

Statement of Purpose

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**Level 3 and Level 4
Foundation Diploma
in Art and Design**

UAL Level 3 (603/3138/0) and Level 4 (603/3139/2) Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

Overview

Who is this qualification for?

The UAL Level 3 and Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design are pivotal qualifications, which provide a transition from general education to specialist art and design education. This enables students to make an informed decision when applying to Higher Education, or seeking employment within a related industry.

The qualification is an ideal choice for those who have completed A levels or a Level 3 Diploma or Extended Diploma in Art and Design, or related subjects.

The programme builds on students' prior experience, linking skills already acquired with ideas and challenges, which will expand their critical independence and enable them to demonstrate a full understanding of the relevant standards necessary to progress to Higher Education or to a career of their choice.

The qualification is characterised by academic rigour and student-centred learning culture, encompassing: analytical principles; exploratory and investigative practices; contextual research; material experiences and risk taking. These are delivered through a coherent and integrated sequence of learning activities which will enable students to identify and capitalise on their strengths and affinities.

This programme is characterised by experiential, experimental and integrated learning, relying upon the application and transfer of manual skills. Students should value the accidental and disruptive results that can occur, and recognise common principles and distinctive characteristics of subject disciplines within the field of art and design.

The qualification is generally delivered over one year but could also be delivered as a part time option over two years.

There are no age restrictions for this qualification, however, most of the students taking this qualification are expected to be 18+. The qualification is also suitable for adult learners.

The UAL Level 3 and Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design is not currently available as part of an apprenticeship.

The aims of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Demonstrate awareness of the different perspectives, approaches and ethics within diverse creative practice.
- Research, analyse and evaluate relevant information as part of creative practice.
- Understand, adapt and safely use appropriate practical methods and skills for creative practice and production.
- Explore solutions to complex problems through the application of practical, theoretical and technical understanding.
- Use critically evaluative and reflective skills in order to take responsibility for own learning, development and decision making.
- Take responsibility for research, planning and time management, to access and action progression opportunities.
- Effectively communicate and present ideas and creative practice to appropriate audiences.

What will students learn as part of this qualification?

The content of the UAL Level 3 and Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design was developed with representatives from industry, universities and further education colleges to ensure it provides students with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for progression.

The qualification contains the following units:

Unit 1 - Diagnostic Investigation into Creative Practice

In this unit, students will undertake a diagnostic investigation into visual language and creative practices. This exploratory investigation allows students to become familiar with, and experiment within, a wide range of (art, design and media) creative disciplines as part of their journey to, or reinforcement of, specialism in Unit 2 or Unit 3.

Unit 2 - Developing Specialist Practice (Level 3)

This unit will provide students with the opportunity to reflect on the knowledge, skills and practices they have developed in Unit 1 of the qualification. Students should define their creative ambitions by encouraging a holistic approach to a range of activities, which will support, contextualise and position their creative endeavour within their chosen specialist practice.

Unit 3 - Developing Specialist Practice (Level 4)

This unit will provide students with the opportunity to reflect on the knowledge, skills and practices they have developed in Unit 1 of the qualification. Students should define their creative ambitions by encouraging a holistic approach to a range of activities, which will support, contextualise and position their creative endeavour within their chosen specialist practice.

Unit 4 - Consolidating Practice

This unit aims to provide students with an opportunity to take control of their own learning, and demonstrate their achievement by independently initiating, researching, completing and evaluating a project proposal in realisation of their chosen professional context.

To be awarded the Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, the student must Pass, Unit 1, Unit 2 and Unit 4.

To be awarded the Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, the student must Pass, Unit 1, Unit 3 and Unit 4.

The final grade for this qualification is based solely on achievement in Unit 4.

What could this qualification lead to?

The majority of students completing this qualification may progress into:

Higher Education

The qualification will support students to develop a portfolio of work enabling them to progress to Higher Education courses.

The UAL Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design has been UCAS tariff rated and attracts the following UCAS points:

- **Distinction:** 112
- **Merit:** 96
- **Pass:** 80

UCAS does not recognise qualifications at Level 4, so unlike its Level 3 counterpart, the UAL Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design does not attract tariff points. It is still recognised and accepted by universities across the UK. Many universities who also deliver this qualification offer the Level 4 version.

The qualification will prepare students for a wide range of undergraduate courses in art, design and related subjects depending on the chosen specialism, but could include:

- **Fine art:** for example, drawing, painting, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking, moving image (video, film, animation), photography, and performance art
- **Interactive arts:** for example, interactive media including web, app and game design
- **Graphic communication:** for example, advertising, packaging design, design for print, illustration, communication graphics, branding, multimedia, motion graphics, design for film and television
- **Fashion/textile design:** for example, fashion design, fashion textiles, costume design, digital textiles, printed and/or dyed fabrics and materials, domestic textiles, wallpaper, interior design, constructed textiles, art textiles and installed textiles
- **Three-dimensional design:** for example, ceramics, sculpture, exhibition design, design for theatre, television and film, interior design, product design, environmental design, architectural design, jewellery/body ornament and 3D digital design
- **Photography/lens-based media:** for example, portraiture, landscape photography, still life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, fashion photography, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation and moving image (video, film, animation)
- **Media:** for example, television, radio, print, video, digital media, computer games, photography, advertising and publishing
- **Curation and exhibition management:** for example, history and conservation, collections (private, public, digital), galleries and visual culture

Employment/Self-Employment

Students completing this qualification may progress to roles in the creative industries.

Who supports this qualification?

The following organisations recognise this qualification as fulfilling entry requirements to a range of higher education courses, either in its own right or alongside other qualifications:

- Blackburn College
- Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts
- Leeds Arts University
- Stourbridge College
- Newcastle College
- Ravensbourne
- Edinburgh College

To view the letters of support, please follow the link in the further information section of this document.

Further Information

Further information regarding this qualification can be found on the UAL Awarding Body website.

www.arts.ac.uk/awarding