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When can I Apply?

You can apply now for September 2021.

Application deadlines and Interviews will take place as follows:

Round One	Round Two
Interviews held from May to June	Interviews held from June to July.

Who is the course for?

The course is designed to provide you with a thorough and comprehensive experience of art, design and media experimentation to prepare them for Higher Education and future employment within creative visual disciplines.

This course is ideal if you want to learn new art skills and experience a variety of art specialisms and do not have the appropriate level of studio experience or knowledge to be accepted onto an undergraduate programme; have had a break in education and wish to return to study; or if you are unsure of which pathway is best suited to your artistic goals and abilities. This course is perfect for you if you would like space to explore your own artistic inclination with guidance and support to discover which route is best suited to your abilities including graphic design, illustration, fashion design, fine art, History of art, photography, 3D design and illustration. You will develop these skills over the course of the year, with the view of continuing on to an undergraduate degree programme.



What will the course cover?

The course consists of three assessed stages. Each stage is delivered through 2 units:

Stage 1 (Level 3 - Units 1 and 2)

Exploring creative and visual language in Art & Design

During this stage you are taught to extend your personal vocabulary of visual language beyond the prescriptive into the developmental.

Unit 1 Drawing and colour as an investigative process in Art and Design

In this unit, you will be encouraged to broaden and deepen enquiry through drawing and colour and to acquire understanding of the comparative application of media and techniques towards externalising thought processes.

Unit 2 Exploring materials and making in Art and Design

As you acquire a broader experience of studio facilities and different media and develop increasing fluency with your applications. You will be encouraged to establish a personal visual language through which you can develop creative thinking.

Stage 2 (Level 3 - Units 3 and 4)

Developing specialist practice, progression and personal development in Art & Design (Internally assessed)

You will extend practical ability with materials and processes to high levels and identify and develop a specialist progression route. At this stage a portfolio containing evidence of how selections were made will be developed and you will display an increasing professional awareness of the application of media and processes appropriate to proposed pathways.

Unit 3 Developing specialist practice and preparing for progression in Art and Design

Individual practice will lead towards personal specialisation. You will review and differentiate between specialist areas and progression routes, and build a portfolio of evidence supporting your preferred specialism.

Unit 4 Personal development and innovation in Art & Design

Continuous development and innovation is crucial to creative practice. You will combine skills, processes and understanding and demonstrate a personal approach to visual problem solving.



Stage 3 (Level 4 - Units 5 and 6)

Planning, creating, presenting, and reviewing a Major Project in Art & Design

Unit 5 Proposing a major project in Art & Design

At this stage you will select a theme or topic for a self-managed major piece of personal work. Intentions will be identified and explained in this document, which should be inspirational rather than prescriptive, although realistic and achievable within the set timeframe. In order to contextualise your chosen programme of activity you will be required to reflect on progress and achievement to date, identify your project aims, objectives and influences, and negotiate resource implications.

Unit 6 Creating and exhibiting a major project in Art & Design

All Art and Design professionals exhibit or present their work to the public or to specific client groups. In this unit you will curate and present a Major Project integrating their skills, knowledge and understanding; your capacity to manage time and resources, and to critically review progress. You should aspire to realise intentions in a professional manner with the opportunity to display ambitious outcomes and have them appreciated and assessed in a public forum.

What are the entry requirements?

- You should have pursued as broad an education as possible and normally have 5 GCSEs grade A-C, or one A level and 3 GCSEs grade A-C, or equivalent qualification(s). However, you should not be discouraged from applying because of a shortage of qualifications; entry can be negotiated provided your practical work is of an appropriate standard.
- Be able to demonstrate your ability and capacity to write at an appropriate level for your programme (identified ALS needs that may impact on written English skills will be taken into account).
- Be able to demonstrate your capacity to study at the appropriate level (assessed by application, interview and performance in previous study).
- You will need to provide evidence of your suitability by bringing your portfolio of work to interview. This should include a substantial number of drawings done from observation, as well as paintings, crafts, textiles, 3D work, photography and any other work you have produced. Especially important is anything you have initiated on your own.
- To apply for this course you should generally be eighteen years of age or over. There is no upper age limit and mature students are very welcome.



How is the course assessed?

Assessment is considered to be an important part of the learning process and is therefore designed to be interactive and open. You will be assessed on a portfolio of work based on modular outcomes. This could take the form of sketch books, presentations and final outcomes.

How long does the course take?

This is a full time course that will take one year of study to complete, with College attendance spread over four days per week.

How much does the course cost?

- For students aged 18 on the start date, the course is free.*
- For students aged 19+, please call 0161 666 8215 for up to date fees.**

***All students are required to pay a fee of £160 for materials.**

****Students aged 19+ are required to pay an additional registration fee of £115**