# *MA Contemporary Arts ChinaBirmingham School of Art*

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## **Additional costs for this course**

We have provided you with a breakdown of the essential costs and the optional costs are dependent on your budget, the projects and research you decide to undertake, where you opt to go on your placement and for how long.

We recommend that you conduct primary research, visiting and experiencing exhibitions, art works, art fairs and events wherever possible we acknowledge that this will depend upon 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**

Depending on your particular specialism and project you decide upon will determine the amount of budget you need for materials. As a guide, previous students have spent money on: large format framed photographs, specialist printing costs (including paper and inks), large scale casts using resins, wax, plaster and fibreglass, large paintings using specialist paints, canvas and wood.

On average a budget of £200 - £1,000 although some students may spend less.

### **Books**

We have an extensive reading list on our course, the vast majority of which is available for free from the university library and our [digital library](http://diglib4.bcu.ac.uk/webgate/dlib/templates/UCEEL/index.asp).

There are books that we advise you to purchase. The overall budget is likely to be around £100. We anticipate that you will want to purchase books and catalogues related to your own specialist area so will need to budget/plan for this this could be between £100-200.

Similarly, there may be some specialist journals that you may wish to subscribe to that the University doesn’t hold. It is important to remember that you are also able to order books and articles through the interlibrary loan system.

### **Placements**

One of the main features and attractions to the course if the extended work placement.

Whilst we will assist you in this process you are responsible for organising and financing your placement costs including flights (if necessary), accommodation, visas, living expenses and other travel costs. This will vary on location, length and nature of placement.

Remember the sooner that you book you flights the more economical it will be.

Flights and Visa to China**:**£800 - £1,000

Living costs vary from city to city in UK, China and the EU and you will need to budget between:

£800 - £1,600 (approximately) per month for accommodation and living expenses. You can obviously live as frugally or extravagantly as your budget allows.

You will also need to plan and take into consideration retaining your accommodation in the UK (Birmingham) whilst living and working elsewhere.

## **Laptops and Software**

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 building, Millennium Point, Parkside building, 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 £1,200 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).

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 and assignments on an at-cost basis.

You’ll develop reflective journals throughout the course and often want to download colour images to use in these print. In previous years, students have budgeted up to £100 for printing.

**Field trips**

Mandatory trips to partner organisations as part of your core modules are included in your course fees.

However, as previously stated many students travel to London and to other cities to see exhibitions, some of which are free and others have entrance costs. We recommend a budget of up to £100-300 for travel and up to £100 for entrance fees.