

## Courses in the Creative Arts

The creative industries are one of the fastest-growing economic sectors in the UK and every day we are influenced by creativity, whether it be in public or at home, physically or virtually. Choosing to study a creative subject after Sixth Form study enables you to express yourself and follow your own initiative. You set your own agenda and make your own decisions when it comes to your work, unlike other academic disciplines - you are encouraged to let your ideas flow.

To access a creative arts degree course, you will usually need a minimum of two A levels. Entry requirements typically range from CDD to ABB, with providers most commonly asking for BBC, although this will vary from institution to institution. In addition, you normally require five GCSEs at grade 4 or above including Maths and English. Many courses require or prefer you to be studying an Art and Design A Level subject. It can also be advantageous to have a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, however, not all degree courses require you to have completed one, so do check the individual institutions you are interested in as you may be able to directly access undergraduate study if that is your preference.

### Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

The Foundation Diploma in Art and Design is an intensive one-year course, (different to a two-year Foundation degree), that aims to challenge preconceptions and stretch your art and design practices through problem-solving, idea generation, and critical thinking. The course will push you outside your comfort zone and encourage you to take creative risks. You will learn through experimentation and develop lateral-thinking strategies to approach problems from new perspectives. The curriculum is designed to help students prepare a developed portfolio and make informed decisions about the area in which they might wish to specialise in at degree or another higher level.

#### Overview

- 1-year course to explore your creative practice and support progression onto undergrad. studies.
- Attracts UCAS points: Distinction 112 Merit 96 Pass 80.
- Fully funded if under 19 at the start of the course.
- Applications are made directly to the college or university.
- You can apply to multiple institutions.
- A portfolio of your work is usually required.
- School deadline for applications is the November of Year 13.

#### Pathways

Courses usually start with an initial period where all students follow an initial introduction and explore a wide range of media. You will develop your technical knowledge across a range of processes. Students usually then follow a more specific pathway which may include Graphic Communication, Fine Art, Fashion & Textiles or 3D Design. You will be encouraged to use a range of media and engage in one-to-one tutorials and group critiques.

#### Where can I study?

There are several colleges and universities offering Art Foundation Courses. Below are examples of institutions recent students have applied to:

[Leeds Arts University](#)

[York College](#)

[University of the Arts, London](#)

*\* This list is subject to change and is not intended to be exhaustive. Please check college/university websites for up-to-date information.*

# The Application Process for Creative Courses

## Personal Statement

The underlying message is that tutors want to know about you, your practice, your inspirations, and your aspirations. Each college and university may have their own entry requirements and application process. Some may require a personal statement which will act as a written accompaniment to your portfolio and performance at interview and should ideally refer to the following:

- *Why you want to apply for the course?*
- *The materials, methods, and processes that you use to produce your art.*
- *The ideas, concepts, and research processes behind your work*
- *Who, or what inspires you and why?*
- *Super curricular/ independent creative activities undertaken – exhibitions, gallery visits etc.*
- *What you consider your creative strengths are*
- *What areas of your practice you would particularly to develop*

## Admissions tutors offer the following advice:

‘It’s nice to hear “this designer inspires me”, but it’s better to hear about what people have been doing, where they have been travelling, what they have seen, and how this has all influenced and informed their work. It’s about having this broader influence’.

**Level 2 Head Tutor in Graphic Design University College Falmouth**

‘We find that many students are unable to name a textile company or designer that inspires them which is disappointing. Make sure you do contextual research and think about less obvious artists.’

**Senior Lecturer, Textile Design University College Falmouth**

## Your Portfolio

Part of the art and design application process is viewing a portfolio of your work. This will enable admissions tutors to see your abilities and suitability for the course. A portfolio can take many forms, but it should primarily demonstrate your ability to create and develop ideas as well as your technical ability to draw through observation and interpretation. As well as idea generation, using materials and processes that allow you to explore different ways of working is evidence of a healthy approach to art and design studies.

Digital skills are integral to your learning alongside traditional tech skills, therefore it is desirable, but not essential, to also evidence some digital skills such as Photoshop, Illustrator or SketchUp. Any digital work should be part of a portfolio not all of it, variety is the most important part of the selection of work.

The college or university may request up to six examples of work that show your interest and ability in art, design and/or technology. They are interested in seeing a few examples of your best work. These should represent what you have been working on at school or in your personal time. They love to see drawings and your ideas but are most interested in what you want to show them which may be photography, art, textiles, graphic design, or fashion.

## Further Reading

[150+ Art Careers](#)

[Creative jobs | Prospects](#)

[Creative careers, jobs & skills in film, TV, VFX, animation & games](#)

[Art-related Jobs](#)

[Creative CVs](#)

[Art & Design Foundation Diplomas](#)

[Art Careers | The Art Career Project](#)

## Useful Digital Periodicals

[Home | Frieze](#)  
[Design Week](#)

[Tate](#)  
[It's Nice That](#)

[Whitehot magazine](#)  
[Elephant Magazine](#)

[Juxtapoz Magazine](#)  
[Architectural Digest](#)

[Creative Review](#)  
[Eye Magazine](#)

## Careers Department

**St. Aidan's and St John Fisher Schools**