

MA Costume Design & Making Interview Guidelines 2025 Entry

Congratulations on getting through to the interview stage here.

The MA Costume Design & Making course is for versatile and creative costume practitioners who want to hone their costume realisation skills and produce a compelling portfolio across different periods, styles and performance areas. Working with industry professionals, you develop an advanced, individualised costume practice and improve your skills in a range of related areas. With visiting experts, access to leading industry figures and working on collaborative productions, we ensure that your professional practice is as polished as your costume design and 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.

You will be able to hear about the course from the course leader and ask any questions. This is a great chance for you to get a feel for what it will be like to study here.

Portfolio

At your interview, you should show some evidence of your costume work and any other relevant design, clothing and textile related projects. This can include actual items (where practical) and images of the costume work you have completed. You may include work from live or recorded performances but that is not essential.

For online interviews, please submit a portfolio in PDF format **at least five 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.

Your interview

You will be invited to attend at a specific time as indicated in your invitation email. The format of the interview will be as follows:

- Arrival/Registration
- Course Overview (20 minutes)

- Tour of the facilities (60 minutes - in person interviews only)
- Individual Interviews (30 minutes)

For in person interviews at LIPA, you should expect to be with us for about two hours. There may be some waiting when you get to the individual interview stage.

Online interviews will take place on MS TEAMS and will follow a similar structure to the in person interviews (excluding the tour of our facilities).

Introduction and course overview

This will be a short (20 minutes), 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

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. 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.

Tips for online interviews:

- 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 us.
- 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

When will you hear from us after the interview

Decisions are usually made within ten days of the interview. However, some decisions may not be made until all candidates have been seen. Candidates will be contacted directly by email and notified on the LIPA applicant portal.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the interview please email admissions@lipa.ac.uk or international@lipa.ac.uk if you are from outside the UK

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 interview, please contact our Student Wellbeing & Disability Team, at wellbeing.disability@lipa.ac.uk

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

Toni Bate

Course Leader, MA Costume Design & Making