Overview

The University of the Arts London Awarding Body Level 3 Diploma in Art & Design - Foundation Studies is a pivotal qualification which supports students in the transition from general education to specialist art and design education, enabling them to make an informed decision when applying to art and design higher education, or seeking employment within a related industry.

The qualification has been designed to encourage exploration, experimentation and risk taking. Learning through projects, assignments, presentations and group critiques will enable students to develop strong communication skills and support the transition from general to specialist art and design education.

The qualification builds on learners’ prior experience, linking skills already acquired with ideas and challenges which will extend the learners’ critical independence and enable them to demonstrate a full understanding of the relevant standards required to achieve progression to higher education.

It is generally delivered over one year, and is a progression route for learners who have completed A-levels or a Level 3 Diploma or Extended Diploma in Art & Design or related subjects.

The majority of learners completing the Level 3 Diploma in Foundation Studies –Art & Design progress into higher education, with some progressing into employment or apprenticeships.

The purpose of the qualification is further defined by its aims, which are to enable the student to:

1. Have a critical and contextual awareness of different perspectives and approaches within art, design or related subjects of study or work.
2. Research, analyse and evaluate relevant information and ideas in order to develop creative solutions.
3. Understand, adapt and safely use appropriate and practical methods and skills for creative production.
4. Solve complex problems through the application of art, design or related practical, theoretical and technical understanding.
5. Critically review the effectiveness and appropriateness of methods, actions and results.
6. Use evaluative and reflective skills in order to take responsibility for own learning, development and decision making.
7. Take responsibility for the research, planning, time management and actions to access progression opportunities.
8. Effectively present themselves and their work to appropriate audiences.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

The Level 3 Diploma in Foundation Studies – Art & Design has been designed to provide students with opportunities to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding required to progress successfully into higher education.

- In addition to developing specialist, technical, practical skills which relate to their own identified area of interest, students will learn how to:
- Research effectively using a range of methods and approaches
- Generate ideas, and to develop and improve them
- Work across a range of art and design disciplines, improving their visual communication skills and developing a range of complementary practical skills
- Reflect on and evaluate their work, identifying and analyzing their own strengths and weakness and improving their own work
- Communicate effectively with their peers, both giving and receiving criticism in a constructive and professional manner
- Integrate all of the above to deliver a final major project that confirms their achievement
- Present themselves and their work for an audience, including developing portfolios to support university applications and preparing for interviews.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for students wishing to progress into higher education to study art, design or a related subject. The majority of students progressing to this qualification will have previously completed A-levels or a Level 3 Extended Diploma in related subjects.

The Level 3 Diploma in Foundation Studies – Art & Design is recognized across the UK as the primary entry route to the best courses at the most prestigious universities, with more than 15,000 students completing the qualification each year.

UAL Awarding Body only approves institutions to deliver this qualification if they are able to demonstrate significant expertise in and commitment to creative arts education.
UAL Awarding Body requires institutions delivering this qualification to recruit with integrity and on the basis of the students’ anticipated ability to successfully complete the requirements of the qualification.

Applicants to Courses should provide suitable evidence of their learning and achievement in the form of a portfolio of work. Whenever possible, applicants should be invited to attend a personal interview to enable interviewer(s) to assess applicants aptitude and potential to benefit from the course.

Students should be advised that some university degree courses require students to have gained a GCSE at C or above in maths and English.

**What could this qualification lead to?**

The majority of learners completing the Level 3 Diploma in Foundation Studies – Art & Design will progress into higher education, with some progressing into employment or apprenticeships.

The qualification has been UCAS tariff rated and attracts the following UCAS points:

- Distinction  112  
- Merit  96  
- Pass  80.

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 BA (Hons) Ceramic Design, BA (Hons) Fashion, BA (Hons) Fashion Design with Knitwear, BA (Hons) Fashion Design Menswear, BA (Hons) Fashion Design Womenswear, BA (Hons) Fine Art, BA (Hons) Graphic Design, BA (Hons) Product Design, BA (Hons) Textile Design, BA (Hons) Advertising, BA (Hons) Animation, BA (Hons) Graphic Branding and Identity, BA (Hons) Illustration and Visual Media, BA (Hons) Photography, BA (Hons) Sound Arts and Design, BA (hons) Spatial Design and others.

**Who supports this qualification?**

The qualification is also recognised as fulfilling entry requirements to a range of higher education courses, either in its own right or alongside other Level 3 qualifications, by institutions including Ravensbourne, the University for the Creative Arts, Arts University Bournemouth and Leeds College of Art.

Letters of support from these institutions can be found on the UAL Awarding Body website here: [http://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/awarding-body/qualifications/foundation-diploma-in-art-and-design/](http://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/awarding-body/qualifications/foundation-diploma-in-art-and-design/)
Further information

This qualification is not part of an apprenticeship framework.

All of the learning undertaken for this qualification relates to art, design and related industries. Learning is tailored towards the students’ specific area of interest to support progression into that area at undergraduate level.

Additional information for this qualification can be found on the UAL Awarding Body website here: http://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/awarding-body/qualifications/foundation-diploma-in-art-and-design/