The regulations specify a range of other details including for example our expectations for your attendance (see below), how you can apply for extenuating circumstances, penalties for late submission of work, what constitutes academic misconduct (and the penalties involved which, in the extreme can lead to withdrawal from studies).

Attendance

We expect you will want to engage fully with your studies and attend all programmed sessions. Absence through sickness or unavoidable other commitments will always occur, and we will always try to remain as flexible as possible according to personal circumstances. However, we look to ensure that you maintain your attendance above 80% and will liaise with you if this is not the case to ensure you can get the most from your studies. In the extreme, application of our attendance policy can result in withdrawal from studies for students who fail to attend, as set out in our academic regulations (section 4).

Registration as a student

Before the start of the academic year we will ask you to complete an on-line enrolment process aiming to capture all your relevant details to be able to formally register you as a student. As part of this process we ask you to digitally sign to confirm that the information you have provided is accurate, that you provide your consent for us to share your data as set out in the enrolment forms that enable us to support you as a student and make the data returns required of us, and that you agree to comply with our rules, requirements and regulations. Further information on how we use your personal data is available from our website page (scroll to the bottom of any website page, click on 'Reports and Legal Information then select 'Data Protection' from the menu).

Academic Regulations include further information about registration including the process for interrupting or withdrawing from studies, and requesting a transfer between different programmes which is set out in our Student Transfer Policy (available from our website under 'Reports and Legal' information then scroll down and select Student Protection Plan) and also covers the transfer of students to and from a different higher education provider.

Students with learning disabilities

If you have a disability or other support need you are strongly encouraged to disclose this on application so that we can anticipate your needs in seeking to ensure you have appropriate support. Please be aware that if you decide not to disclose your disability or to limit that disclosure, we will do our best to help you but you may not be able to access the full range of support that could be available. Further information is available from our website (under Study then select Student Support) or you can email the team directly: studentsupport@pca.ac.uk.

Tuition fees

The College charges different fees depending on whether students are categorised as Home or Overseas for tuition fee purposes, and in accordance with Government legislation. Fee status is determined by us based on the information you provide and that you confirm is accurate during the registration process. Fee status is therefore determined at the start of your studies, and it is important to note that this is unlikely to change whilst you are studying with us.

Due to Brexit, new EU students starting on or after 1 August 2021 are classified as Overseas

and will be subject to international rather than Home student fees, as set out below. New students from the Channel Islands and Isle of Man meeting the criteria for classification as Home students will be charged Home fees, as will new students from Ireland who live in Ireland or the UK. There are detailed rules arising from Brexit that affect fee status: if you have any queries at all please contact Admissions (admissions@pca.ac.uk).

Tuition fees for Home undergraduate students starting in 2021 in all undergraduate programmes in the College are £9,250 for 2021/22 academic year. Tuition fees may be subject to annual inflationary uplift thereafter, subject to Government approval (and if so will be limited to the annual RPI-X index). Costs quoted are for full time study, with part time costs being half the full time rate.

Tuition fees for EU and International undergraduate students starting in 2021/22 are £15,500 per annum and subject to annual review. Costs for any pre-sessional language courses and/or in-programme language support for international students are not included in tuition fees.

Postgraduate tuition fees for 2021 entry for Home students are £8,000 for MA programmes, and £15,500 for EU and international students. Tuition fees for the MFA programme are £5,330 for Home students, and £10,330 for international students.

Tuition fees for postgraduate part time study for Home students starting in autumn 2021 are £4,500.

An alumni discount applies across all postgraduate fees for PCA graduates (see PCA website). Further discounts and scholarships may apply: please refer to further information on our website (under 'Study', then select Fees, Finance and Funding).

Tuition fees become due upon registration, except for EU and International students who are required to pay annual tuition fees in advance.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have either completed your tuition fee loan application in full before commencing studies at the College, or have sufficient funds to pay your fees by the due date. All tuition fees are payable once registration is complete. Undergraduates will either:

- have your fees paid by the Student Loan Company, or
- pay for your tuition fees yourself, or
- have your fees paid by a sponsor

Postgraduate students may be eligible for a loan from Student Finance (England) that can be used to pay tuition fees; this loan is paid directly to the student so postgraduate students in these circumstances are effectively paying tuition fees themselves. For undergraduate study, if you have applied for and been granted a tuition fee loan approved by Student Finance (England), then they will make payment directly to the College on your behalf. We will check on the status of your loan application at registration. Should approval of your loan be delayed or withdrawn for any reason, then you will become liable for any unpaid amount and you will be treated as if you are paying your own fees i.e. you will be personally liable for paying your fees. If you make a payment to the College for your fees, and we subsequently receive a payment from the SLC, you will be refunded for your own payment in full. In general, loan applications are finalised by the end of October each year and we can help tracking loan approvals after this point to continue to support swift resolution before you may become liable for the fees – if you are affected by this it is most important to keep in touch with the College on progress.

For both postgraduate and undergraduate students, if you are paying your own fees yourself, these are due in full at the time of enrolment. At our discretion, we offer an instalment plan which allows students to pay in termly instalments, payable at the beginning of each term or aligned with the dates of SFE postgraduate loan payments if relevant. Please note we will ask you to provide evidence of your ability to pay for the whole year.

If you have an agreement from a sponsor (e.g. an employer, or the government of another country) to cover your tuition fees, you must provide the College with a letter from your sponsor at the time of registration. The College will then invoice your sponsor for your annual tuition fees. Please note that if your sponsor fails to pay your fees, you will become liable for any unpaid amounts.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties in paying your tuition fees, you should tell the College and seek assistance at the earliest possible opportunity. You can seek initial advice from our Student Support team which includes support with student finance. The College will assist where it can by looking at how you can clear your debts over an agreed period of time within the academic year through a payment instalment plan.

If you receive a letter or email from the College informing you that you have tuition fee debt outstanding, you must respond promptly and contact either the College Finance team directly, or our student finance advisers in the Student Hub. If you ignore debt reminders and the debt remains unpaid, then we will take action to suspend you from your studies, and will require the debt to be paid before re-enrolment. If reminders are effectively ignored and tuition fee debts remain outstanding after 90 days, any unpaid balance will be placed with our external debt collection agents, and you will be withdrawn from your course.

If you decide to leave your course before the end of the academic year (including if you interrupt your studies but plan to return in the future year) you will be liable to pay a proportion of your fees as shown below.

Undergraduate:

- withdrawing up to 14 days after enrolling at the start of the first term: no fee due
- after the above date and before the start of the second term: 25% of fee due
- before the start of the third term: 50% of fee due
- after the start of the third term: 100% of fee due

Postgraduate:

- withdrawing up to 14 days after enrolling at the start of the first term: no fee due
- 33% fee if withdrawing up to the end of Feb, 66% up to the end of May and 100% thereafter

Not collecting any tuition fees if you withdraw within the first 14 days from initial registration reflects compliance with the 14 day 'cooling off' period after registering. Otherwise, we align our withdrawal fee policy broadly with the dates set by the SLC for loan payments for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Tuition fees for students on courses that incorporate the first year as Distance Learning are at the same level as all our undergraduate courses i.e. £9,250 for Home students, payable over 3 instalments. If you decide to leave your course before the end of the academic year (including if you interrupt your studies but plan to return in the future year) we will retain fees you have paid up to that point.

Additional Course Costs and Funding, Subsidies, College Bursary

In common with other universities and colleges providing arts, design, media, crafts courses, your additional course costs (on top of your tuition fees and living expenses such as accommodation, food, social life etc) will include some or all of the following:

- Personal equipment
- Materials for producing your own work over and above the essential requirements for the course

- Books for your own use outside course texts available in the library
- Educational visits
- Printing (and photocopying)

All materials involved in the demonstration of techniques and processes are provided by the College. However, students will need to provide the materials they decide to use in the completion of assignments. We strongly encourage students, as they increasingly specialise, to acquire basic tools/resources, along with appropriate consumable materials, depending on their creative discipline. Programme staff provide advice in this respect.

Printing costs have been maintained at extremely competitive prices, both for standard paper printing and photocopying, and specialist printing through the Print Lab.

The College makes a significant amount of funds available to all programme areas to ensure essential material needs are provided for students. Additionally, for Home UK undergraduate students starting in 2021, and subject to eligibility based on household income the College will provide a bursary of £300 in the third and final year to help towards the additional costs associated with final project work and transition to a professional career. (When applying for financial support (maintenance loan) from Student Finance, please ensure you provide your consent for them to share your household income with us).

The College puts strong emphasis on developing student skills and experience for employability, enterprise and entrepreneurship and in this respect the value of visits to national and international events can be significant. We continue to provide a range of opportunities at minimum extra cost for students across all undergraduate programmes, and have maintained the funding allocated to all programmes aimed at subsidising educational visits to make the more expensive visits more affordable for all.

Indicative additional course costs are published on our website with general and typical range of costs under Fees, Finance and Funding, with course specific information available through Information for New and Returning Students.

Limits of liability; insurance; intellectual property

The College will not be liable to you for any loss or damage you might suffer as a result of the College's failure or delay in carrying out any of its obligations if the failure or delay is caused by something beyond our reasonable control – such as fire, flood, industrial action.

The College will not insure your personal possessions and will not compensate you for any losses.

College policy is that you own the intellectual property rights for your work. Please note that we may want to include work you complete as part of your studies in promotional material for the College. Where student work is used for marketing purposes, author acknowledgement will be made.

Admissions process – appeals and complaints

Our Admissions Policy is available from the website (click on ['Study'](#) then scroll down the page) and includes details of how to appeal an admissions decision or make a complaint. The procedure for making any complaint is also available from our website (scroll to the bottom of a website page, click on 'Reports and Legal Information' then scroll down the page and select [Making a Complaint](#)).