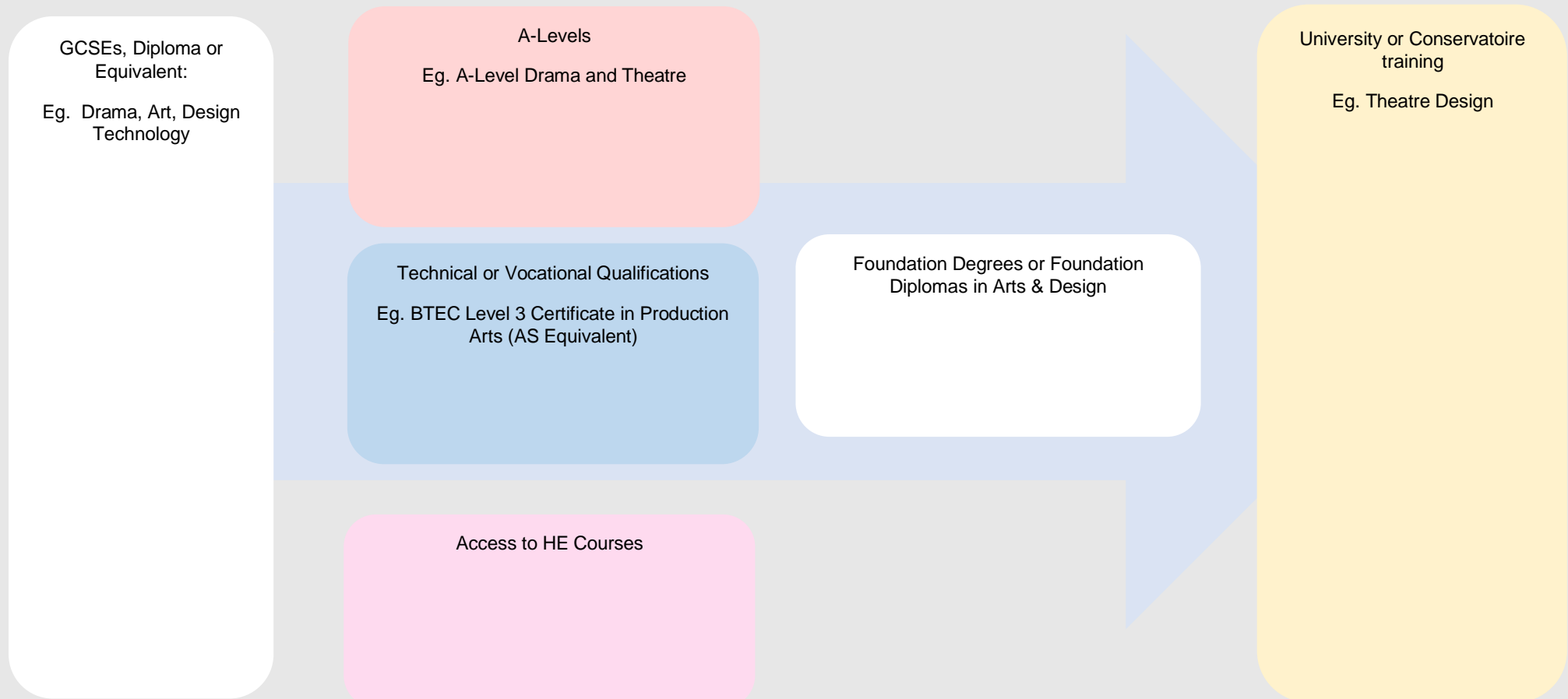


1. How do I get there?

Activity - choosing your path to a creative course

Filling in the diagram below, work out your path to a creative degree. Start by listing the GCSEs you are taking (or think you might take) and then find options for relevant A-Levels, BTECs or alternative qualifications e.g. TechBacc. If you are returning to study after an absence, why not explore Access to HE Courses?

You can learn more about study options and qualifications on the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/further-education> and the new UCAS Hub <https://www.ucas.com/introducing-ucas-hub>. For Access to HE Courses, try: <https://bit.ly/2QirfZK>. For higher education and university courses, go to: <https://digital.ucas.com/search>.



2. What should I keep in mind?

What can or should I do before applying?

As well as taking complementary subjects at GCSE and further education, you should also explore what you can do outside of school. Extra-curricular activities are a fantastic way to develop creative skills, particularly if your school or college does not have drama, art, music or other specialist departments. Why not have a go at identifying the skills you need and then finding clubs, classes, summer schools and other activities that help develop these?

The AccessHE Creative Website (www.accesshecreative.co.uk) and the LookUp tool(www.lookup.anewdirection.org.uk) are great resources to help you find such activities. Do also check with your school or college, local organisations and youth clubs.

Skills I need to develop	Why I need to develop this skill	Where and how I can develop these skills
Eg. Performance Skills	Eg. Audition preparation - Confidence building	Eg. Local youth theatres – Theatre Royal Stratford East Summer Schools

3. What should I keep in mind?

Where should I study and how do I want to be taught?

Deciding where to study can be tough. Think about what is important to you and what you want from your study experience before deciding.

Below we suggest some things you may want to prioritise. Have a go at adding to this list – this is personal and so will look a little different for everyone!

Campus	Non-Campus	City based	Outside of city	Project work	Group work
Written exams	Oral exams	Workshops	Independent learning	Many training hours	Focused
Practical	Personalised	Employment-focused	Reflective practice	Research	Presentations
Far from home	Work placements	Funding opportunities	Flexibility	Reputation	Close to home
Lectures	Seminars	Performance exams	Vocational	Study abroad	Collaboration
Broad	Industry-related				

3. What should I keep in mind?

Where should I study and how do I want to be taught?

Once you've had a think about your priorities, fill in the table below. Try to think about how important each one is to you and why. Once you have done this, highlight your top three or five.

Priority	Level of priority- high, medium, low	Why?
Eg. Campus	Eg. Medium	Eg. I want to be part of a tight-knit student community

4. Choosing what and where to study

Choosing a course and an institution

Choosing what and where to study can be tough. Read over the Creative HE courses and institution profiles listed in the Guide and on institutional websites, the UCAS website (<https://digital.ucas.com/search>) and Which? University (<https://university.which.co.uk/courses>) to research courses and institutions.

As you research, fill in the table below. Refer back to worksheet three and think about which of your priorities are being met and which are not. Research also how you would apply for this institution - will this be through UCAS, or is there a different method?

Course	Institution	Priorities met	Priorities not met	Type of application
Eg. Professional Dance and Musical Theatre BA (Hons)	Eg. The Urdang Academy	Eg. City-based	Eg. Far from home	Eg. UCAS

5. Choosing what and where to study

Open days

Open days are a great way to learn a little more about the courses and institutions you are considering. In worksheet four, you researched courses and institutions. Now, let's look at institution open days and think about booking on to some! Many open days will feature tours and talks that you must register for so keep an eye out. It's worth jotting down some specific questions you may wish to ask about the course and/or institution. You can also search and track open days and other UCAS events using the new UCAS Hub <https://www.ucas.com/introducing-ucas-hub>.

Date	Institution	Course	Details (i.e. tours booked)	Specific questions to ask
Eg. 22.09	Eg. Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	Eg. Music BA (Hons)	Eg. Campus tour, 10am	Eg. Where is the student accommodation?

6. How do I apply?

Application process and timeline

Applying for university can be a confusing and time-consuming task - some institutions take applications through UCAS, others through UCAS Conservatoires and others through direct applications. Use the table below to plan out your application process.

Date	UCAS	UCAS Conservatoires	My timeline
Mar	Begin researching courses and institutions		
Mar –Sept	Begin visiting institutions and making choices		
Mid-Jul		Applications open	
Early Sep	Applications open		
Sep	Portfolio preparation if applicable		
Oct		Deadline for Music Applications	
End-Oct		Auditions begin	
Mid-Jan	Application deadline for most subjects		
Late-Jan		Reply to your offers if received by early January	
End-Mar			
Mid-Apr		Reply to your offers if received by mid-March	
Early-May	Reply to your offers if received by the end of March		
Early-Jun	Reply to your offers if received by the mid-May		
Mid-Jun	Reply to your offers if received by the early June		
Early-Jul	Clearing opens		

Date	UCAS	UCAS Conservatoires	My timeline
Mid-Jul	Reply to your offers if received by early July		
Late-Jul		Reply to your offers if received by mid-July	
Late-Aug	Close of all applications		
Early-Sep		Reply to your offers if received by the early August	
Late-Sep		Reply to your offers for those received from early August to late August	

Notes

7. What happens next?

Preparing for interviews and auditions

Interviews and auditions are a very important part of the application process for creative, performing arts and design subjects. Think about which of your traits you'd like to highlight in your interview/audition and try to find examples to back this up. Relate it back to the course and try to predict any follow-up questions your interviewers/assessors might have.

Traits	Evidence and examples	Link to course	Potential follow-up questions
Eg. Teamwork, Communication	Eg. Performing a routine with my after-school dance club	Eg. I know I will practise choreography with others on my chosen course	Eg. If you could, would you have done anything differently?

8. What happens next?

After the interview or audition

It's crucial to think critically, or reflect, after each audition/interview. This will help you prepare for the next.

Think about what went well - so you will remember to repeat it- and what could have gone better – so you can be better prepared for next time. If it came up once, it's likely to come up again.

Course	Institution	Positives	Negatives	Notes for improvement
Eg. Commercial Photography BA (Hons)	Eg. Arts University Bournemouth	Eg. Talked about photography portfolio I've built since Year 10	Eg. Forgot to mention the photography course I took in the summer	Eg. Need to prepare more specific examples

9. How do I choose?

Making a decision

Once your offers are in you need to decide which institution you want to attend. Through UCAS and UCAS Conservatoires this will mean selecting a 'Firm' and an 'Insurance' choice. For direct applications, it may be as simple as merely accepting the offer.

Use the table below to help you make your decision. Think back to your priorities and what you may have learnt at open days or auditions and interviews.

Course	Institution	Outcome	What choice did I make?	Pros/Cons	
Eg. Theatre Design (Set and Costume) BA	Eg. Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance	Eg. Conditional offer	Eg. Firm	What I like	Eg. Campus
				What I don't like	Eg. Far from home
				What I like	
				What I don't like	
				What I like	
				What I don't like	

Course	Institution	Outcome	What choice did I make?	Pros/Cons	
				What I like	
				What I don't like	
				What I like	
				What I don't like	
				What I like	
				What I don't like	

Notes