

**DELIVERING
ART & DESIGN
SINCE 1842**

ART FOUNDATION



YORK
COLLEGE

WELCOME TO YORK COLLEGE

Unleash your creativity and immerse yourself in our one year Art Foundation Course

The long-running Foundation Diploma in Art and Design is a one year course studied straight after A Levels or Extended Diploma Level 3 art courses before proceeding to a specific degree course at university.

The primary aim of the Foundation Diploma is to inform students of the wide variety of courses available and assist students in choosing the degree course that is right for them.

As the year progresses the course splits into specialist areas which allows you to study and grow in the way that appeals to your own interests and strengths. Typically these areas are Fine Art, 3D Design, Fashion & Textiles and Visual Communication.

Throughout the year, more and more emphasis is placed on independent study in preparation for studying at degree level, culminating in a self-directed final major project and the professional end-of-year Creative Show.

To apply, please fill in the online application form which can be found on our website at www.yorkcollege.ac.uk.

Applicants will be invited to interview, which will give you an insight into the course, department and facilities. We will introduce you to current students, so you can ask any information about the programme from the people on the course themselves.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

The Foundation Diploma is full on from the word go, as you begin working on your first project straight away. The initial weeks of the course are interspersed with inductions, information giving, workshops and meeting your progress tutor, alongside your project work.

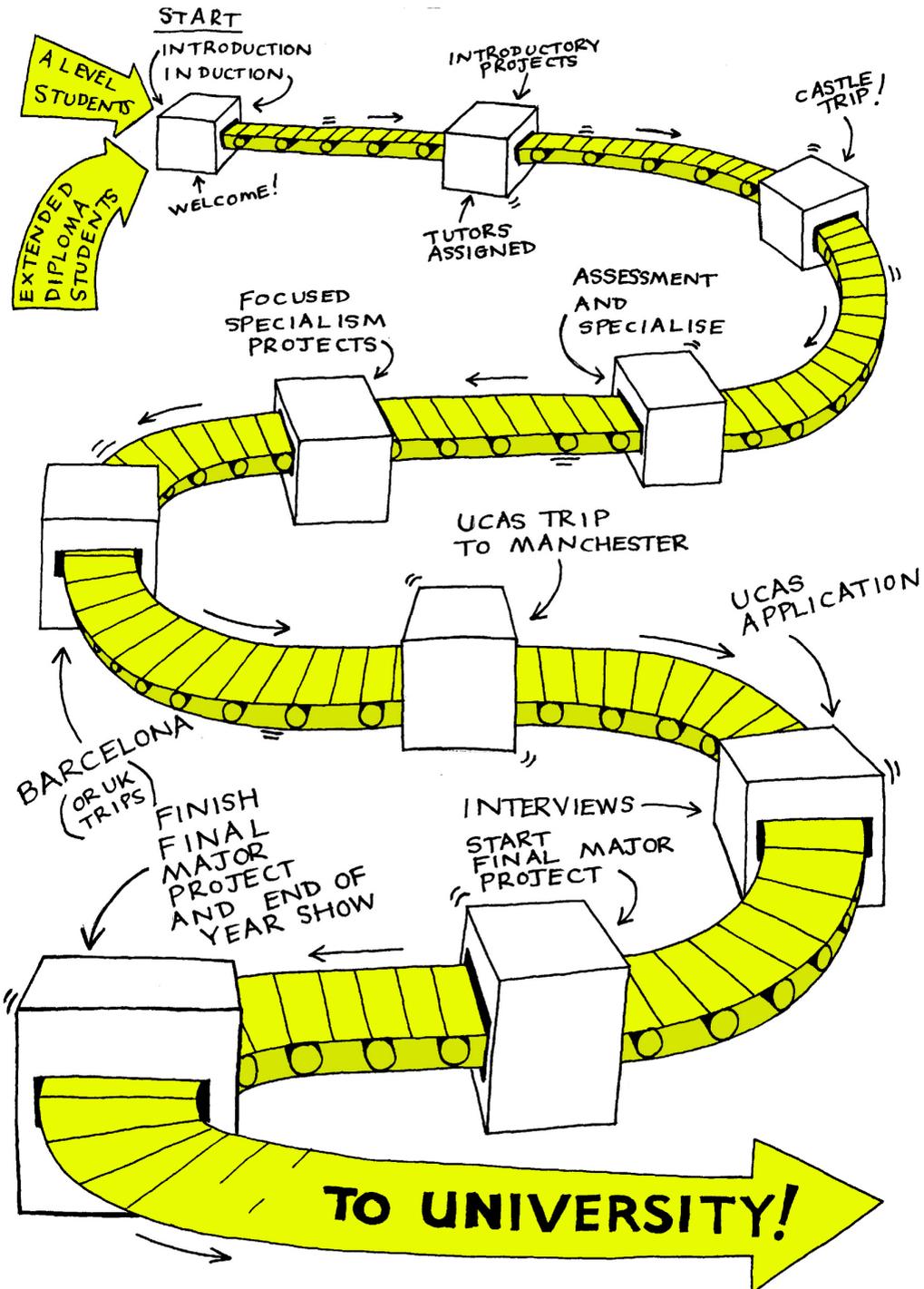
Week three sees your residential induction trip, which is a great opportunity to get to know your course mates on an experience you'll talk about for years to come! On returning to College, you'll immerse yourself in more art and design, before an assessment, followed by specialising into your area of interest and more focused projects.

Next, you'll take part in our week-long trip to the fantastic city of Barcelona, Spain, which is a wonderful opportunity full of great things to see and do for all budding artists and designers. We also run UK trips as an alternative to Barcelona, if you'd prefer to do this.

In November, you'll visit the 'Create Your Future' UCAS Fair in Manchester to speak directly to the UK's top universities about the Art and Design courses they offer. The winter break gives you chance to consider your university degree options before the application deadline in mid-January. The Foundation Diploma team will then help you to build a portfolio of work to the highest standard to take to your interviews.

As your offer(s) on degree courses come in, you'll begin work on your final major project, where you'll set your own task which will be presented in our impressive end-of-year Creative Show (usually attracting around 1000 visitors!). We'll then say our goodbyes and wish you all the very best in your future careers in the interesting world of Art and Design.

This will be a year you will never forget.



SPECIALISING

After our introductory projects, you'll decide on one of four specialisms, so that your project work can become more focused on your particular interests and strengths:

- ◆ Fine Art
- ◆ Fashion & Textiles
- ◆ 3D Design
- ◆ Visual Communication

In each area, students have their own personal space to work within. Later in the year the studios are transformed into exhibition spaces for the end-of-year Creative Show.

Your specialist tutors continually keep themselves informed on the best degree courses available within their specialism and have a very good understanding as to what universities are looking for in your portfolio, enabling them to guide you in preparing your portfolio of work to a professional standard ready for the interview stage.

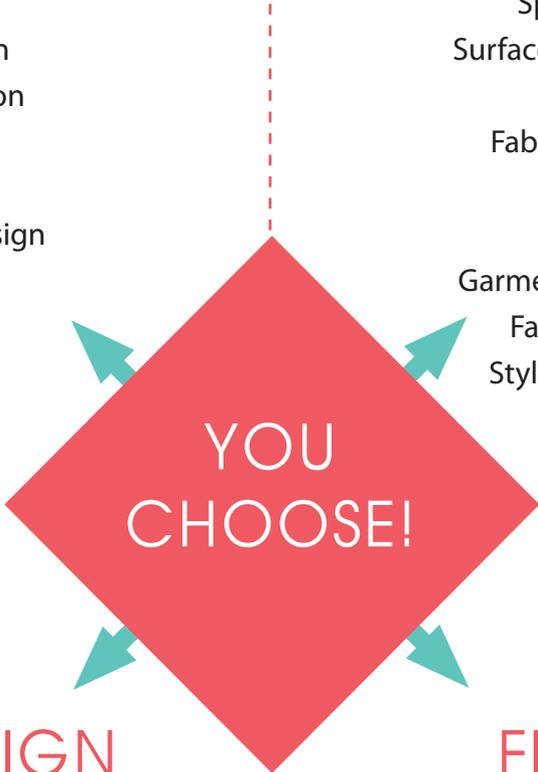
Throughout the course, your tutors will promote working in a professional manner and will also encourage independent thinking and working. On top of helping you build your portfolio, tutors will deliver individual tutorials, group tutorials, group critiques and new techniques through workshops.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Graphic Design
Print
Hand Illustration
Digital Illustration
Animation
Typography
Information Design
Games Design

FASHION & TEXTILES

Fashion Design
Sportswear Design
Surface Pattern Design
Embroidery
Fabric Manipulation
Screen Printing
Textile Design
Garment Construction
Fashion Marketing
Styling & Promotion



YOU
CHOOSE!

3D DESIGN

Product Design
Industrial Design
Design for Transport
Furniture Design
Architecture
Interior Design
Theatre Design
Jewellery Design
Costume Design

FINE ART

Drawing
Painting
Sculpture
Fine Art Photography
Installation Art
Performance Art
Video Art
Sound
Mixed Media

FINE ART

Your tutors in Fine Art have a very broad range of personal interests and in-depth knowledge of this particular area of Art and Design. The Fine Art pathway offers students the chance to develop skills in a wide variety of practices.

Experimentation is central to the Fine Art specialism, with students constantly encouraged and challenged to try new approaches to their work through a variety of techniques and different ways of thinking about their Fine Art practice.

Students create work in many different forms such as painting, drawing, sculpture and photography, through to installation art, video, sound and performance art.

Learning from your mistakes and taking risks are considered to be a very important part of Fine Art practice, as the experience is sometimes the only way to learn what works and what does not.

Your tutors will advise and guide you through the Fine Art specialism via a series of very open ended projects to find out what kind of artist you truly are or want to become.







FASHION & TEXTILES

Although fashion and textiles can be studied separately at degree level, there are many instances in industry in which the two disciplines are very much intertwined.

This specialism offers complete freedom on which direction to steer your assigned project. You may find the end result is very different to your original ideas, through experimentation, which is all part of the design process.

You will receive techniques and machinery training, whilst encouraging your ideas and experiments to flow outside of technical constraints, in processes such as screen printing, dyeing, knitting, weaving and garment construction.

Your tutors have lots of experience and knowledge of the best courses to study at degree level.

The industries of fashion and textiles in the UK are extensive with alternative jobs including buying, journalism, fashion marketing and fashion photography.







VISUAL COMMUNICATION

The specialism of visual communication is concerned with the practice of communicating thoughts, feelings, ideas and messages to provoke a particular reaction.

The way in which these are communicated to their intended audience can be quite varied, but usually include one or more of the following techniques; graphic design, typography, printing techniques, hand drawn illustration, digital illustration, games design, photography and animation in its various forms.

Visual communication is a specialism towards the commercial end of the art and design spectrum and is a vast and ever-changing industry in the UK. It is respected around the world for its innovation, quality design and ground-breaking concepts.







3D DESIGN

This specialism is vast and varied, placing great emphasis on the importance of primary research as a means of inspiration and ideas generation for design.

In this area, students learn about the world of design and the specialism enables students to develop their two dimensional design work into polished three dimensional outcomes using the College's extensive wood and metal workshops.

The tutors are greatly experienced in three dimensional design and have a good knowledge of the best 3D courses available at UK universities.







TRIPS

Below are a number of trips our Foundation Diploma students have enjoyed in the past and are indicative of what to expect. We believe educational trips are really important and help to make the course so vibrant and relevant.

FEATHERSTONE CASTLE

September

Featherstone Castle is a working two-night residential trip, two hours away in the wilds of Northumberland.

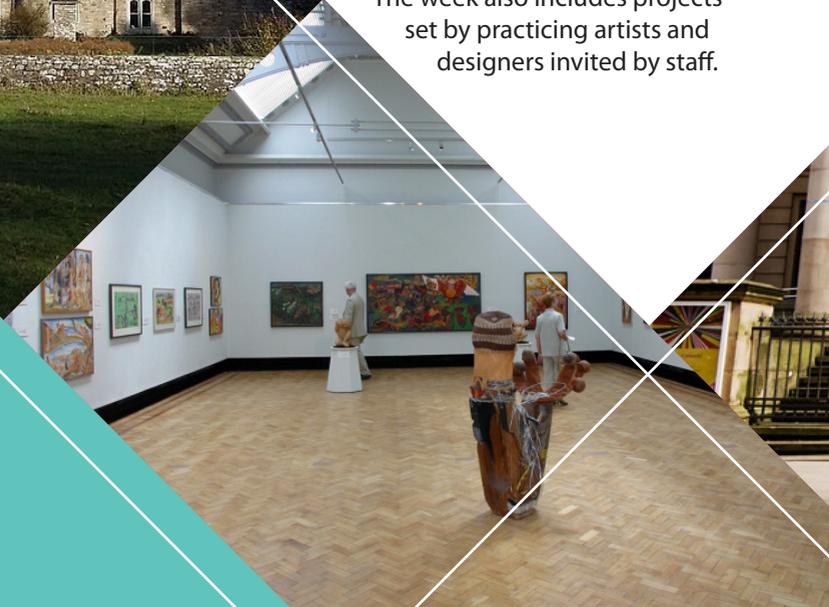
We thoroughly recommend it as a great opportunity to make new friendships for the year in a less formal environment.

HOME TRIPS

November

In the week when some students are in Barcelona, remaining students will have the opportunity to visit two UK cities and go to major exhibitions and respected galleries to broaden their understanding of Art and Design.

The week also includes projects set by practicing artists and designers invited by staff.



BARCELONA

November

Barcelona is an week-long educational trip taking in the city's major exhibitions, galleries, architecture and culture.

The weather is very pleasant in Spain this time of year and what makes Barcelona all the more exciting is its vibrant city café culture by the sea!

Students are encouraged to explore the city further in the evenings when free time is permitted in addition to the pre-planned visits.



MANCHESTER (UCAS FAIR)

November

The Manchester UCAS Fair trip gives students the opportunity to talk face-to-face with universities to find out more about the specific degree courses they have to offer and is highly recommended by all staff.

A brief visit to Manchester City Art Gallery also forms part of this trip.

Please note that trips are subject to change and may have a cost involved. We cannot guarantee that the above trips will take place.

FACILITIES



PRINT ROOM

Students have the opportunity to try their hand at a wide variety of printing techniques in our print room, which they can then take forward in their future studies.

This facility can offer the chance to screen print, lino print, woodcut print, etch, woodblock print, metal type print and learn various bookbinding techniques through a series of workshops and one-to-one instruction.

MAC SUITE

Our Mac suite is kitted out with the latest Apple Mac computers, with the latest Adobe Creative Suite software including Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator.

In the Mac suite there are several flatbed scanners and on each floor there are up-to-date A3 full colour laser printer/copiers to print out your work.

ART GALLERY SPACE

York College Gallery has ever-changing exhibitions by practicing artists and designers and is run by the Fine Art tutor on the Foundation course. Students can get involved with the running of the gallery plus private views and artist talks throughout the year.

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

Our purpose built photography studio is a great resource to tap into and is located just down the corridor from the Foundation Diploma studios. Take your own shots, whilst our qualified staff are on hand to help out with the technical side.

Our photography studio operates a lending equipment service, which includes cameras, tripods, card readers and memory cards and is available to all.

It is a useful resource to fine art photography students, fashion students photographing garments and students requiring digital portfolios for university applications.

WORKSHOPS

Fully equipped with industrial wood and metal working machinery. Our wood and metal workshops, as well as the jewellery workshop, ceramic, glass and forge, have designated trained staff on hand to advise and instruct on various techniques and the safe use of machinery. A great resource for all 3D design specialists.





STUDENT QUOTES



"I studied my A Levels at York College, so knew they had good resources. I wanted to feel comfortable in order to develop my skills. From the first day it was so welcoming and I was completely encouraged to do my own work and develop my own thoughts and ideas."

My work has been mainly influenced by comic books, films and current illustrators such as James Harvey. Studying at Kingston should be really good as it has the right energy and seems like the sort of environment where I would feel comfortable and be able to express myself."

James Dean, formerly of Snaith School, progressing to Kingston University to study Illustration Animation

"I chose to study at York College as it's a more convenient location for me and it offers trips to Barcelona and London that other colleges didn't. You definitely get out what you put in to this course."

I wouldn't have got into Chelsea following my A Levels – this course allows you to develop your own style and become more professional and unique. My work is influenced by protests and conflicts and is politically themed."

Katy Elliott, formerly of Archbishop Holgate's School, progressing to Chelsea College of Art to study Fine Art



"I didn't have much academic experience of art beforehand and thought this course would be the best way to develop my skills. I have really enjoyed the course – I've been given a lot of freedom over my work and guidance towards really contemporary art that is at the forefront of modern art."

I knew I wanted to do something design based; work on a large scale and affect people's lives. I'm really looking forward to studying at UCL as it is the most conceptual, art-based architecture school and is really cutting-edge. My work has been looking at contemporary sculpture and this course has allowed me to explore areas outside of architecture."

Peter Cotton, formerly of Norton College, progressing to UCL to study Architecture

"I definitely wouldn't have got into Chelsea College of Art if I hadn't done this course. Everything has changed so much from A Levels. The tutors push you to do things out of your comfort zone.

To study at university level you need to be unique and have your own style which is something I've been able to develop. The Foundation course has pushed me to make my own work, in my own way and has encouraged me to work on my own. For my final project I have been inspired by the different subjective and objective aspects of 'self' and how people can be perceived differently."

Louise Dearing, formerly of Harrogate Grammar, progressing to Chelsea College of Art to study Fine Art

"The college local to me didn't have as many facilities as York College.

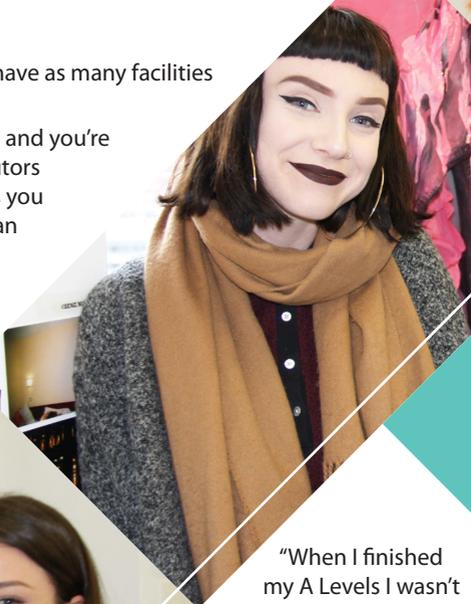
The tutors have been really nice and you're given so much freedom – the tutors encourage you to go as crazy as you want. I'm currently working on an abstract army of women."

Paige Mainprize, formerly of Scarborough Sixth Form, progressing to Central St Martins to study Fine Art

"When I finished my A Levels I wasn't sure what I wanted to do or even if I wanted to go to university. This course has really helped me, as I didn't think I was interested in textiles and always thought I'd go into Fine Art, but now I really love it and it's what I'm going to university to study.

The tutors have been great; they want you to make mistakes in order to learn from them. I'm really looking forward to going to Edinburgh College of Art, as I now have a more informed plan. My current project is inspired by shop window displays and how domestic objects and furniture can be used to look out of the ordinary."

Rebecca Raper, formerly of Northallerton College, progressing to Edinburgh College of Art to study Textiles



TOP TEN REASONS

1 This course is FREE if you study it straight after your A Levels or Level 3 Diploma and are under the age of 19 on the first day of the course.

2 Universities prefer students who have studied an art foundation, but don't always specify this on their entry requirements.

3 You will have time to prepare your portfolio to the highest standard under expert guidance which will give you the best chance at securing your desired place at university.

4 Make an informed decision about the area in which you might wish to specialise in at a higher-level.

5 This course takes an exploratory approach, you will discover new techniques and skills that will remain with you throughout your lifetime.

6 Spend the year in a creative environment that is equipped with the necessary tools to help you succeed whilst being surrounded by like-minded individuals.

7 Knowledgeable and experienced tutors lead on this course and will be there to support you every step of the way.

8 Take part in the Creative Showcase that attracts around 1000 visitors.

9 We will help you refine your studio skills that are essential to the career of a professional artist or designer.

10 Study in York, a beautiful and cosmopolitan medieval city and the first and only UNESCO City of Media Arts in the UK.

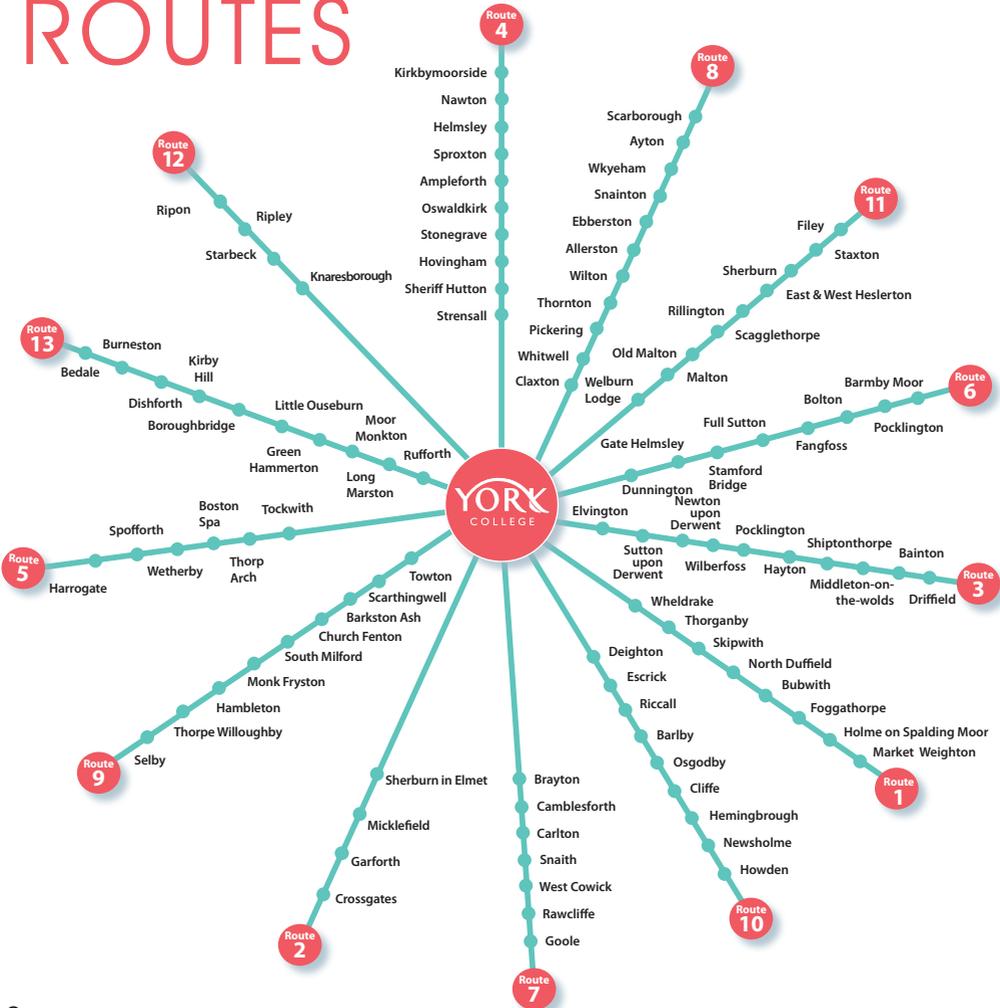


FEES & FUNDING

This course is free for students under the age of 19 on the first day of the course.

Students who are aged 19 or over may be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan to pay for their tuition fees. The Advanced Learner Loan is paid directly to the College and you only start paying back the loan after your course has finished and when your income rises above £21,000 per year.

BUS ROUTES





YOUR FUTURE

Art Foundation students will not only spend the year exploring different creative practices and refining their skills within their chosen pathway, they also build up a plethora of other desired abilities that are desired by universities and employers;

- ◆ Flexibility
- ◆ Attention to detail
- ◆ Communication skills
- ◆ Interpreting a brief
- ◆ Team work
- ◆ Responding to feedback
- ◆ Meeting deadlines
- ◆ Resilience
- ◆ Adaptability to different projects
- ◆ Resourcefulness
- ◆ Productivity
- ◆ Working independently

MEET OUR ALUMNI

We're proud of our alumni and rightfully so. Many of them have gone on to do incredible things.

Debs Bowness

British Artist/ Wallpaper Designer

Mark Hearld

Illustrator

JAMES RAVENHALL

*Associate Director for
Farpeople Ltd*

NATASHA MURRAY

*Designer and Product Developer
for Alexander McQueen*

BEN CROFT

*Bespoke Furniture
Designer/Maker*

TOM O'SULLIVAN

Practicing Contemporary Artist

Aimee Hirst

*Creative Product Developer
- Knitwear at Hugo Boss*

Emily Sutton

Illustrator

ONWARDS & UPWARDS

The combination of hard work and creativity of both our staff and students results in the production of art and design projects which see our students receive a high number of offers from their top university choices, as well as excellent success rates.

Many of the UK's top universities come to visit our students each year to promote their degree courses. Your tutors' degree course knowledge will also be vitally important, so that you can get the very best from your future studies.

Year after year, 100% of our students are placed at universities on completion of their course. These have included top UK destinations such as Central Saint Martins, Edinburgh College of Art, Goldsmiths, The Ruskin School of Art, Cambridge and University College London.

Course Information

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