



THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE
FOR PERFORMING ARTS

MA Costume Making Virtual Interview Guidelines - 2024 Entry

Congratulations on getting through to the interview stage here.

If you live outside of the UK, we have automatically invited you to a virtual interview. If you would prefer to travel here to attend an in-person interview, please email international@lipa.ac.uk. We will be using Microsoft Teams this year for our interview events to enable us to replicate the “in person” interview events as closely as possible.

We understand how nerve-wracking attending interviews can be. We will do all we can to help you feel at your ease throughout. A top tip is to read these guidelines through straight away and then a few times more before your interview and to not leave anything till the last minute. This should help you feel calmer on the day.

The MA Costume Making course is for versatile and creative makers who want to hone their technical construction skills and produce a compelling portfolio across different periods and styles. Working with industry professionals, you develop advanced making techniques and improve your skills in associated areas like millinery and prop costume. With visiting experts, access to leading industry figures and working on collaborative productions, we ensure that your professional practice is as polished as your making skills.

The interview for this course is a two-way process, aiming to offer you the opportunity to discover if our course is right for you, while we try to determine whether you have the experience and qualities to benefit from what we have to offer. We hope you enjoy your time with us. We will endeavour to ensure that the whole process is as positive and relaxed as possible. If at any time during the interview you want clarification on a point or other information, please ask.

Before the interview

Please submit a portfolio in PDF format **at least five working days** before your interview, which demonstrates your costume construction work and any other relevant projects. This should include images of the designs you have interpreted and photographs of the costumes you have made, including detailed close-ups and any construction samples relating to them. You may include work from live or recorded performances but that is not essential.

Please also submit a 1,500-word critical analysis of the costumes in a TV series, live production or film that you have seen recently before your interview. This can be in word or PDF format.

Your portfolio and critical analysis should be uploaded to the applicant portal, using your personal log in details provided to you previously via email. You are welcome to submit these earlier than five working days before the interview.

Interview format

Our virtual interviews will take place on MS Teams. You will be allocated a place on one interview event, starting at either 10.00 (A) **OR** 16:00 (B). Each event will follow the same structure. Times are GMT or BST as appropriate. You will receive the joining link approximately 24 hours prior to the interview.

	Start time A 10:00	Start time B 16:00
Introduction and course overview	10:00 – 10:30	16:00 – 16:30
Individual interview	10:30 – 12:30	16:30 – 18:30

Introduction and course overview

This will be a short and informal overview of our course, delivered by Toni Bate, our Course Leader. All candidates being interviewed will be invited to participate in this.

Individual interview

At the end of the overview presentation, we will allocate each candidate a time for a one-to-one interview with staff here. Each interview will last up to 30 minutes and we anticipate a maximum of four attendees per event. Some candidates may therefore have a break between the introductory presentation and their interview. If so you are welcome to log off MS Teams following the presentation and re-join at your interview time.

During the interview we will discuss your portfolio and critical review and will ask you further questions to help you and us to assess your suitability for our Masters programme. If during this discussion you want to refer to materials included in your portfolio or other artefacts you will be able to screen share via MS Teams or you can simply show us via your web camera.

Tips for taking part

- You will need a good internet connection and access to Microsoft Teams, which is the video conferencing platform we will be using.
- Your device will need to have a screen, microphone and a webcam. If you have any concerns about your equipment for taking part in the online interview, please contact admissions@lipa.ac.uk

- On the day, please ensure you are in a quiet room, where you will not be disturbed during the interview.
- Please ensure you are in a well-lit space so you can be clearly seen and heard during your interview.
- Test your camera and microphone before your interview.
- Make sure your device is fully charged and/or is plugged into a power source.
- Try to relax and be yourself on the day.
- Make sure you ask us anything you want to know about what it's like to study here.
- Make sure you've read these guidelines thoroughly and don't leave anything to the last minute – this should help you feel much calmer on the day

Useful information

Do you have an access need related to a disability that may require specialist arrangements?

If you think you will require any type of support for your audition, please contact our Student Disability Officer, at student.support@lipa.ac.uk

When will you hear from us after the interview?

We need time to reflect on the candidates we've seen, so we do not tell you the outcome of your interview on the day itself. We don't like to keep you waiting though, so we always aim to communicate our decision to you within two weeks.

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications we receive, if you are not successful we are unable to offer feedback.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the interview, please get in touch using the contact details below.

Contact us

For applicants outside of the UK please email our International Team:
international@lipa.ac.uk

You can also reach us by phone by calling +44 (0)151 330 3000 and asking for the International Team.

We wish you the best of luck and look forward to meeting you at interview.

Toni Bate
Course Leader, MA Costume Making