# *BA (Hons) Design for Performance School of Visual Communication*

**Additional costs for this course**  
We have provided you with a breakdown of the essential costs and the optional costs which are dependent on your budget.  
  
Please note that your marks are not a reflection of how much you spend, so a student who spends less than the estimated costs won’t be marked down, compared to a student who spends more.  
  
**Materials for technical modules**  
In first year you’ll be required to engage in a number of 2D and 3D design activities appropriate to the discipline. As such you’ll need to budget around £150 for initial design equipment and materials. Some of these such as scale rulers and cutting mats, once purchased, could last you beyond the length of the course. Other consumable items such as paint, adhesives and sketchbooks are purchased as and when is needed.  
  
Throughout the first two years of the course, along with individual work, a number of collaborative projects are undertaken. The main materials used are provided by the course, with specific details funded by the students.  
  
An example would be a group-based music video where the main scenery is constructed from the timber provided by the course but specific props/costumes are sourced and paid for by the group, each student perhaps contributing £20 to the collective venture.  
  
Materials and equipment for the final year is varied and driven by your individual needs. Some students will spend very little as their practice is predominantly achieved through digital media or perhaps recycled materials.  
  
Others incur more costs through venue hire, installation production or specialist materials. As such it can be as little as £100 or as much as £2000. For the more expensive projects students actively seek funding through various mechanisms including the Student Union’s Eco Fund.  
  
**Books**  
Most books needed whilst studying the course are available in the university library or our [digital library](http://diglib4.bcu.ac.uk/webgate/dlib/templates/UCEEL/index.asp), but a number of students prefer to buy their own books and these costs may vary.  
  
**Laptops and software**  
You will require use of a laptop (PC or Mac) however, it is not essential for you to purchase your own laptop (PC or Mac), as you can also borrow a laptop from the university or use one of our shared computer rooms. Laptops may be borrowed for free for up to six hours and may be found at the following locations: Curzon, Millennium Point, Parkside, the School of Jewellery and Margaret Street (Birmingham School of Art). Most students do prefer to have their own laptops, and we suggest you allow about £300 to £1200 for this, dependent on your preferences and budget. Apple also offer a discount on laptops for UK students: [go to Apple for Education for more details](http://www.apple.com/uk_edu_5000618/shop).  
  
If you purchase a laptop:

You’ll require a computer (PC or Mac), capable of running **Adobe Creative Suite**.   
  
We recommend [a student subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud for these applications](http://www.adobe.com/uk/creativecloud/buy/students.html), along with [Google Earth](https://www.google.co.uk/intl/en_uk/earth/) (free), [SketchUp](http://www.sketchup.com/education) (discounted for students) and [AutoCAD for students](http://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/autocad) (free for students). The above are also available on campus within the computer suites.  
  
You’ll also be provided with a free account for [Lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com/) worth £227.40.  
  
Microsoft Office 365 and 1TB of OneDrive cloud storage space is provided free to all students.  
  
**Printing**  
Our on-campus print shop can produce high-quality prints for your portfolio, assignments and dissertation on an at-cost basis.  
  
In previous years, students have budgeted up to £350 for printing for the duration of the course, although you can reduce print costs by submitting assignments online. This will vary depending on your requirements and approach whilst studying the course.  
  
**Optional – Field trips**  
Specific to the course are a number of live projects which require field visits. A coach may be organised or alternatively students make their own travel arrangements. This is dependent on the destination and the specifics of the visit.  
  
As part of the school there are a number of optional educational trips organised that aim to add richness to your experience but these are not part of any course assessment.  
  
Examples are based on recent prices, so these will probably fluctuate from year to year:  
  
Prague Quadrennial – about £400  
Berlin Field – about £320  
Venice Biennale – about £397  
Paris Photo – about £280  
New York – about £639  
Thailand Exchange – about £1200

We encourage you to attend as many free events as you can, and we are happy to offer a guide on events you can attend.