

Artistic Make-Up and Special Effects Foundation Degree

Course Overview

This is a two year university level programme awarded by De Montfort University that provides you with the skills and knowledge needed to secure a career in artistic makeup within the fashion/media and prosthetics industry. This degree is designed to give you experience and skills to contribute to the economic and cultural development of your chosen profession, whilst enhancing your career prospects with a range of skills for your future employability. The course is delivered by a team of expert staff with professional backgrounds and our effective links with the industry allow us to provide current and up-to-date techniques. For example, fibreglass mould making, polyurethane, silicone and foam latex materials. Additionally, we will host industry guest speakers from fashion (Illamasqua), theatre and television to give you insight into the world of artistic makeup. Opportunities for various work experience on the course develops confidence and essential employability skills. As a student on a DMU awarded programme you can access many of the resources available on DMU City Campus including the excellent Kimberlin Library. You also have the opportunity to top-up to a BA (Hons) Degree in Creative Industries with one further year at the College.

What you will learn

Year one modules include the human body, which explores the visual effects of ageing, death and decay. Visual communication includes life drawing, ceramic/sculpting and basic photography. Postiche to include wig making and hair additions. Fashion/editorial hair and makeup techniques cover a variety of genres and periods of history. Specialist make-up includes body painting, bald caps, casualty techniques, theatre and television make up. Historical and contextual understanding looks at the psychology of display.

Year two modules include advanced prosthetics which develops mould making techniques, including fibreglass, polyurethane, silicone and foam latex materials. Digital media for makeup industries which includes blogging and online portfolio, historical and cultural hairstyling for film and fashion, contemporary contexts and visual media to explore character development within a theoretical context. Freelance practitioner which investigates employability and freelance business skills. Negotiated study for students to focus on a chosen specialist area which is showcased at the end of the year event.

Entry Requirements

Standard entry to this course requires a minimum of 32 UCAS points from a recognised level 3 National Diploma qualification in a related subject or Art and Design Foundation Studies. You are expected to hold GCSE English and maths at 4(C) or equivalent. We welcome applicants who do not match standard entry requirements but who can demonstrate the ability to study this subject at university level, and who can evidence relevant experience. Due to the nature of this programme, you may be invited to attend a portfolio interview or email a portfolio with a telephone interview.

Course Fees

You will need to purchase a kit of approx £1400 for year 1 and approx £250 for year 2. You will also be required to contribute towards the ongoing course materials over the two years including all costs for your final project.

Course Progression

As a graduate from this programme, you will be eligible to formally progress directly onto the 3rd year of the De Montfort University BA (Hons) in Creative Industries. You can also apply to other universities that run related 'top up' degrees. Universities may require you to also hold GCSE English and maths at 4. Previous graduates from this course have been extremely successful within make-up retail and as freelance make-up artists across a broad range of fields including fashion/editorial, theatre, film/television and prosthetics.

What Happens Next

Applications must be made via UCAS using the course code W452, institution code L36. If you haven't started a UCAS application yet, and only want to apply to Leicester College, you can apply directly to us using our direct application form via the College website, and we will process a UCAS application on your behalf. Due to the nature of this programme, you may also be invited to attend an interview and provide a portfolio. Where necessary, other means of interview (i.e. telephone, web-based, CD/DVD) can be arranged.

Course Details

Course Code	P00301
Start Date	21/09/2026
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	2 years
Campus	Freemen's Park Campus
Level	5

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