

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 Contemporary Art Practice, Communication Design and Applied Arts and Fashion.

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.

You will then 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 questions 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.

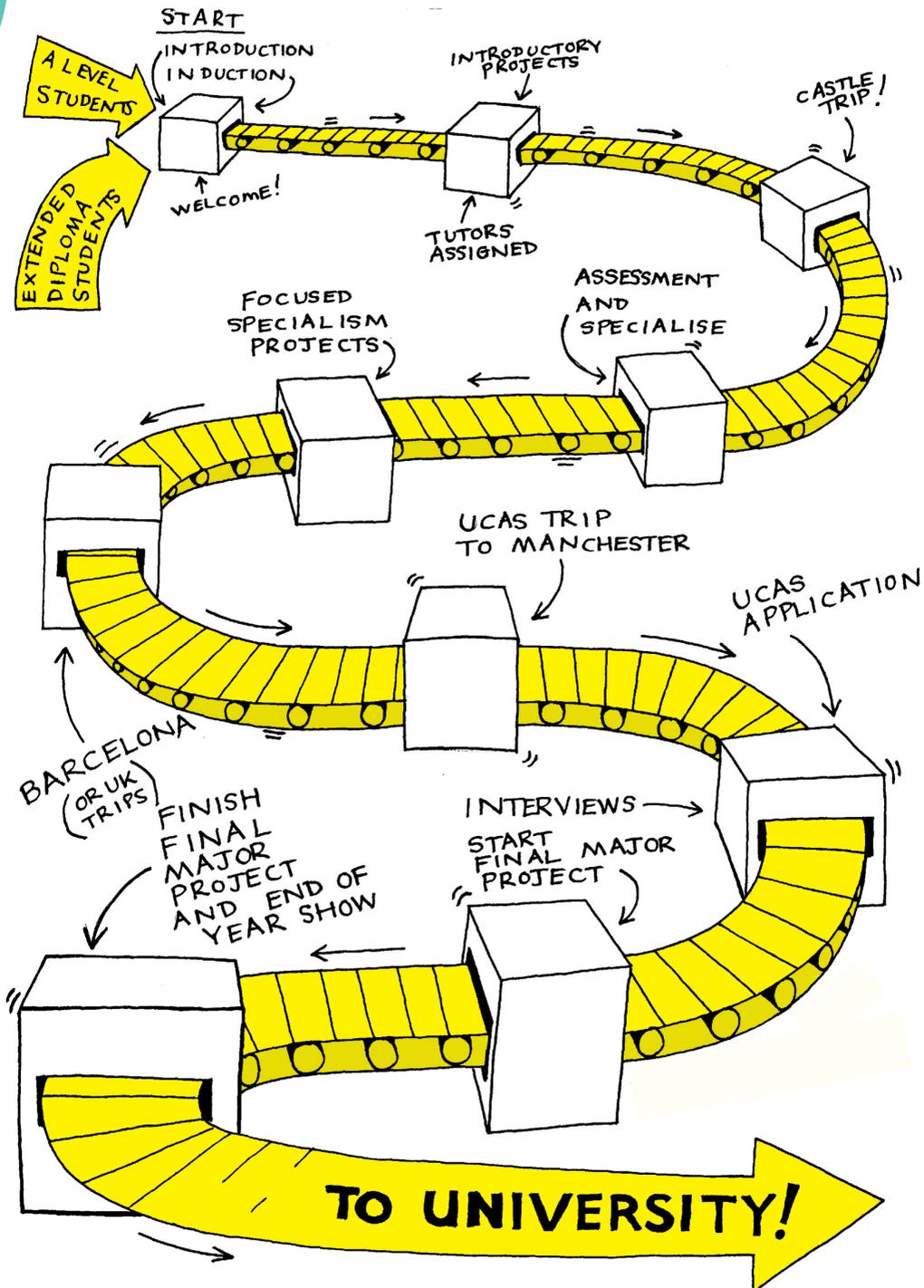
Next, you'll take part in our week-long trip to the fantastic city of Barcelona, Spain, which is a wonderful opportunity full of great things to see and do for all budding artists and designers. We also run UK trips as an alternative to Barcelona, if you'd prefer to do this.

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 three specialisms, so that your project work can become more focused on your particular interests and strengths:

- ◆ Contemporary Art Practice
- ◆ Applied Arts and Fashion
- ◆ Communication Design

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 each 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.



YOU CHOOSE!



CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE

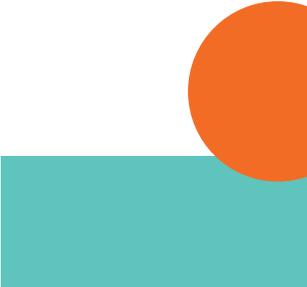
Drawing	Theatre design
Painting	Printmaking
Sculpture	Photography
Mixed media	Contemporary art
Installation art	Architecture & interior architecture
Video, sound & performance art	Landscape art

APPLIED ARTS AND FASHION

Fashion design	Constructed textiles
Fashion styling	Interior design
Marketing & communication	Costume jewellery & accessories
Textiles	Decorative arts
Surface pattern	Ceramics & glass

COMMUNICATION DESIGN

Graphic design	Printmaking
Typography	Photography
Illustration	Animation
Advertising	Comic arts
Transport design	Games design
Product & furniture design	



CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE

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

Experimentation is central to the Contemporary Art Practice 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 Contemporary Art Practice.

Students create work in many different forms such as painting, drawing, sculpture

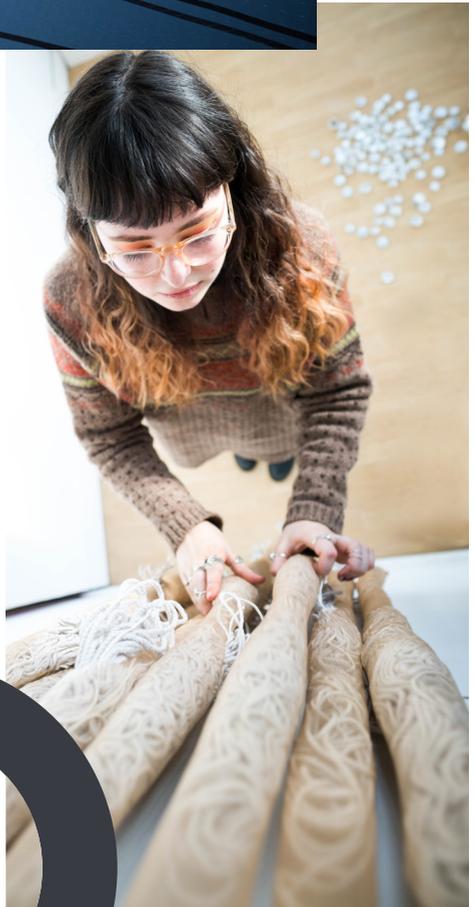
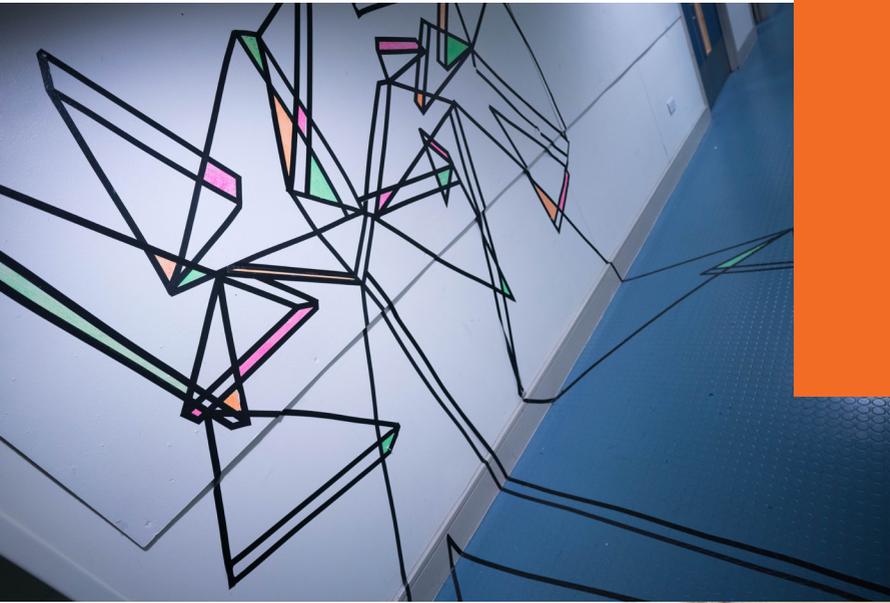
and photography, through to installation art, video, sound and performance art.

Learning from your mistakes and taking risks are considered to be a very important part of Contemporary 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 Contemporary Art Practice specialism via a series of very open ended projects to find out what kind of artist you truly are or want to become.







APPLIED ARTS AND FASHION

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

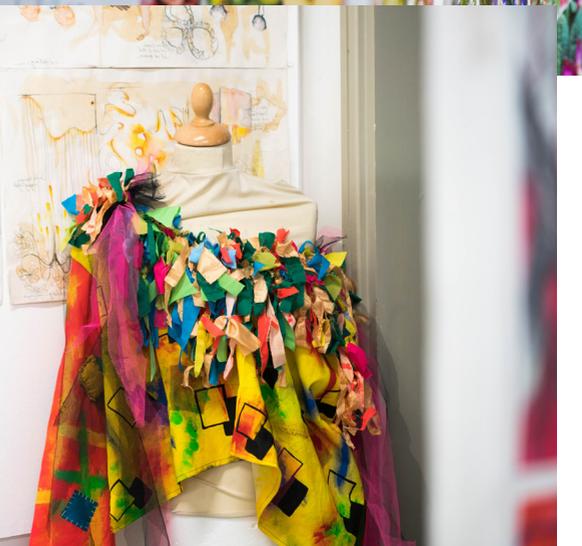
This specialism offers complete freedom in which direction to steer your assigned project. You may find the end result is very different to your original ideas, through experimentation, which is all part of the design process.

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 Applied Arts and Fashion in the UK are extensive with alternative jobs including buying, journalism, fashion marketing and fashion photography.







COMMUNICATION DESIGN

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

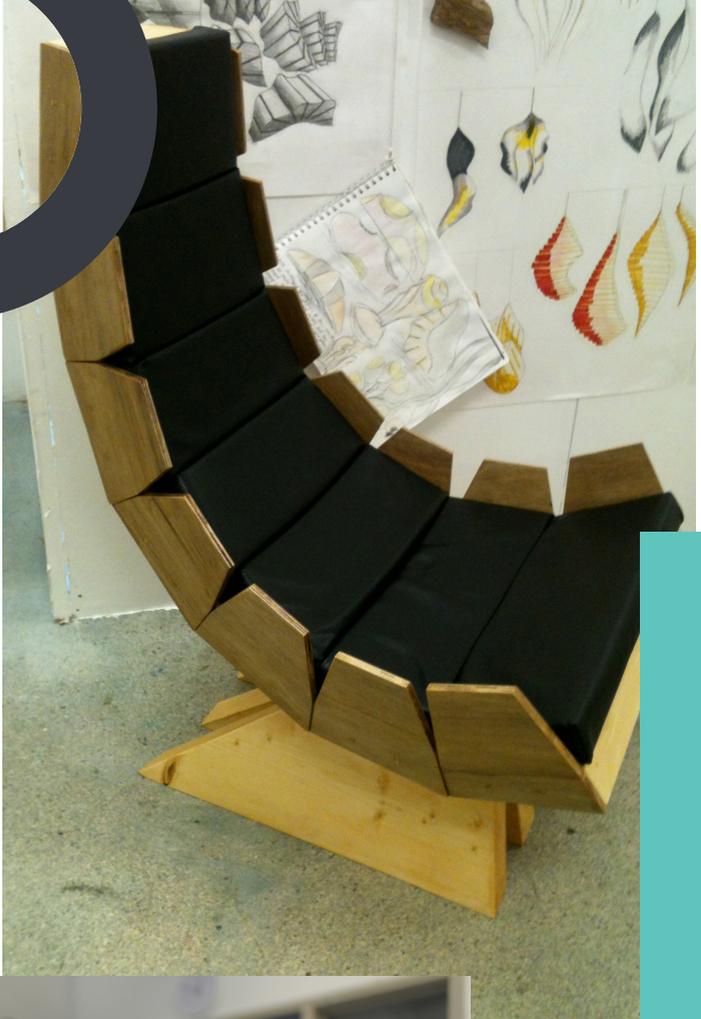
The way in which these are communicated to their intended audience can be quite varied, but usually include one or more of the following techniques: graphic design, typography, printing techniques, hand drawn illustration, digital illustration, games design, photography and animation in its various forms.

Communication Design 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.









WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY



"My time studying the Art Foundation has really shaped me as an individual and it has helped me to find my practice. I've learnt so much on this course, from technical skills like Adobe software to a whole new way of thinking about art. This has been an invaluable discovery and I have also loved making lots of new friends and meeting amazing tutors."

Kerensa Murray

Progressing to study Fine Art at Central Saint Martins



"The Foundation Diploma taught me to broaden my ideas and to experiment with materials out of my comfort zone, as well as develop a wide range of technical skills relating to the university course I've applied for. I have been able to develop my skills further and branch out and try different areas within art."

Angus Polkey

Progressing on to study at the University of Dundee



"I wasn't sure exactly which area of art and design I wanted to have a career in but knew I wanted to be in the creative industry, the art foundation course allowed me to explore a variety of disciplines before making my decision. From experimenting in each area of art and design, textiles and particularly surface pattern, complimented all my interests and skills. I loved that I had the time to find my style of work and had the time and facilities to learn printing methods in particular. I've also loved being surrounded by like-minded creative people."

Alice Bates

Progressing to study BA (Hons) Textile Design at Edinburgh College of Art



"The thing I appreciated most about my time at York College was the welcoming and supportive environment, I also learnt some invaluable skills that I will take with me on to university. Throughout the year my tutors offered advice and guidance as to which university would be most suited to me and where I would be able to thrive"

Lizzy Henson

Progressing onto study BA (Hons) Painting at Edinburgh College of Art



"After finishing my A-levels, in order to increase my portfolio and knowledge of graphic design, I enrolled on the Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. I have had the opportunities to try different methods of print making and had time to develop my skills on computer programmes. I have particularly enjoyed having the freedom and the facilities to explore topics of my own choosing."

George Hickey

Progressing to study BA (Hons) Graphic Design at Northumbria University



"I felt as though I really needed the year to prepare and further my portfolio for university. I looked at the same course at three other institutions and found that York had the best facilities for costume making. I feel as though I have increased my knowledge about what it is like to work in the creative industries and I am more aware about the arts. Following a trip to the UCAS fair in Manchester, I spoke to various universities specialising in theatre design/ costume about the direction I was heading and what course would be right for me."

Jasmine Howard

Progressing on to study BA (Hons) Theatre and Performance Design at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA).

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

The York College Gallery has ever-changing exhibitions by practicing artists and designers and is run by the Contemporary Art Practice 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

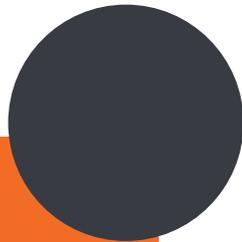
Our purpose built photography studio is a great resource to tap into and is located just down the corridor from the Foundation Diploma studios. Take your own shots, whilst our qualified staff are on hand to help out with the technical side.

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.





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.

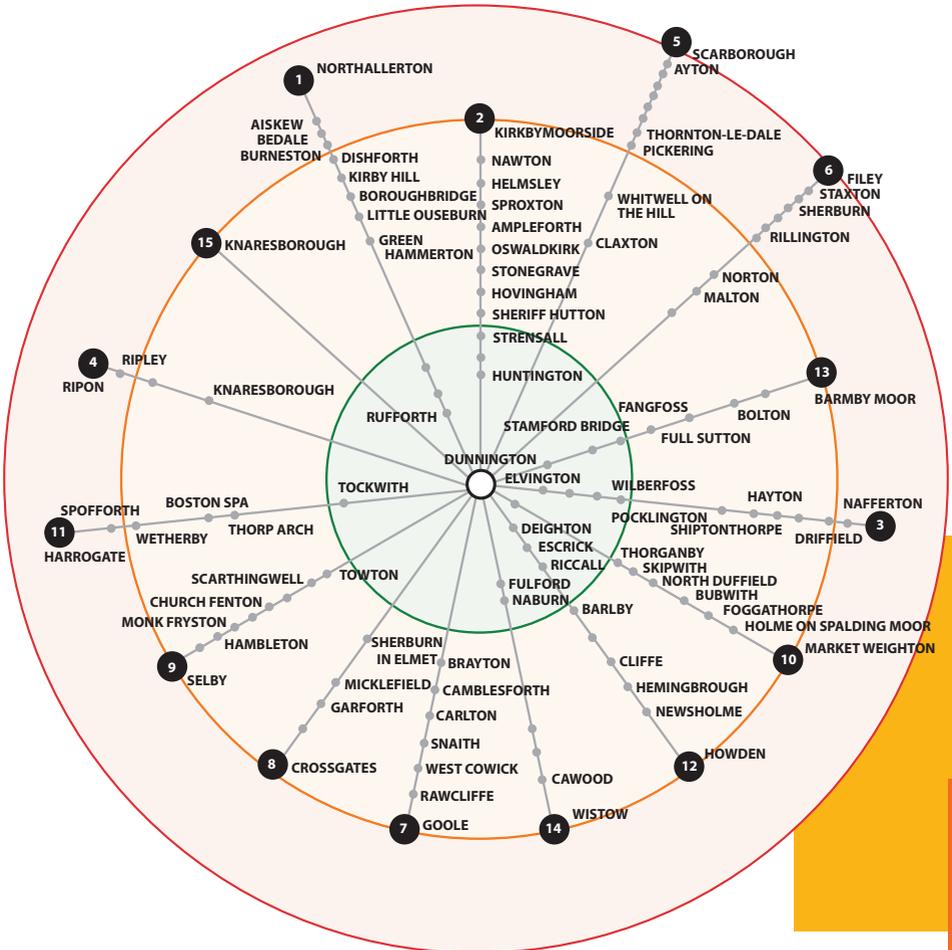


FEES & FUNDING

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 a certain threshold.

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.

DEBORAH BOWNESS

British Artist/ Wallpaper Designer

JAMES RAVENHALL

Associate Director for Forpeople Ltd

BEN CROFT

Bespoke Furniture Designer/Maker

AIMEE HIRST

*Creative Product Developer -
Knitwear at Hugo Boss*

MARK HEARLD

Illustrator

NATASHA MURRAY

*Designer and Product Developer
for Alexander McQueen*

TOM O'SULLIVAN

Practicing Contemporary Artist

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.

Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this booklet and was correct at the time of going to press (February 2020).

Course Information

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General Enquiries

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info@yorkcollege.ac.uk

Application/Enrolment Information

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admissions@yorkcollege.ac.uk



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