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Welcome

Hampstead Fine Arts College has been at the heart of Belsize Park for over forty years, nurturing generations of academically ambitious and creatively driven students. Founded in 1978 as a specialist college for the arts and humanities, we have built a reputation for achievement through encouragement - where individuality is celebrated and talent is developed with care, insight, and expertise.

We offer a full-time UAL-accredited Foundation Course for post-A-Level students, an exceptional range of A-Level and GCSE subjects in both academic and creative disciplines. This subject choice enables us to design programmes of study that reflect interests and future aspirations of individual students. Students are encouraged to build a balanced and challenging curriculum that opens pathways to leading universities in the UK and internationally.

"A community of tolerance, empathy and understanding."

ISI Inspection



CANDIDA CAVE
PRINCIPAL



EMMY SCHWIETERS
HEAD

What makes Hampstead Fine Arts College unique?

We are a unique college with academic and creative subjects equally celebrated. Rigorous discussion, analytical thinking and independent research sit alongside experimentation, performance, and artistic expression. Small class sizes, no more than twelve at GCSE and an average of eight at A-Level, focus on individual student progress. Our tutors who are specialists in their fields, inspire a love of learning that extends well beyond the classroom.

Each student is supported by a dedicated Personal Tutor who oversees academic development and wellbeing, offering encouragement, advice, and practical guidance at each stage of study.

Hampstead Fine Arts College prides itself on being a bridge between school and Higher Education.

“Pupils are highly independent, self-motivated learners, who respond with enthusiasm to the excellent teaching and the stress on individuality.” ISI Inspection





Foundation Course

Our UAL-accredited Foundation Course is a one-year, post-A-Level programme which prepares students for degree courses in the arts. Under the guidance of experienced artists and tutors, students develop curiosity, confidence, and their own creative voice through research, experimentation, and exploration.

Our Foundation Course is ideal for learning new techniques, individual experimentation and building a portfolio for entrance into creative degree courses at the most prestigious universities in the UK and abroad.

Entry requires A-Level qualifications (or equivalent) and a minimum IELTS score of 4.0 for international students.



A-Levels

We offer over twenty A-Level subjects. Most students follow a two-year course of three or four subjects, while others combine creative disciplines such as Performing Arts or Art and Design. Lessons are discussion-based, encouraging independent thought, debate, and reflective thinking. Many of our tutors are practising artists, musicians, designers, and experienced writers and academics who nurture intellectual and creative growth.

Students have individual support from Personal Tutors, with Higher Education guidance overseen by the Director of Careers and an experienced admissions team who oversee course choices, personal statements, and applications.

“Pupils actively engage in developing knowledge, gaining strong levels of subject understanding. Challenging, engaging and well-paced teaching prompts excellent motivation and response, with mature, yet robust classroom discussion.” ISI Inspection





GCSE & Year 9

We believe a strong academic foundation is essential for success, which is overseen by the Heads of Year. Students typically take nine GCSEs - six academic and three creative. This enables them to explore a curriculum that nurtures their intellectual and artistic development.

Core subjects include English Language, Mathematics, and at least one Science, humanities such as Classics, History, Geography, or Religious Studies, and modern languages (French or Spanish). Creative options include Art, Photography, Music, Media, Film Studies, and Drama.

Beyond academics, students take part in PSHE, weekly sports, and enrichment talks. Each student meets weekly with their Head of Year to review academic progress and well-being.

"Pupils are constantly being asked to reflect on their work, are always challenging, questioning and debating points, expressing these with tolerance." ISI inspection



Academic

Each student's progress is carefully monitored through a rigorous academic tracking system overseen by the Deputy Head (Academic). Following formal assessments held twice each term, tutors submit detailed reports on homework and effort. These are followed by meetings with Personal Tutors to review feedback and set individual goals. Additional in-class tests and regular progress data enable timely intervention and targeted support. At the end of each term, parents receive comprehensive reports written by each of their child's subject tutors.

Located in the heart of London, the College draws constant inspiration from nearby galleries, theatres and museums. The academic programme equips students with the independence, discipline, and confidence to successfully pursue higher education and their career path.

"Study skills within the classroom are excellent: pupils engage in a mature, thoughtful and analytical manner... Pupils take ownership of learning and have high aspirations of success." ISI inspection



Craig Winchcombe,
Deputy Head (Academic)





Pastoral

Our pastoral care is rooted in mutual respect and balance. The Deputy Head (Pastoral) leads a team of Personal Tutors who meet students weekly to discuss academic progress, personal goals, and well-being.

Personal development is further supported through our Enrichment programme, which addresses topical issues such as life skills, digital safety, and well-being. Weekly sports sessions, including football, netball, yoga, and personal training, promote balance and confidence.

Students may also take individual classes in drama, music, and singing, preparing for LAMDA and Guildhall examinations.

"Pupils are acutely self-aware, because the colleges approach is focused on developing self-empowerment, resilience and self-motivation."

ISI inspection



*Julie Cope,
Deputy Head (Pastoral)*

Beyond The Classroom

Our extensive programme of activities fosters confidence, and cultural awareness.

Students can join clubs such as Drama, Creative Writing, Film, Retro Gaming, Chess, and Debating, or participate in sports teams and life drawing sessions. Weekly talks by visiting speakers and alumni broaden intellectual horizons, while theatre and study trips - to London's institutions and international destinations like Berlin, Florence, Paris, and Vienna - enrich learning experiences.

The College calendar features dramatic and musical performances, film festivals, and an annual art exhibition showcasing student talent.

"Pupils were fulsome in their praise for the liberal ethos of the College, which they say has quietly guided them to more positive attitudes, because they felt they can now 'be themselves' and discover their individual interests and talents." ISI Inspection



Universities and Higher Education

Guiding Ambition, Inspiring Achievement

At Hampstead Fine Arts College, preparation for higher education begins long before the final year. From the moment students join us, we help them to think ambitiously about their futures - encouraging both imagination and intellectual curiosity alongside a practical understanding of what comes next.

Our aim is not only to help students achieve places at leading universities and art schools, but also to ensure they leave us with the confidence, self-discipline, and independence required to thrive once they get there. The high expectations we maintain - in academic rigour, creative innovation, and personal responsibility - equip our students with a toolkit for lifelong success.

Each student benefits from a dedicated Personal Tutor who monitors academic progress, provides pastoral care, and offers detailed guidance through every stage of the university application process. Regular one-to-one meetings and twice termly formal assessments allow us to track development closely, ensuring that each student's aspirations are supported by strong results and a clear sense of direction.

The Director of Careers and Higher Education, supported by a team of university and art school specialists, oversees all applications. From initial course exploration to personal statement writing and interview preparation, our guidance is detailed and bespoke. We also provide expert support during the results period - liaising with institutions when offers are close and ensuring students secure the best possible outcomes.

Our approach works. Each year, Hampstead Fine Arts College students achieve places at many of the UK's most prestigious universities and art schools, as well as highly regarded international institutions.



Annual university admissions include:

Leading UK universities such as the University of Oxford, University College London, London School of Economics, King's College London, University of St Andrews, and University of Bristol.

Top London Art and Design schools including Central Saint Martins, London College of Fashion, Camberwell College of Arts, and Kingston University. US universities and art schools including the Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute, New York University, FIT New York, and the California Institute of the Arts.

We take immense pride not only in the impressive university destinations our students achieve, but in the young people they become on their way there - confident, curious, and ready to make their mark in the world.

"The vast majority of pupils successfully gain places at the universities and or colleges of their choice. This is due to a combination of factors: excellent, highly skilled and specialised teaching, highly motivated attitudes to learning and well-targeted preparation." ISI inspection.



Margaret Park,
Director of Careers

Admissions

Hampstead Fine Arts College welcomes students with a wide range of academic backgrounds and experiences. Our aim is to recognise and nurture talent in all its forms, and we take pride in helping every student to realise their potential, whatever their previous educational journey may have been. We believe that academic promise, creative ability, and personal commitment are all vital aspects of a student's profile, and our admissions process reflects this holistic approach.

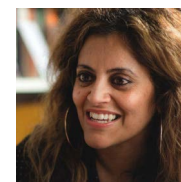
Entry to the College is by interview with the Principal or Head, supported by academic records and a reference from a current or previous school. For A-level courses, applicants are expected to have achieved satisfactory GCSE results and to provide a suitable school reference. For GCSE entry, an interview and an academic reference are required. Applicants for the Foundation Course are also asked to present examples of their work for assessment by the Art Department, alongside an interview with the Principal or Head.

The interview is a key part of the process - an opportunity for students to share their interests, ambitions, and creative outlook, and for us to understand how best to support their growth. For those applying to art or design courses, we look for evidence of imagination, experimentation, and a willingness to explore ideas with originality and commitment.

A small number of scholarships and bursaries are available each year, offering full or partial remission of tuition fees. These awards are designed to recognise merit, commitment, and potential, and applications are made through the Admissions Office.



Throughout the admissions process, students and families receive individual support from Meena Sharma, our Director of Admissions, who provides clear, personal guidance at every stage. We encourage all prospective students to begin their application journey with a conversation with Meena, to explore the courses available and to discuss how Hampstead Fine Arts College can help them develop both academically and creatively.



*Meena Sharma,
Director of Admissions*

Our Location in Belsize Park

Our sites at Centre Studios and Parkhill Campus are within 3 minutes' walk from each other. Centre Studios on England's Lane is surrounded by independent cafés and useful shops. Our second campus is on Parkhill Road, the birthplace of British Modernist Art in the 1930s. We have numerous studios for art, fashion, photography, media, film and music as well as bright, spacious classrooms and lecture halls. We also have a 120-seat theatre, The Law Theatre, outdoor areas with a sports pitch and inviting communal spaces.



Centre Studios

41–43 England's Lane, NW3 4YD

Parkhill Campus

2 Parkhill Road, NW3 2YN

We are situated close to Swiss Cottage (Jubilee Line) and Belsize Park (Northern Line) underground stations.



*“Pupils have high levels of self-esteem and self-confidence,
reflecting the College’s focus on developing these qualities.
Excellent resources and teaching expertise allow pupils to
flourish.” ISI inspection*

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