

Welcome to Costume Production at Rose Bruford College!

We're delighted to welcome you to the Costume Production programme. As you begin this exciting and hands-on journey, it's important that you arrive prepared with the materials, equipment, and clothing necessary to support your training from day one.

The list below outlines what you'll need to feel confident, organised and ready. Please purchase items based on your personal comfort, style and budget—second-hand or pre-owned options are absolutely fine, especially for books. Amazon often has good deals on used copies.

Books

Each student will need personal copies of the following books for Semester 1. Please bring them with you for the first day of term.

Title	Author	Edition	Suggested Link
<i>Metric Pattern Cutting for Women's Wear</i>	Winifred Aldrich	6th Edition	Amazon Link
<i>Metric Pattern Cutting for Men's Wear</i>	Winifred Aldrich	5th Edition	Amazon Link
<i>Pattern Cutting & Making Up: The Professional Approach</i>	Shoben, M & Ward, J	1991	Amazon Link

Essential Sewing Kit

These items will be used regularly in class and production work. Please ensure everything is clearly labelled with your name.

Item	Notes	Suggested Supplier
Dressmaking scissors (min. 5" blade)	Fiskars (orange handle) or KAI (black handle) are recommended	Amazon Example
Small sharp snips	Fiskars Micro-tip, KAI or similar	Amazon Example
Seam ripper	Essential for unpicking stitches	Any sewing store

Item	Notes	Suggested Supplier
Dressmaker's tape measure	Metric & imperial (dual-use is ideal)	Any haberdashery
Thimble	Should fit securely on your middle finger. Prym zinc and rubber options available.	Amazon or local sewing shops
Dressmaking pins	Glass heads preferred	Any sewing supplier
Hand sewing needles	Assorted sizes, embroidery needles preferred	Any sewing supplier
Pin cushion or pin magnet	Your choice of type	Any sewing supplier
Needle holder	Useful for storage and safety	Any sewing supplier
Pattern Master	For accurate drafting	Artway Pattern Master on Amazon
Small block of beeswax	For thread strengthening	Any sewing shop

Pencil Case Essentials

Item	Notes
Paper scissors (min. 5" blade)	For pattern cutting
Pencils	2B for fabric marking; HB for drafting
Pencil eraser	Any kind
Pencil sharpener	Compact and efficient
18" ruler	With both metric and imperial measurements
Sharpie	For labelling and marking up

Written Work

Item	Notes
Laptop or tablet	For research and assignments
Notebooks	One per skill area is recommended
A4 lined paper	For written work and notes

Marking Up & Fabric Prep Tools

Item	Notes
Safety pins	Mixed sizes, good quality
Tracing wheel	For pattern transfer
Tailor's chalk OR chalk pencil	Choose based on preference
Friction pens	Multiple colours ideal

Optional Extras (But Highly Recommended)

Item	Notes
Plasters	For small cuts or blisters
Nail file	Helpful for managing snags
Revolving hole punch	For belts and leather work
Pinking or scalloping shears	For decorative seam edges

Year Two – Additional Items

Item	Notes	Suggested Supplier
Rotary cutter	45mm blade recommended	Milward Rotary Cutter on Amazon

For Performance & Production Projects (From Term 2 Onward)

Item	Notes
3 pairs of rubber gloves	For dye work or handling
Overalls	To protect clothing
Steel toe cap boots	Essential for safety
Head torch + spare batteries	For backstage work
Soft sole all-black trainers/plimsolls	For dressing crew work
2+ plain black long-sleeve tops	No logos or visible branding
2+ plain black bottoms	Trousers, jeans, or practical skirt
1 black jumper or hoodie	No logos or metal zips
Dresser's belt	Amazon Link
Optional: Tool pouch/waist bag	Costumier Waist Bag or similar

Travel and Theatre Visits

Throughout the course—especially in Years 2 and 3—you'll rehearse and work in venues beyond the Sidcup campus. These are considered an extension of the College, but travel costs are not covered, so please budget for transport accordingly. Similarly, work placements may require additional travel planning.

Academic and Dyslexia Support

All written assignments must be word-processed. College computers are available, but having your own laptop is beneficial.

Students with a dyslexia diagnosis may be eligible for equipment grants via local authorities. If you think this applies to you, please contact our Disability Adviser, **Ros Platton**, for support and advice.

Final Reminders

- Ensure all your tools and equipment are clearly labelled.
 - You're responsible for maintaining your kit and replacing lost or damaged items.
 - Set aside funds for visits to the theatre, exhibitions, and relevant trips throughout your course.
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We Can't Wait to Meet You

We're excited to have you join our Costume Production community at Rose Bruford College. Bring your creativity, curiosity, and willingness to learn—we'll provide the rest. If you have questions or need support before you arrive, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Warmest wishes,

The Costume Production Team

Rose Bruford College