**MA Art Therapy**

**Additional Application Information**

To allow us to assess your application fully, we require the following documents at point of application

**1. Completed Work Experience Form**

Candidates will be expected to provide evidence of relevant work experience equalling 1,000 hours minimum, this may be paid employment and/or voluntary work, gained in the UK or abroad. These hours need to have been accrued by the date of application and should not include hours projected within the period of acceptance and the start of the academic year. The applicant’s employment history should provide an experience of working with the kinds of clients that students may encounter in their training. It could be work with children, adolescents or adults who are experiencing some kind of emotional difficulties as a result of intellectual or physical challenges or psychological trauma or stresses. The work could be within a mental health setting, social services, a school, a community centre or a charity. It should include working with a multi-disciplinary team and liaising with other professionals. Work experience cannot include caring for a relative or friend.

Please [download our work experience form.](https://www.herts.ac.uk/__data/assets/word_doc/0014/330206/MA-Art-Therapy-Work-experience-form.docx)

**2. Portfolio of Artwork**

All candidates (whether from a visual art background or not) must provide evidence of their engagement with visual art through a portfolio which is submitted as part of the interview process. At interview candidates are expected to be able to reflect on their life experiences and also demonstrate the capacity to be psychologically minded towards themselves, others and their art making process. The portfolio should be clearly annotated with an indication of media used and size. Please visit our website for further information and guidance on how you may present your Portfolio. Further to the portfolio guidance on the website please note that we will be looking for evidence of the development of your art making practice over a number of years, your emotional engagement with your work and your capacity for personal expression through art. Please choose artwork that represents the diversity of your practice. In the interview, you will be asked to discuss one or two or selected pieces. The portfolio will be considered using the following criteria:

* evidence of engagement with art making as a means of exploring feeling and meaning
* evidence of an on-going commitment to art making
* evidence of working in a variety of media and openness to engagement with contemporary art practice

**3. Degree Certificate & Transcript**

Applicants should have either an honours degree in visual arts, an honours degree in a related field or a relevant professional qualification.

*Special Entry* protocols may apply in cases where candidates have alternative qualifications, extensive professional experience in a related field, or may not have had access to tertiary education as a result of exceptional circumstances such as socio-political obstacles. In cases where no first degree has been obtained, candidates must demonstrate the ability to complete academic studies at MA level though submission of a 750- word essay.

**4. Two references (1 work and 1 academic)**

Home students: please ask your referees to send their references to [admppc@herts.ac.uk](mailto:admppc@herts.ac.uk)

International students: please ask your referees to send their references to [international@herts.ac.uk](mailto:international@herts.ac.uk)

**5. Additional Information for International Students Only**

International students’ admissions will be subject to UKVI, visa requirements. For international applicants not able to attend an interview, an online interview (via Zoom, Teams or Skype) will be arranged. Applicants who are not permanent residents or citizens of the UK may be required to show evidence of English language competence to IELTS 7 (with no element lower than 6.5).

**Selection and Interview**

Interviews are held from November onwards and continue until all places are filled – usually no later than the end of May. Interviews are offered as application forms and additional application information is received and places are allocated on a first come first served basis. Results of interviews are usually provided within ten days.

Following the receipt of the application, applicants may be selected to attend an interview. If an applicant is not selected for interview, it is usually because basic entry requirements are lacking, and some advice may be given as to how these may be achieved so that an applicant may re- apply.

During the pandemic our interviews have been moved online. We do not yet know when we will return to face-to-face interviews on campus. If the interview is face-to-face, it lasts for approximately two and a half hours. It starts with a group Q & A session and discussion followed by ten-minute individual interviews with each of the three interview panel members (two tutors and one service user). If the interview is online, there will be no group Q & A and it will be conducted by two panel members via Zoom. Full instructions for booking Zoom interviews will be sent in good time.

At Interview candidates are assessed on their:

* capacity for psychological mindedness towards themselves, others and their art making process
* capacity to work and learn in groups and teams
* curiosity, empathy and emotional robustness with particular reference to their work experience
* potential to meet professional standards
* academic potential and evidence of capacity for critical and reflective thought

If an applicant is not selected at interview, some advice may be given as to how future applications may be strengthened by additional education and/or work experience. However, staffing resources do not allow for the provision of detailed individual feedback and correspondence regarding the reasons for unsuccessful application cannot be entered into.

If a place is offered, applicants will be asked to complete an application form for an enhanced disclosure certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Applicants may also be asked for further information concerning any convictions, cautions or other relevant information that it reveals, as well as references from the probation service or other organizations.