ESCAPE STUDIOS
LONDON

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

> **For over 20 years, Escape Studios has helped talented individuals launch their creative careers. We've welcomed students from diverse countries and backgrounds, who have since forged successful careers worldwide. We're excited to continue expanding our global community and the fresh ideas, skills, and experiences it brings.**
>
> **PROFESSOR IAN PALMER**
> Principal at Escape Studios

WELCOME TO ESCAPE STUDIOS

Join our vibrant, creative student community. Based in London, UK, you'll be learning in one of the world's leading creative economies, alongside like-minded Artists, Game Designers, Programmers, and everything in between!

At Escape Studios, we have a proud tradition of welcoming top international talent and training them to join leading studios and companies in the world of animation, games and visual effects.

We look forward to welcoming many more international students to our community.

DID YOU KNOW?

The creative industries contributed £124bn in gross value added (GVA) to the UK economy in 2023 (UK Parliament).

WHY ESCAPE STUDIOS?

We're an internationally accredited Higher Education provider, endorsed globally by **The Rookies** and certified by **Houdini**.

As a member of **TIGA** and a close partner of **Epic Games**, we're aligned closely with industry, being the first **Unreal Engine Authorized Training Center** in the UK.

In addition, we have recently received our official certification as a **Toon Boom Harmony Authorized Training Centre**.

THE ROOKIES GLOBAL SCHOOL RANKINGS 2024

HOUDINI CERTIFIED SCHOOL

Training Partner
2025

Academic Partner
2025

TIGA MEMBER

Toon Boom
Authorized
Training Centre

1ST IN THE WORLD
PRODUCTION EXCELLENCE IN IMMERSIVE MEDIA
THE ROOKIES

1ST IN THE UK
GAME DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT
THE ROOKIES

2ND IN THE UK
VISUAL EFFECTS
THE ROOKIES

3RD IN THE WORLD
PRODUCTION EXCELLENCE - MOBILE GAMES
THE ROOKIES

TOP 5
CREATIVE SCHOOLS IN THE UK
THE ROOKIES

3RD IN THE UK
ANIMATION CAREER REVIEW SCHOOL RANKINGS
ANIMATION CAREER REVIEW

THE ROOKIES
We continue to excel in global rankings, achieving notable recognition this year by **The Rookies**.

Learn more about The Rookies

THE ROOKIES GLOBAL SCHOOL RANKINGS

Following the success of last year's Rookies ranking, Escape Studios takes the lead once again as first in the world for Production Excellence in Immersive Media.

Other rankings include:

- Game Design & Development – 1st in the UK, 21st in the world
- Production Excellence for Mobile Games –1st in the UK, 3rd in the world
- Visual Effects – 2nd in the UK, 15th in the world

HOUDINI

Escape Studios is recognised as a **Houdini Certified School** from the leading 3D animation and visual effects software company **SideFX**, software developers of Houdini itself.

UNREAL ENGINE

Escape Studios is an **Unreal Authorized Training Center** and **Academic Partner**, working closely with **Epic Games** to deliver quality education in Unreal Engine.

Training Partner 2025

Academic Partner 2025

TIGA

Escape Studios is a member of **TIGA**, the trade association for the UK video games industry.

TOON BOOM HARMONY

Escape Studios is proud to announce our official certification as a **Toon Boom Harmony Authorised Training Centre (ATC)**, solidifying its position as a leading institution for 2D animation training.

Toon Boom Authorized Training Centre

THE ROOKIES

The Rookies rankings are a trusted and industry-respected system that ranks creative media and entertainment schools, showcasing of the very best education facilities available to students today.

THE ROOKIES

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Learn more about The Rookies

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ESCAPEES

Since 2002, we've educated and trained thousands of students and industry professionals. Over 5,000 alumni (dubbed 'Escapees') started their careers with us, honing their skills here before moving on to great success within the industry.

23

Escapees worked on **Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 3**

Industry partners involved: Framestore, MPC, Rise Visual Effects, The Third Floor

11

Escapees worked on **Wicked**

Industry partners involved: Framestore, Industrial Light & Magic, Outpost VFX, The Third Floor

36

Escapees worked on **Avengers: Infinity War**

Industry partners involved: Industrial Light & Magic, DNEG, Cinesite, Framestore

22

Escapees worked on **Fast X**

Industry partners involved: Industrial Light & Magic, DNEG, Outpost VFX, BlueBolt

47

Escapees worked on **Avengers: Endgame**

Industry partners involved: Framestore, DNEG, Cinesite

26

Escapees worked on **The Mandalorian**

28

Escapees worked on **Black Panther: Wakanda Forever**

9

Escapees worked on **The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power**

Industry partners involved: Industrial Light & Magic, DNEG, Outpost VFX

NDREAMS

Known for: Phantom: Covert Ops

XR GAMES

Known for: Zombieland VR: Headshot Fever Reloaded

ROCKSTEADY STUDIOS

Known for: Batman: Arkham

PLAYGROUND GAMES

Known for: Forza Horizon 5, Fable

ROCKSTAR GAMES

Known for: Grand Theft Auto, Red Dead Redemption

ELECTRIC SQUARE

Known for: Assassin's Creed VR, Need for Speed, Battlefield 2042

FRONTIER DEVELOPMENTS

Known for: Rollercoaster Tycoon, Disneyland Adventures

SUMO DIGITAL

Known for: Vampire The Masquerade: Bloodlines 2

UBISOFT

Known for: Assassin's Creed, Star Wars Outlaws

REBELLION

Known for: Sniper Elite, Zombie Army

ELECTRONIC ARTS

Known for: The Sims, FIFA, Star Wars

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OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS

We work with a wide range of industry partners, including some of the world's biggest studios, smaller independents, software companies, and industry bodies who work hard to make creative studies and careers accessible to all.

Our world-class industry partners include **Industrial Light & Magic**, **Framestore**, **DNEG**, **Milk VFX**, **Creative Assembly**, **Cinesite** and **Blue Zoo**.

HOW DO WE WORK WITH OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS?

Our industry partners are central to everything we do. We collaborate closely with an advisory board of professionals from leading companies such as **Blue Zoo**, **Framestore**, and **Creative Assembly** to develop our courses, ensuring that the skills we teach are aligned with real-world career demands.

These partners not only help shape our curriculum but also set projects for students, giving them hands-on experience with real-life projects, challenges, and deadlines. Industry feedback directly influences the grading of our undergraduate students, and we regularly host guest speakers and events to connect students with the latest insights and trends in the field.

LOCATION AND CAMPUS

Our studios span three floors, equipped with the same cutting-edge technology used in industry. We've designed our space - and our entire ethos - to replicate a real-world studio environment. By the time you graduate, you'll be fully accustomed to a professional studio setup.

OUR FACILITIES INCLUDE

Studio classrooms
(With 12-40 seat capacity) featuring industry-standard software found in top studios

Student Services hub
An on-site helpdesk to assist you during your studies.

Industry hardware
Work on HP Z Workstations with Eizo ColorEdge monitors and Wacom Intuos drawing tablets.

Multi-faith prayer room
For personal reflection.

Stunning views
Views of London from our 10th and 11th floors, with the addition of our 6th-floor space!

Kitchen
With fridges, microwaves, and facilities for hot drinks, with free tea and coffee.

Green screen
Access to green screen technology and camera equipment.

Breakout spaces
For collaboration or relaxation.

Our building is in the heart of the Greenwich Peninsula, in London's pedestrianised Design District. With amazing views of the Thames and Canary Wharf, we're a 3-minute walk from North Greenwich Tube Station, on the Jubilee Line.

There's a bustling student community in the area with restaurants, shops, bars and pop-ups close-by.

WHY LONDON?

London is a vibrant, fast-paced city known for its rich history, multiculturalism and endless opportunities for entertainment, shopping, and exploration.

Whether you're catching a West End show, visiting the Tate Modern or exploring street art in Shoreditch, there's no shortage of inspiration for your next creative project.

TRANSPORT

London has one of the largest public transport networks in the world, with integrated underground, train and bus systems spanning the city. If you study with Escape Studios, you can get discounted travel on TfL with the 18+ Student Oyster photocard scheme.

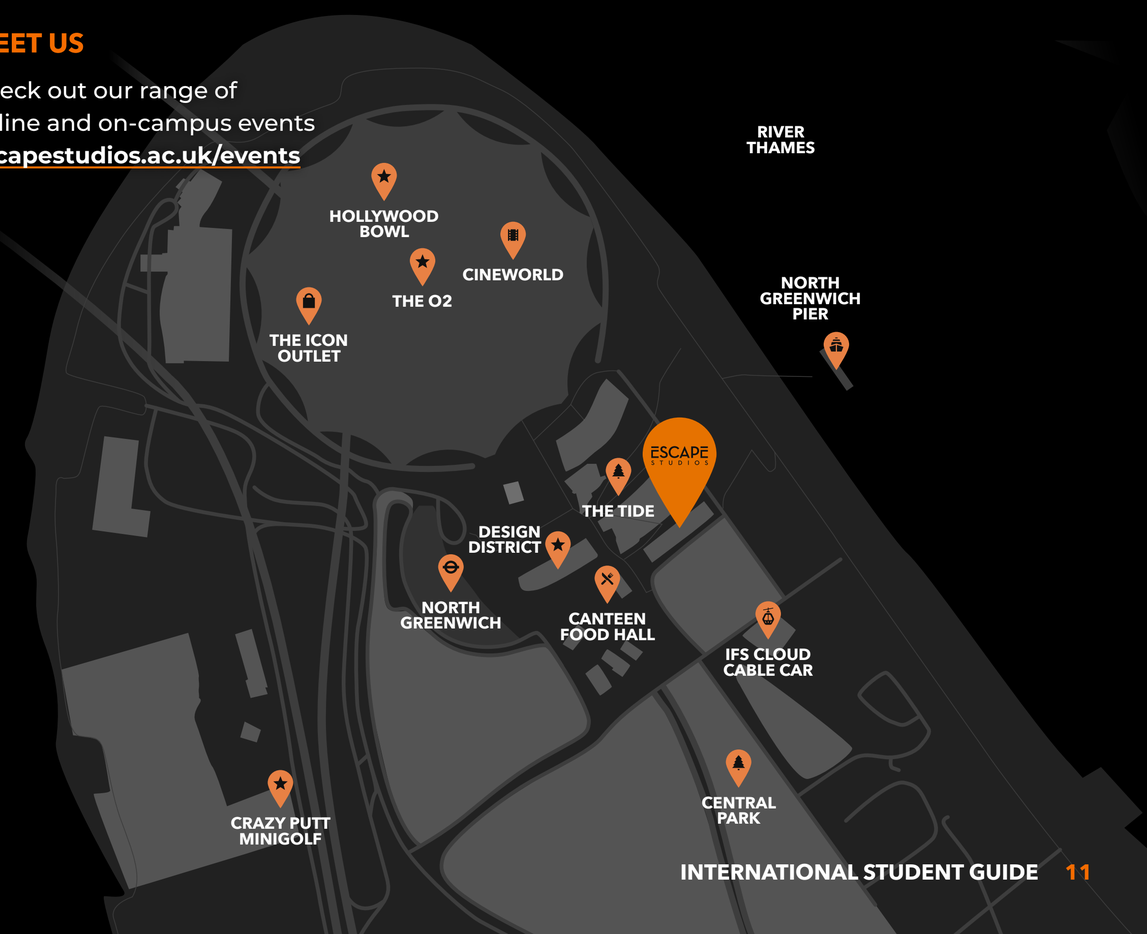
MEET US

Check out our range of online and on-campus events
escapestudios.ac.uk/events

DID YOU KNOW?

From our location, you can easily access some of London's most famous attractions by tube:

- **Tower Bridge:** 15 minutes
- **London Eye:** 20 minutes
- **Oxford Street:** 25 minutes
- **Trafalgar Square:** 25 minutes
- **Big Ben:** 25 minutes
- **Buckingham Palace:** 35 minutes



OUR COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE
SEPTEMBER INTAKE

ANIMATION
- BA (Hons)/MArt The Art of Computer Animation (2D)
- BA (Hons)/MArt The Art of Computer Animation (3D)

VISUAL EFFECTS
- BA (Hons)/MArt The Art of Visual Effects

CONCEPT ART
- BA (Hons)/MArt Concept Art and Experience Design

GAMES
- BA (Hons)/MArt The Art of Video Games
- BSc (Hons)/MSci Video Games Design

MULTI-DISCIPLINE
- BSc (Hons)/MSci Technical Art for Games & VFX
- BSc (Hons)/MSci Programming for Games and VFX
- BSc (Hons)/MSci Character Creation for Animation, Games & VFX

MOTION GRAPHICS
- BA (Hons)/MArt The Art of Motion Graphics

POSTGRADUATE
FEBRUARY AND SEPTEMBER INTAKES

ANIMATION
- MA 3D Animation

VISUAL EFFECTS
- MA Visual Effects Production (Compositing/3D)

CONCEPT ART
- MA Concept Art and Experience Design

MOTION GRAPHICS
- MA Motion Graphics

GAMES
- MA Game Art
- MSc Games Design

MULTI-DISCIPLINE
- MA Character & Creature Creation
- MSc Technical Art for Games and VFX
- MSc Programming for Games and VFX
- MA UI/UX for Games and Interactive Media

Escape Studios student project

SHORT COURSES
FEBRUARY AND SEPTEMBER INTAKES

ANIMATION
- 3D Animation (14/21 WEEKS)

VISUAL EFFECTS
- Visual Effects (14 WEEKS)

CONCEPT ART
- Concept Art and Experience Design (14/21 WEEKS)

MOTION GRAPHICS
- Motion Graphics (14/21 WEEKS)

GAMES
- Game Art (14/21 WEEKS)
- Game Design (14/21 WEEKS)

MULTI-DISCIPLINE
- Character & Creature Creation (14/21 WEEKS)
- Programming for Games and VFX (14/21 WEEKS)
- UI/UX for Games and Interactive Media (14/21 WEEKS)
- Technical Art for Games and VFX (14/21 WEEKS)

EVENING - ONLINE COURSES
EVENING - ONLINE CLASSES TYPICALLY RUN 7:00 - 9:00PM UK TIME.

ANIMATION
- Storyboarding (10 WEEKS)
- 2D Animation with Toon Boom Harmony (10 WEEKS)
- 2D Character Design (8 WEEKS)

VISUAL EFFECTS
- Producing for VFX (8 WEEKS)
- Houdini (20 WEEKS)
- Compositing for VFX (20 WEEKS)
- 3D Foundation (20 WEEKS)

For more information on fees, please see page 20

GAMES
- Video Games Art Production (20 WEEKS)

MULTI-DISCIPLINE
- Character Creation for Games and VFX (18 WEEKS)
- Unreal Engine for Film & TV (6 WEEKS)
- Unreal Engine for Architecture (6 WEEKS)

CONCEPT ART
- Concept Art (10 WEEKS)

MOTION GRAPHICS
- Motion Graphics (12 WEEKS)

OUR TUTORS

At Escape Studios, you're in safe hands with our team of tutors, who bring their real-life studio experience into the classroom. They've worked on internationally acclaimed projects such as the **Harry Potter** films, **Batman vs Superman**, and **Game of Thrones**, as well as popular games like **Silent Hill: Shattered Memories** and **RuneScape**. You'll get insight into the ever-evolving industry, along with tips and tricks throughout your programme of study, to help kick-start your career in the creative industry.

Learn more about our expert tutors

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

INDUSTRY-FOCUSED EDUCATION

At Escape Studios, the courses we deliver are designed and developed with your career in mind. Our close relationships with world-class industry partners means that we teach the techniques, skills and software that are relevant to your career-progression.

How do our courses prepare you for industry?

- Industry is a team sport – lots of group work involved in our student projects
- Briefs set by partner studios – practical work
- Teaching relevant skills, informed by our advisory board.

HOW WE SUPPORT YOUR CAREER

Our Talent Development Team offer one-to-one coaching support, as well as organise regular activities to support students into their creative career. These include mock interviews, showreel reviews, studio visits and networking events all with artists and recruiters from the industry.

We also work closely with recruiters and artists from our partner studios. As well as attending our end of year showcase, talent teams from top studios come to us when they are looking to hire.

STUDENT INSIGHTS

MAHAK CHOWDHARY

COUNTRY
India

COURSE
BA (Hons) The Art of Visual Effects

There has been an opportunity to work with an external Director on one project, with more opportunities for professional engagement in year three. We also do multiple group projects during the three years of studies, giving us good experience in how different teams with different backgrounds work together.

MIRUNA MARES

COUNTRY
Romania

COURSE
MA Visual Effects Production (3D)

The opportunities for industry engagement [at Escape Studios] are far more regular than I had during my undergraduate studies. Getting industry feedback on projects has been really great - so far I've worked with Black Kite on two of my modules and had a chance to speak and connect with them outside of class.

ADMISSIONS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For equivalent international qualifications, please visit **escapestudios.ac.uk/international**, where you'll be able to access country-specific admissions information

HOW TO APPLY AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Undergraduate applications can be submitted via UCAS or directly via the application forms on our course pages. Postgraduate and short course applications are submitted directly to Escape Studios.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Our portfolio-based admissions system means we allow students with creative potential to access our courses. However, there are some minimum academic criteria you will need to reach:

Undergraduate

- good high school grades (have or be predicted a minimum of 80 UCAS points)
- GCSE English at grade 4/C or equivalent
- GCSE Maths at grade 4/C or equivalent (BSc/MSci courses only)
- International baccalaureate - 27-30 points
- Portfolio of creative work (submitted after you apply).

Postgraduate

- a good undergraduate degree in a relevant subject
- or significant professional experience
- Portfolio of creative work (submitted after you apply).

Short course
There are no academic requirements.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All our courses are taught in English. If your first language is not English, you may need to complete an English language test to demonstrate you have the language skills needed to complete your degree. Short courses are exempt from English language tests but we recommend a B2 level.

Undergraduate and postgraduate international students will be required to hold a Secure English Language Test (SELT) at B2 to be able to apply for a visa to study at Escape Studios on a student visa.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

There isn't a formal application deadline for most of our undergraduate or postgraduate courses, but you may need to apply by a certain date to be eligible for one of our scholarships.

International students who require a visa to study in the UK should ensure they have sufficient time to apply and obtain a student visa ahead of the course start date. Typically, we recommend allowing at least two months for this process.

VISA AND IMMIGRATION

UNDERSTANDING THE UK STUDENT VISA SYSTEM

Escape Studios proudly admits international students for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. With a student visa, you can live and study in the UK for the entire duration of your course. For short courses lasting less than six months, a student visa is not required; instead, you may need to apply for a visitor visa.

VISA REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

You can apply for a student visa to study in the UK if you're 18 or over and you:

- have been offered a place on a course by a licensed student sponsor like Escape Studios
- have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course - the amount will vary depending on your circumstances
- can speak, read, write and understand English.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR STUDENT VISA

If you come to the UK on a student visa sponsored by Escape Studios you must adhere to the following:

- all students must have a UKVI approved Secure English Language Test (SELT) at B2
- students are not permitted to undertake any employment during their studies (this includes paid and unpaid work, as well as internships or volunteering).

Currently, Escape Studios graduates are not eligible to apply for post-study work visas ("Graduate Visa"). We aim that from Spring 2028, those graduating from our undergraduate courses will be able to apply for a Graduate Visa according to that scheme's eligibility rules in place at the time. This would enable eligible international students to stay in the UK for at least 2 years after successfully completing a degree level course or above. If you start an undergraduate degree with us in September 2025, by the time you graduate in 2028 we hope (but cannot guarantee) you will be able to access Graduate Visas.

It is necessary for international students applying for a Graduate Visa to have been sponsored by a 'Higher Education Provider with a Track Record of Compliance' with the UK Visas and Immigration Service (UKVI). As a relatively new sponsor, we are currently working towards gaining this status. This is a requirement for all new sponsoring higher education providers in the UK. Our last Basic Compliance Assessment demonstrated 100% compliance with those requirements and we are therefore hopeful that we will be granted this status in 2028.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

LIVING AS A STUDENT IN LONDON

North Greenwich has a vibrant student community and there are many accommodation providers a short journey away.

Accommodation is **not** part of the tuition fee and will need to be applied for and funded separately. Unless otherwise stated by your accommodation provider, catering will not be included, and you will need to factor in food to your budget.

Check out **escapestudios.ac.uk/accommodation** for more info on where you could live.

Escape Studios student work

Find out more

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION FEES

We calculate tuition fees per year of study, and they can vary depending on the course you want to study. For international students, our fees* are:

- £17,995 per year for undergraduate (bachelors) degrees
- £19,995 per year for postgraduate master's degrees
- Fees for short courses vary – see our website

Please refer to our course pages for the latest and most accurate information including tuition fees or contact us. Payment plans are available for all our courses. You may be able to get a Tuition Fee Loan and help with living costs if you're from an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland.

COST OF LIVING

As well as your course fees, you'll also need to consider the cost of living while studying a degree. This will depend on your lifestyle and spending habits.

EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT

An Early Payment Discount of 5% can be applied if you choose to pay your annual tuition fees in full before enrolment. The discount will be calculated after the deduction of any scholarships or other discounts.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Escape Studios provides merit-based international scholarships for both undergraduate and postgraduate applicants. These scholarships are awarded based on the strength of your portfolio and application, with winning portfolios selected by our expert tutors.

- Undergraduate Scholarship: £4,000
- Postgraduate Scholarship: £3,000

These amounts are deducted from the tuition fees for the first year of study. Scholarships are available to international students with Overseas fee status, enrolled in full-time degree programmes at Escape Studios. Please note that short courses and online options are excluded.

*Fees and scholarship amounts are for 2025 entry and are subject to change. Visit our website for the most up to date information: escapestudios.ac.uk

STUDENT SERVICES AND SUPPORT

At Escape Studios, we are committed to providing a supportive environment where every student feels at home.

STUDENT SUPPORT TEAMS

We want to ensure you're well-supported during your time at Escape Studios. Our Admissions, Student Services and Student Community Teams are here to provide administrative, advisory and pastoral support to all students. From the point of application, to registration, through the programme of study, and to the award of a qualification as part of graduation.

We also work hard to ensure your wellbeing is looked after whilst you study with us.

For more information, visit **escapestudios.ac.uk/students/wellbeing-and-support**

ESCAPE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (ESA)

The ESA (Escape Student Association) is run by students, for students. With an active presence on Discord, the ESA helps to maintain our close-knit, creative community.

Whether you want to make friends or just pick up a new hobby, take your pick of our societies - from Anime and E-sports to the Drawing Club and Climbing, there's no shortage of entertainment. The ESA also has cultural and identity-based societies, such as Islamic and Asian societies.

No matter what you want to explore, the ESA provides a welcoming and secure community whilst you study at Escape Studios.

LEGAL AND PRACTICAL MATTERS

WORKING RIGHTS

- Unfortunately, you will not be able to work if you are on a student visa that is sponsored by Escape Studios.
- You will not be able to undertake any paid or unpaid work, including voluntary work and internships.

UK LAWS OVERVIEW

The UK has some laws and regulations that may be different from those in your home country.

Please ensure you check UK laws on matters such as driving, smoking, drinking, renting, and anything else that may impact your time studying in the UK.

The UK Council For International Student Affairs has a comprehensive **information and advice** page on coming and living in the UK.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

If you have any questions regarding study at Escape Studios, we're always available to talk to!

For general enquiries:
international@escapestudios.ac.uk / +44 (0)203 4411 303

You can also chat to an Applicant Advisor via our **live chat**, available 9am-5pm UK time, Monday to Friday.

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DISCLAIMER

This guide was published in April 2025. It contains information relevant to international students planning to start higher education in 2025. Every effort has been made to make sure that the information contained is fair and accurate at the date of publication.

However, this information is subject to change without notice. Escape Studios reserves the right to amend or withdraw without notice and at its entire discretion any of the programmes, modules, services, facilities or other matters contained or referred to in this guide; where this is necessary, Escape Studios will take reasonable steps to reduce any disruption to enrolled students. Prospective candidates should note that, in the event of such circumstances occurring, Escape Studios cannot accept liability for any complaints or costs, losses or damages made by a student resulting from a service disruption or closure, or any change to, or withdrawal of a programme/module that he/she/they have intended to study. For this reason, it is particularly important that you check out our website for updates at: **escapestudios.ac.uk**.

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United Kingdom

escapestudios.ac.uk

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY