*MA Visual Communication  
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**  
On this course you’ll need to budget around £500 for materials and equipment needed for your productions; although some students spend less than this depending on their chosen production project.  
  
As a way of further reducing student costs you’ll have the options of presenting your creative design process, research and developmental work in a digital form where appropriate.  
  
Your spending will vary depending on the scale and ambition of your productions and your resourcefulness.  
  
When working in groups you may be required to contribute towards sets, props or other consumables. On average this may cost £50.  
  
**Books**  
All 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 our students prefer to buy their own books and these costs may vary.  
  
**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, 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).  
  
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#close), 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**  
We look to keep costs on printing as low as possible but if you choose to follow specific ways of working this may result in additional costs.  
  
For example if you decide that the use of traditional print making is an area you wish to engage with within your practice; further costs will be incurred but these are kept to a minimum and specific costs are detailed.  
  
All materials used during workshops are free of charge.  
  
**Optional – Field trips**   
There are no specific trips organised as part of the course that you are required to pay for but there are a number of optional educational trips that aim to add richness to your experience whilst studying.  
  
We have in the past run the following trips, but they are all optional, and based on recent prices, so these may fluctuate from year to year:  
  
Berlin field – about £320  
Venice Biennale – on average £397  
Paris Photo – about £280  
New York – on average £639  
Thailand exchange – about £1200  
  
We also run trips as part of the course that are subsidised or paid for by the school, for example visits to [Royal Television Society](https://rts.org.uk/) master classes or study trips to the BFI library. We also encourage you to attend as many free events as you can, and we are happy to offer a guide on events you can attend.