Welcome to Schumacher College
A New Approach to Learning
Dartington
Schumacher College
Innovative Learning for Ecological and Social Change

Engage with leading-edge ideas, participate in field-based interdisciplinary research and be empowered to use tools and skills needed to make meaningful and lasting change in the world.

Set at the heart of the beautiful 1,200-acre campus of the historic Dartington Hall estate in South Devon, England, our programmes encourage students to develop a deep, participatory relationship with nature and explore the opportunities afforded by the vibrant landscape and community that surrounds the College.

The small class setting and fully immersive experiential learning are a catalyst for developing practical skills and strategic thinking to help face the myriad of social, ecological and economic challenges that we face. The Dartington Hall Trust’s mission is to be a testbed for a just and sustainable society.

All programmes at Schumacher College and Dartington Arts School are delivered within its distinctive learning community pedagogy.
If you like... Art

There is a long and established legacy of the arts at the Dartington Hall estate. From the émigré artists who found refuge here in the 1930s; to the reinvention of contemporary practice that dominated Dartington College of Arts between 1960 and 2010 to the new Dartington Arts School; from the artist residencies of Bernard Leach and Marianne du Trey; to 70 years of summer music making, the arts at Dartington offers a calendar or year-round events on your doorstep.

If you like... Good Food

From delicious home-made cakes and freshly brewed coffee to an intimate meal for two, we have a variety of locally sourced food and drinks. The White Hart Restaurant offers a tasty seasonal menu and a cozy atmosphere, the Roundhouse Cafe near the Barn Cinema is perfect for a quick bite or you can join the lively throng at the vibrant Green Table for breakfast and lunch.

If you like... Nature

The Dartington estate dates back to the medieval period and has a spectacular tree garden with sculptures by Henry Moore and Peter Randall Page. Just 5 miles away is Dartmoor National park, 386 square miles of striking granite tors and steep wooded river valleys, swathes of heather-covered moorland and hidden villages, Dartmoor is a unique land of contrasts.

If you like... Music

Dartington estate has a full calendar of festivals, concerts and the internationally renowned music summer school. Dartington music summer school and festival offers four weeks of shared music making, learning and listening, from early music to jazz accompanied by over 70 concerts, set against the backdrop of a medieval estate in the heart of Devon.

If you like... Cinema

The independent Barn Cinema is housed in a glorious renovated 14th century barn. We offer a specially programmed mix of art house films and documentaries, world cinema, the latest popular films for adults and children and live screenings of theatre, opera and ballet productions – 7 days a week.

If you like... Beaches

South Devon has some of the best beaches in England crystal clear waters, large sandy beaches and beautiful secluded coves. With over 120 miles of stunning coastline running from Seaton to Plymouth, South Devon has over 50 beaches just waiting to be explored and enjoyed.

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Food and Horticulture

Schumacher College has an international reputation for its holistic and systems approach to food and horticulture.

Food is very important to everyone at Schumacher College. We care about the food choices we make and it is often a topic of discussion around the lunch table.

We offer a vegetarian menu and more than half of what we eat has been grown in our gardens by our horticulture team. We also have a brood of hens and an Indy runner ducks. The rest of our food is sourced from around the region as we are keen to support local producers based around the Dartington Hall estate and across Devon and Cornwall.

Mealtimes, overseen by chef and cookery author Julia Ponsonby, are always eagerly anticipated. They are an important opportunity for everyone in the learning community to come together and exchange ideas or simply relax and have fun. Staff and students all take turns helping our kitchen and garden teams.
Ecological Design Thinking
MA, PGDip, PGCert

Full-time or Part-time
Starts September

We believe in a future where the things that we design no longer need to be detrimental to the wellbeing of our planet.

We believe in a future that pioneers ecological possibilities that redress social, environmental and economic imbalance.

We believe in a future that encourages creativity to explore integrated solutions that are beneficial to all-of-life.

Be active and transformative within organisations, communities, economics and education as we meet the challenge of transitioning to low carbon, high well-being and resilient places and systems. Never has there been a more important time for a new approach to design.

This course offers a chance to join a growing network of design thinkers around the world working within a series of hubs operating within communities and enterprises. Ecological Design Thinking is about using an approach to unravel complex situations involving multiple stakeholders. Students will learn how to apply a variety of skills and techniques to arrive at a creative solution.

The low-residency programme enables students to develop their practice while continuing to work, allowing them to immediately implement their learning. It is delivered in five modules: Design and Ecology, Design and Society, Design and Place and Design in Practice and the Dissertation or Final Project.

This programme offers a dynamic new way of engaging with the challenging situations we face socially, economically and environmentally. We show you how to use ecological design thinking to unravel complex situations in the work-place, in your community or within organisations. You will learn the practical skills and knowledge to show you how to achieve co-created solutions, which engage everyone and foster resilience in individuals and communities.

Ecological Design Thinking is a growing discipline around the world as its techniques are increasingly adopted in the fields of design, education and business as well as within leadership, management and consultancy.

The Ecological Design Thinking programme is transdisciplinary, insightful and universal in its application. The low-residency model allows for online study with four periods of two-week residency enabling professionals to continue their practice while studying.

It brings together theoretical and practical discourses on ecologically inspired design, with the latest developments in anthropology, psychology and socio-political economics. It aims to provide a tool-kit for change makers at the forefront of our transition to sustainable societies.

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Regenerative Economics
MA, PGDip, PGCert

Full-time or Part-time
Starts September

MA Regenerative Economics challenges and offers alternative perspectives to mainstream economics programmes by looking through the lens of ecology as if both people and planet mattered equally.

The programme adopts an interrogative approach, exploring diverse global economic philosophies and models. The low-residency structure of this programme enables professionals to combine work and study.

This course is at the forefront of new economic thinking, drawing upon diverse disciplines including psychology, anthropology and living system design. Graduates from this programme will come away with a refined understanding of economics together with tools, methodologies and communication skills to incorporate into their work.

This programme explores alternative economic models, many of which were once considered marginal but could now help us radically rethink our existing economic systems.

In recent years we have seen huge political and social upheaval around the globe, bringing our societies to a critical point which now calls for a new way of economic thinking. Schumacher College has developed a reputation for pioneering radical new thinking, attracting leading international teachers, practitioners and activists. Our economics programme has inspired and supported numerous organisations and people in their endeavours to achieve a more sustainable and equitable world.

Hosted by highly respected radical economists and complemented by an international visiting faculty of teachers and practitioners, this programme offers the opportunity to join those at the forefront of new ecological, economic thinking.

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Holistic Science
MSc, PGCert

Full-time or Part-time
Starts September

This long-running and dynamic course, with an emphasis on experiential learning equips students with the knowledge and skills to address our many challenges through an understanding of holism and the emergent properties of whole systems. This degree is for students with an interest in science, who want to explore the implications and ramifications of scientific discovery, who want to challenge the status quo and work towards presenting alternative solutions.

At this moment of climate emergency, of extreme ecological and social challenges, the master’s in Holistic Science questions the role of science as cause and solution to the world’s problems. It presents a rigorous inquiry into the methods, techniques and philosophical underpinnings of science, to address whether they can take us beyond mere explanation to a deeper understanding of the world and our place within it. It asks if there is a way science could be done differently.

The modern world owes everything to science. The revolution in thought and method that began in the seventeenth century unleashed not just marvels in technology, medicine and communication but a whole new way of seeing the world. It marked a radical break with the past. But it came at a cost. The same revolution that gave us satellites, penicillin, artificial intelligence and the internet has also propelled us into a climate emergency, the sixth mass extinction event, a crisis that threatens civilisation itself. It has disenchanted the world, leaving us in a universe that has been richly described but stripped of meaning. It has given us facts but few values.

The master’s in Holistic Science asks whether there is a different way to do science. It questions reductionism (the method of explaining things by breaking them into their constituent parts) and explores holism, the notion that true understanding can only be found by considering the whole. Using the rigorous methods proposed by Goethe, the German Romantic era writer and scientist, Holistic Science challenges the supposed objectivity of mainstream science and proposes instead a more participatory or engaged approach to the world.

By studying Gaia theory, Chaos theory, complexity science, emergence, process philosophy and panpsychism, it wonders whether science must necessarily lead to a sterile kind of materialist atheism. It asks if there is still room for spirituality in a world that has been fundamentally explained. Above all, through an appreciation of qualities as well as quantities, Holistic Science seeks to answer the most fundamental riddle of them all: how it is that there are minds capable of wondering at this astonishing universe.

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Engaged Ecology
MA, PGDip, PGCert

Full-time or Part-time
Starts January

Engaged Ecology is at the cutting edge of environmental humanities, an interdisciplinary arena that brings together leading progressive thought within science and the humanities to address the great problems of our age. Develop solutions-based practices to discover how best to approach the world’s seemingly intractable ecological and social challenges. Engaged Ecology asks three fundamental questions: What is place? Who are we? And, what, then, can we do?

What is place?
If the climate crisis is too enormous a problem for any of us to grasp, we all nonetheless have a relationship to place, the immediate world about us. Through various ecological practices of deep observation and immersive engagement, through making and theoretical reflection, we will discover for ourselves the meaning of terms such as ‘ecology’, ‘nature’, ‘anthropocene’, ‘Gaia’, ‘participation’, ‘craft’, and ‘self’.

By developing competence in various practices of making we will explore cultures of production. This might include weaving linen fabric that’s been grown from seed or felling a tree to hand carve a cup, a spoon, or a bowl; or writing, designing, typesetting and printing a magazine. How do these practices enrich our understanding of, or highlight our dislocation from, place?

Who are we?
Can there ever be an ecological self? What happens if we entertain indigenous or posthuman ideas of the porous self? What role does spirituality play in shaping or shaking up the self? Why is it that as social beings who come together in community, we exclude even as we include, on the basis of sexuality, gender, race, class, ability, or species even? How can we (can we even?) reconcile living in community with a decentralisation of human identity?

What can we do?
Finally, we challenge students to address how they can best act in the world. We examine theories of change, movement building, and non-violent direct action and ask if there are different ways of being ‘activists’ that do not replicate the very thing we are trying to change.

Throughout this radical programme we give students the space to learn experientially, to reflect, to consider abstract theory, and to experiment with new possibilities. Students immerse themselves in the rich history of growers, makers, craftivists, radical thinkers, social entrepreneurs, pedagogues, adherents of alternative spiritualities, not to mention the land itself, that together comprise the Dartington experiment.

You will:
Explore leading-edge thinking about the nature of being human in a more-than-human world
Grapple with ecological problems through hands-on learning and deep reflection
Develop the tools to become a leader in ecological, economic, and social decision-making conversations
Fortify existing practice with a robust theoretical framework
Be able to apply a deep and critical understanding of place in a broad range of contexts.

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Dartington Arts School

Arts and Place
MA, PGDip, PGCert
Full-time and Part-time

Developing skills and knowledge for the generation of artworks in response to place and in arts residencies. Open to practitioners and curators working in any art form including performance, writing, soundart, moving image, photography, digital art and fine art. The course places particular emphasis on collaborative practice in response to place. The programme involves residency-based learning at Dartington and at three other hosts around the country.

Poetics of Imagination
MA, PGDip, PGCert
Full-time and Part-time

Exploring orality, story and culture. Examining how we have conjured stories from the earliest times to the present day. The course is centred around oral telling but opens to a broader spectrum of the arts, examining the work of ancient to contemporary storytellers, writers and artists. From physically tracking folktales across the wilds of Dartmoor to three day tellings of myths that form much of the crucible of modernity, we will explore the reality that when humans imagine, they tend to imagine in story. What is trying to be told right now?

Dartington Arts School shares the Dartington estate campus and is an innovative learning community offering arts master’s programmes and short courses.

Many high profile and influential cultural figures have been drawn to work, study and perform at the Dartington estate. The Arts School draws on this rich international heritage and its extraordinary location to provide a dynamic and responsive context for contemporary study.
Entry requirements and how to apply
UK and EU Students

Schumacher College requires all applicants to demonstrate competence in the English language before they begin their proposed course of study. Students must be able to converse and write fluently in English. Below you can find what your language requirements are.

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All students from the UK should hold a minimum a GCSE English Language qualification at Grade C or above.

Do you hold an EU passport? EU students who do not require a Tier 4 (General) visa to study in the UK should have the following: IELTS Academic (B2 level) achieving 6.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 for each component: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Or Pearson Test of English (Academic) achieving 62, with no less than 46 in each section.

Are there any exceptions to this requirement? Students who do not require a visa to study in the UK and are nationals of a majority English-speaking country may be accepted without an English qualification.

Please email postgradadmin@schumachercollege.org.uk to confirm if this exception relates to you.

How to apply

Please visit www.schumachercollege.org.uk to download our editable PDF application form. Upon completion, send it to postgradadmin@schumachercollege.org.uk

Documents should be sent by post to:
Postgraduate Admissions
Schumacher College
The Old Postern
Dartington, Devon
TQ9 6EA

Additional Documentation in Support of your Application

After you have submitted your application, please send all necessary supporting information listed below as soon as possible to allow us to process your application. You will find a list of supporting documents from our website or by emailing postgradadmin@schumachercollege.org.uk

International Students

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Entry requirements

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Do you live outside of the EU? To meet requirements for a Tier 4 visa to study at Schumacher College, you need to take the UKVI IELTS Academic at an approved Secure English Language Test (SELT) centre.

The entry standards are as follows: You need to achieve a 6.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 for each component: reading, writing, listening and speaking. This is equivalent to a B2 level.

You can find detailed information about Tier 4 visa English language requirements, including a list of approved centres here: www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/knowledge-of-english

We are not able to enrol part-time international students (requiring a Tier 4 visa) at this time.

Are there any exceptions to this requirement? There are few exceptions. To check if any apply to you, please check the up-to-date information provided by the Home Office here: www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/knowledge-of-english


How long is my test certificate valid for? Test results are valid for 2 years.

When should I book my test? Book a test as soon as you make an application to Schumacher College. UKVI IELTS test sites can become very busy and it may be difficult to find a convenient date and location.

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The Dartington Hall Trust is an independent higher education provider. Schumacher College and Dartington Arts School are colleges within The Dartington Hall Trust. Our degrees are accredited by University of Plymouth.

Postgraduate Course Enquiries
postgradadmin@schumachercollege.org.uk
+44 (0)1803 847212

Dartington Arts School
www.artsschool.dartington.org
admissions@dartington.org
+44 (0)1803 847212

Short Course Enquiries
shortcourseadmin@schumachercollege.org.uk
+44 (0)1803 847237

Dartington Hall Estate
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