

Visual Arts and Design

BTEC Level 3 EXTENDED DIPLOMA in Art and Design

The Visual Art and Design sector encompasses a wide range of creative disciplines and careers, such as Graphic design, Illustration, Fashion Design, Photography and many more. Through exploring these potential creative careers you will have opportunities to engage with a range of techniques and processes such as drawing, painting, digital arts, photography, typography, printmaking and 3D Design. You may have the opportunity to undertake collaborative projects with arts professionals and with our partners, such as schools and galleries, and you will undertake a number of visits to exhibitions, artist spaces and museums.

What will I learn on this course?

During the first year you will undertake skills development projects in a wide range of disciplines and making techniques, providing a solid foundation for you to move forward as a creative individual. You will gain experience in all major areas of visual arts and design such as drawing and painting, printmaking, sculpture, fashion, photography and digital arts. Some of the core units will focus on visual recording in art and design; materials, techniques and processes in art and design; developing and realising creative intentions; the creative process; and contextual studies in art and design, underpinning the creative process for all disciplines studied.

How is the course structured?

The course is structured to enable you to undertake 13 units, including 4 externally assessed units that build into the Level 3 Extended Diploma, which is equivalent to three A levels. It is delivered through assignments and projects utilising different learning and teaching styles such as teacher-led demonstration, independent student-directed visual research, and skills development workshops. You will undertake collaborative projects with arts professionals and with our partners such as schools and galleries and you will undertake a number of visits to exhibitions, artist spaces and museums. Additionally, there will be opportunities for you to undertake community arts projects. There are 'open studio' times which you can use for individual experimentation and development of personal ideas and techniques

How will I study?

In our purpose-built state-of-the-art facilities we are able to offer a first-rate environment for the study of visual arts and design. We have facilities for textiles, ceramics and three-dimensional design, as well as fine art studios, a photography dark room and computer suites with the latest art and design software such as Photoshop, Illustrator and Premiere Pro along with graphics tablets for digital drawing. Added to this excellent setting is a superb set of departmental tutors making what we believe is a unique environment for the preparation of tomorrow's artists, designers and visual communicators. Studying at BOA will enable you to develop your skills and ideas whilst benefitting from working in a dedicated arts environment. Working with arts professionals is a core part of the ethos of BOA - you will have the opportunity to work with designers, curators and fine artists through workshops, visits and collaborative projects.

How will you be assessed?

The course is continuously assessed throughout the two years through project completion and submission. These projects are under set assignment brief following a period of teaching and learning. There are four externally assessed modules, Two in year 12 and two in year 13. Themes for these externally assessed units are provided by Edexcel and are completed in timed examination conditions. The preparation of a personal portfolio for interview is a catered for and you will receive guidance and advice on interview techniques and on applying for higher and further visual art and design study.

