



# Art & Design Foundation Courses



# Why be an artist / designer ?



They are involved in making everything we live in, drive, wear, sit on, eat off, log on to, watch, play with, scroll through, stick on our wall.....

**Artists/designers make our world.....**



Table 2. Jobs in the creative industries sub-sectors, 2023–24

Sub-sector	Number of filled jobs (thousands)	% of jobs in the creative industries
IT, software and computer services	1,022	42.6%
Music, performing and visual arts	311	13.0%
Advertising and marketing	260	10.8%
Film, TV, radio and photography	256	10.7%
Publishing	187	7.8%
Design and designer fashion	140	5.8%
Architecture	122	5.1%
Museums, galleries and libraries	91	3.8%
Crafts	10	0.4%

**There were 2.4million jobs  
in the creative industries  
in the UK in 2023–24.<sup>[6]</sup>  
This amounted to 7% of  
all filled jobs in the UK.**

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/creative-industries-growth-jobs-and-productivity/#:~:text=There%20were%202.4mn%20jobs,jobs%20in%20the%20creative%20industries.>

+ according to the [Creative Industries Federation](#), the creative industries are made up of 95% microbusinesses, and **around one third of workers are freelancers.**

**UK government figures estimate there were about 2,419,000 filled jobs in the UK creative industries during 2023.**

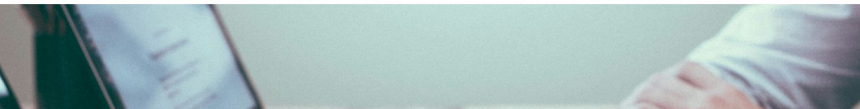
**The number is 318,000 higher than in the pre-COVID year of 2019.**

This is equivalent to a 15.1 per cent increase between 2023 and 2019, giving the creative industries the highest longer-term growth rate of the areas of the creative and cultural economy that fall within the remit of the [Department for Culture, Media & Sport](https://www.thecreativeindustries.co.uk/site-content/uk-creative-industries-jobs-grow-to-2-42m) (DCMS).



## **Future of Jobs Report 2025: The jobs of the future – and the skills you need to get them**

Jan 8, 2025



### **Skills workers need to thrive**

Employers expect 39% of key skills required in the job market will change by 2030. This figure represents significant disruption but is down from 44% in 2023. A growing focus on continuous learning, upskilling and reskilling programmes has enabled companies to better anticipate and manage future skill requirements, the Future of Jobs Report 2025 says.

Technological skills are projected to grow in importance more rapidly than any other skills in the next five years. AI and big data are at the top of the list, followed by networks and cybersecurity and technological literacy.

**Creative thinking and resilience, flexibility and agility are also rising in importance, along with curiosity and lifelong learning.**

Rounding out the top 10 skills on the rise are leadership and social influence, talent management, analytical thinking and environmental stewardship.

# 10 years ago

in 2015

1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Coordinating with Others
3. People Management
4. Critical Thinking
5. Negotiation
6. Quality Control
7. Service Orientation
8. Judgment and Decision Making
9. Active Listening
10. Creativity

In today's job market,  
these skills are prioritized:

# today

- 1 Analytical thinking
- 2 Creative thinking
- 3 Resilience, flexibility and agility
- 4 Motivation and self-awareness
- 5 Curiosity and lifelong learning
- 6 Technological literacy
- 7 Dependability and attention to detail
- 8 Empathy and active listening
- 9 Leadership and social influence
- 10 Quality control

But in the next five years,  
employers will be looking for:

- 1 Analytical thinking
- 2 Creative thinking
- 3 AI and big data
- 4 Leadership and social influence
- 5 Resilience, flexibility and agility
- 6 Curiosity and lifelong learning
- 7 Technological literacy
- 8 Design and user experience
- 9 Motivation and self-awareness
- 10 Empathy and active listening

**Creativity is more  
important to employers  
than it was 10 years ago**

# How much can I earn in the creative sector?

This obviously depends on a range of factors such as the job you do, your level of seniority, your employer and your location. Salaries vary widely however, **DCMS statistics put median annual pay in the creative industries in 2023 at £39,366, a third higher than median annual pay for the UK as a whole.**

This was reflected throughout all creative industry sub sectors except for museums, galleries and libraries, where earnings were 6% lower than the UK average.

Some of the highest earning sub-sectors in the creative industries, according to DCMS statistics, include:

- IT, software and computer services (£44,517 median annual pay)
- architecture (£38,495)
- film, TV, video, radio and photography (£37,601)
- advertising (£36,560)
- design and designer fashion (£36,220).

March, 2025

**Soft skills** are more social than technical, and reflect a person's ability to accept feedback, maintain organisation, problem solve, and collaborate with others.

**Interpersonal Skills**

**Communication Skills**

**Self Awareness**

**Emotional Intelligence**

**Patience**

**Adaptability**

**Project Management**

**Problem Solving Skills**

**Teamwork and Collaboration**

**Conflict Resolution**

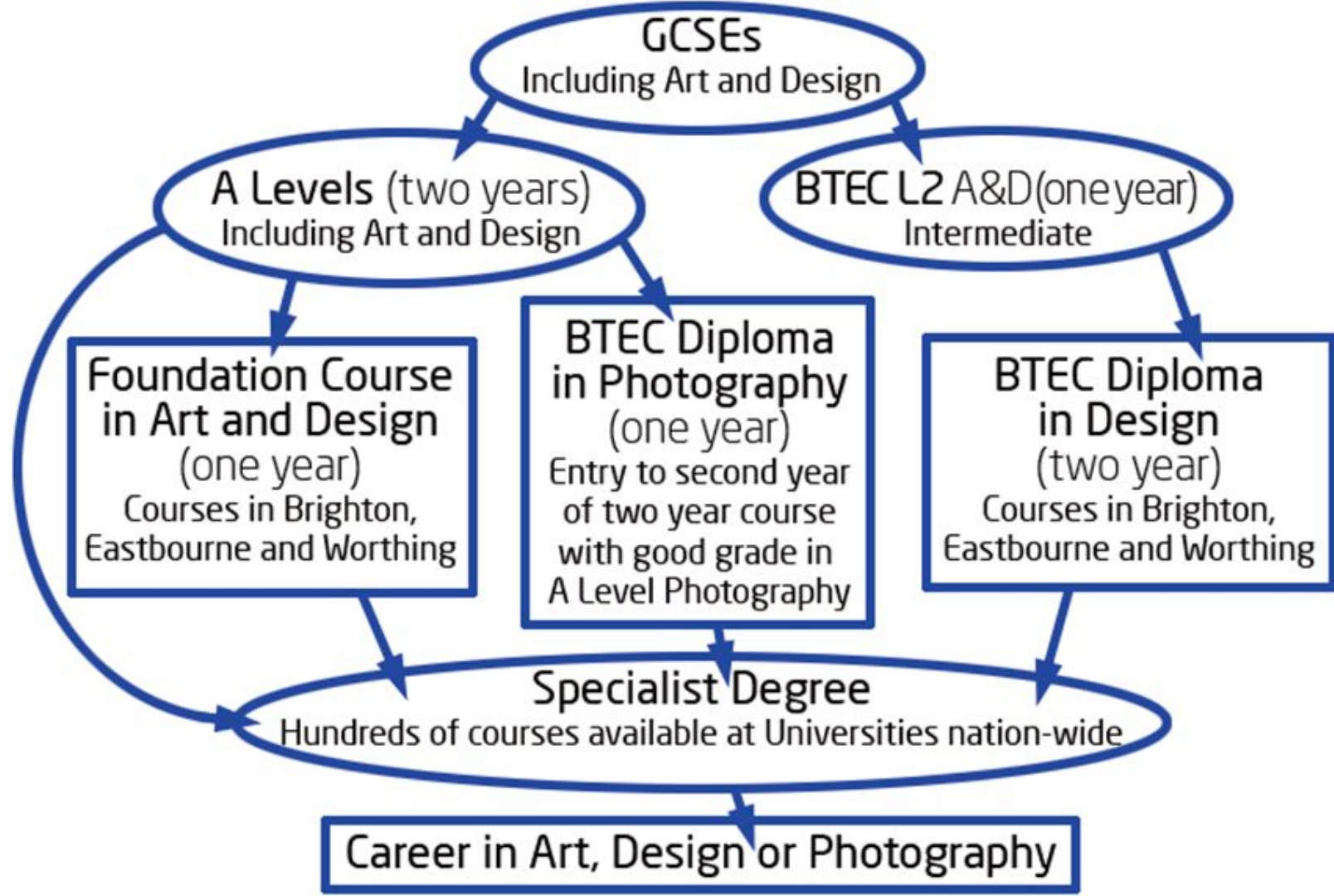


# Why study ?

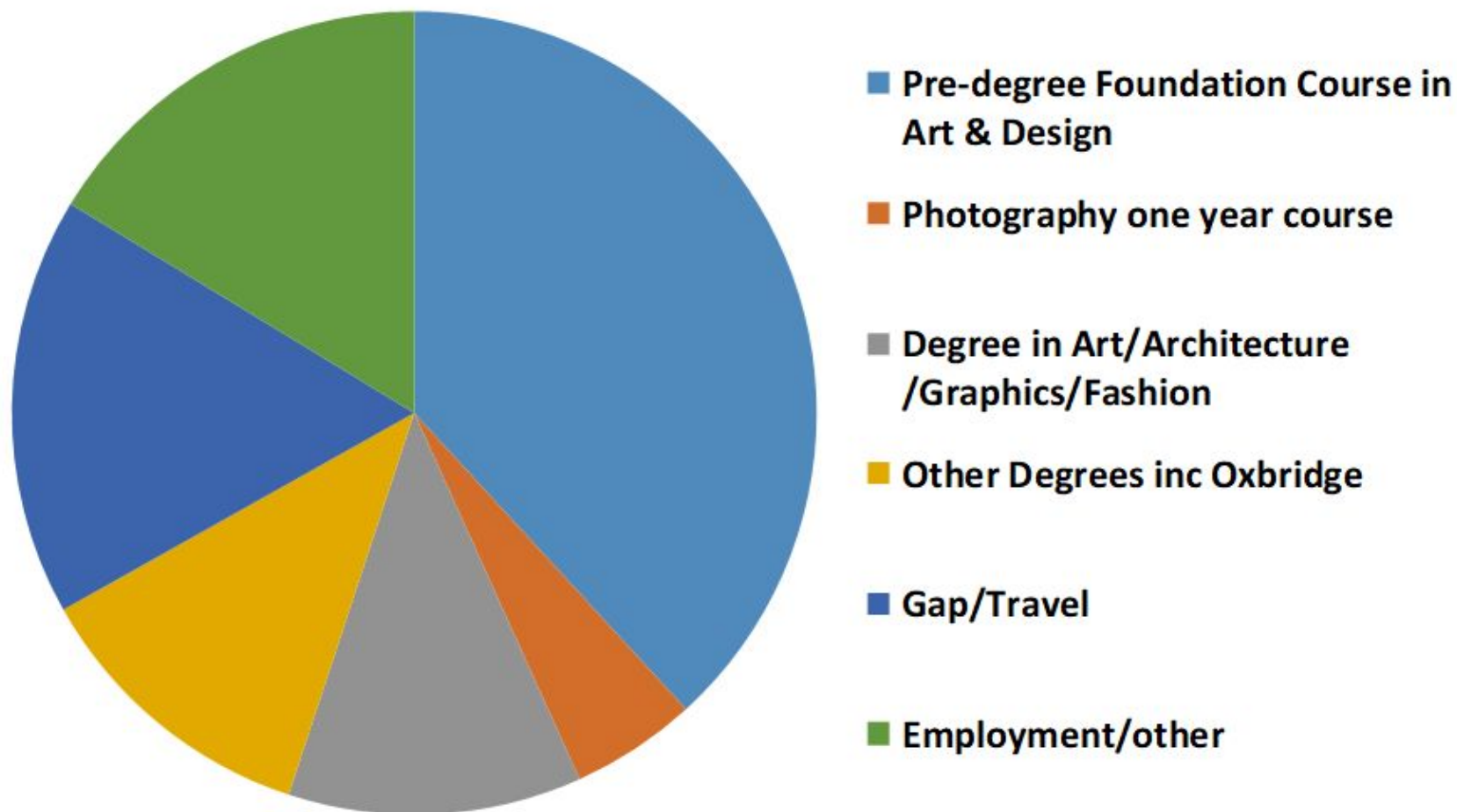
**The creative industry workforce is highly educated, with graduates making up the majority of employees within most industries.**

The workforce in the UK's creative media sectors has reached a record level of education.

- **72% of the creative workforce are highly qualified,** i.e. hold a degree/ higher level qualification (Level 4 or higher) or equivalent **compared with 45% for the whole economy** in 2019 (DCMS 2019).



## Where do Varndean Visual Arts students go?



# Why do an Art Foundation Course?



- 1000+ Degree level art/design courses in UK
- Most require/include a diagnostic/developmental Foundation Course
- Offered by universities and FE providers across the UK



# What happens on a foundation course ?



## **diagnostic**

Wide variety of skills / one week projects / broad range of practical work / group work / critical theory

## **pathways / specialist practice**

Choose from fine art, graphic communication  
Illustration and animation, fashion & textiles or  
3D

## **consolidating practice**

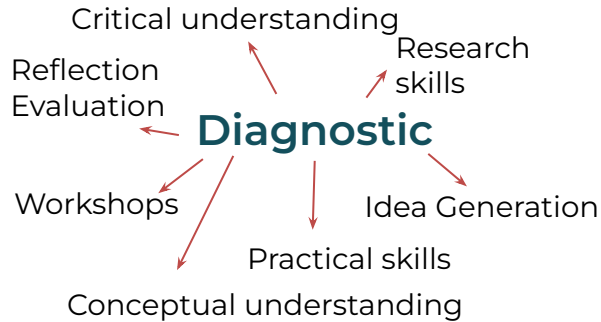
Building a portfolio, researching/preparing for progression to degree.

Students work more independently

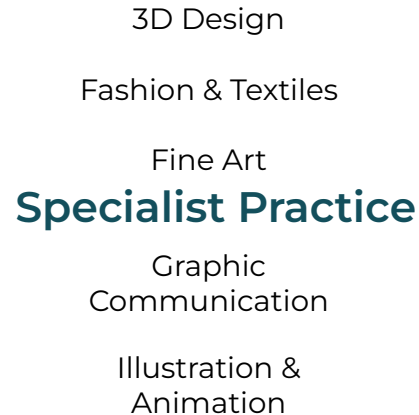
FINAL MAJOR PROJECT

an end of year public exhibition

# The Foundation Course Structure (at brighton MET)



**Taught**



**Facilitated**

**Consolidating practice**

Final  
Major  
Project

**Independent**



# CHOOSING AN ART & DESIGN FOUNDATION COURSE



## LOCAL COURSES

- Brighton MET  
<https://www.brightonmet.ac.uk/courses/art-and-design-ual-post-a-level-foundation-diploma-in-art-and-design-level-3/>
- Northbrook MET (Worthing)  
<https://www.northbrook.ac.uk/courses/art-design-ual-foundation-diploma-in-art-and-design-post-a-level-level-3-4/>
- East Sussex College (Eastbourne)  
<https://www.escq.ac.uk/courses/art-crafts-design/design/art-design-foundation-level-3-87174/>
- East Sussex College (Hastings)  
<https://www.escq.ac.uk/courses/art-crafts-design/design/art-design-foundation-level-3-86995/>



**OR DO YOU WANT TO STUDY FURTHER AFIELD?**

**OR APPLY DIRECTLY TO A DEGREE?**

**(you can apply to uni via UCAS and Art foundation in the same year)**

# MET

Formerly City College Brighton and Hove

- Many of our students do the **UAL Post A Level Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (Level 3/4)** - a one year full time course, but there is also a specialist Photography one year course and other courses on offer, including foundation degrees.
- for the UAL Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art & Design the **UCAS points** are
  - Pass 80
  - Merit 96
  - Distinction 112





# MET

Formerly City College Brighton and Hove

Apply online - Applications in before Christmas

## Entry Criteria:

- 5 x GCSEs at grade 4 or grade C, including Maths and English
- One A level or equivalent Level 3 qualification in a relevant creative subject
- A portfolio of your work.
- Entry to the course includes a portfolio review with the course leader.



# MET

Formerly City College Brighton and Hove

## What to put in your portfolio?

### **Evidence of:**

- ☐ Mark making; line, tone, colour, texture, composition
- ☐ Ability to handle different media, techniques and processes
- ☐ Inventiveness and experimentation
- ☐ Idea generation and development; concept through to realisation
- ☐ Problem solving and decision making
- ☐ An awareness of ethical design, social responsibility and sustainability
- ☐ Research – theoretical / practical - visual / written
- ☐ An interest in historical / contemporary aspects of art, design and general cultural issues
- ☐ Above all else we want to get a sense of YOU





Formerly City College Brighton and Hove

## The Interview process:

We have on average over 700 applicants each year

Applicants are invited to attend a 1-1 in person interview.

This will be with one of the Tutors, Curriculum manager or Head of Creative Industries

You will have a 20 minute interview where you will be able to discuss and present your portfolio of work and ask questions.

This will be an opportunity for us to talk to you about your work and interests.

For approx **200**  
places at  
brighton MET

+ approx **30**  
places at  
northbrook

# INTERVIEWS

Be prepared to answer questions like...

- Why do you want to do this course?
- What aspects of art and design do you enjoy?
- Why is art important?
- What was the last book you read?
- What inspires you to create?
- What artists are you interested in?
- What was the last exhibition you went to?
- What did you think of the work that won the Turner prize?
- What area do you think you want to specialise in?
- Discuss both your favourite and least successful piece of work.





# STEP-BY-STEP

## APPLYING TO ART FOUNDATION

- Begin researching courses / sign up for email alerts about open days
- Talk to year 2 students & your teachers
- Use resources in the college Careers Library
- Contact Colleges / ask questions
- Visit Open Days and Summer End of Year Exhibitions
- Attend the Art Foundation talk at college (usually Oct/Nov)
- Most apply before xmas (though it is often possible to apply later)
- folio/interviews – usually Feb/March (but can be earlier)
- Offered a place / accept your place / get your A Level grades needed
- Summer project - leading into the course starting in September.

# ART PERSONAL STATEMENT

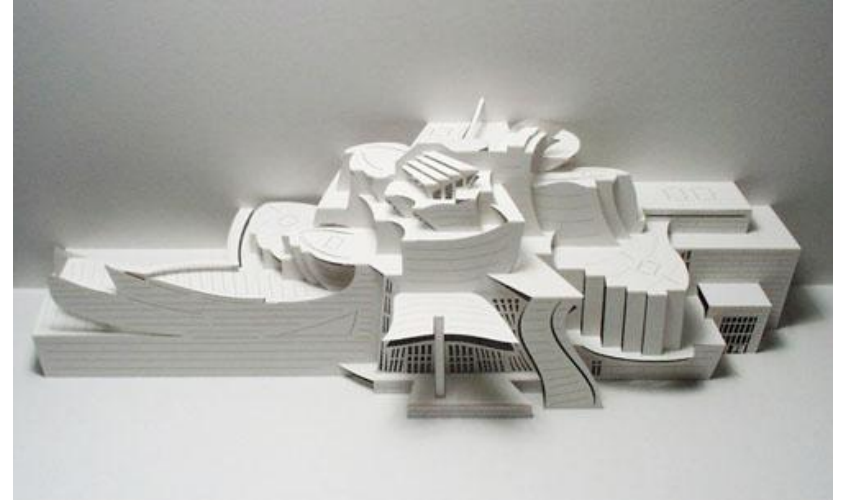
Some courses might ask you to submit a written statement

- Why do you want a place?
- What can you say about your current projects?
- What exhibitions have you seen?
- Other interests/subjects that you can talk about
- What makes you an interesting student?

+ Be prepared to talk about these things at interview

# Architecture?

- A route via an art Foundation course or **apply direct to degree** whilst at college, supported by your 3D design tutors



- Specialist portfolio projects often required by some degree courses

# Photography?

- MET has a  
separate specialist  
photography course

Photography | UAL Diploma in Art &  
Design Foundation Studies | Level 3/4

A year of photographic study that encourages inventiveness and exploration, enabling you to produce a sophisticated portfolio to progress to university or employment.

This level is for students who have already achieved at least one A-Level at grade C in a related creative subject.

Application process is similar,  
(though the photography interviews can be  
earlier than the Art Foundation ones).

Folios are usually photographic,  
though you might include design / art work if  
you have it, particularly if it includes  
photography.



# FINANCE



- No university-style tuition fees\* **if under 19 when the course starts**, but costs of materials must be met by you.

\*All 16+ (full-time) courses are free to UK residents who are under 19 years old on the 31 August of the year of entry.

If you are 19+ and interested in studying this course, you can find out more about costs and financial support by contacting the institution.

# Progression after Foundation Course

- Apply to Universities through UCAS during Foundation Course
- Late March deadline for most Art Degree applications
- Foundation course tutors guide and advise on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> choices etc.

In 2020 - at GB MET - 98% of art foundation students that applied to degree courses got an offer from their first choice!



# GAP YEAR?

- Not sure about your future?
- Foundation Courses do not hold deferred places  
– if you are applying during a year out keep working on your art / adding to your portfolio!
- Do a Foundation Course while you make your mind up?



**ex varndean college student**

**Alice Gale-Feeny**

UAL Level 3 and Level 4 Diploma in Art & Design - Foundation Studies

‘The Brighton MET Foundation course was a pivotal year for me. At the time, I remember thinking ‘this is the best year of my life so far!’

# ex varndean college student Laurie Avon

UAL Level 3 and Level 4 Diploma in Art & Design - Foundation Studies



Laurie Avon completed his Foundation at GB Met in 2015 and went on to study Illustration at Kingston University and now works as a freelance illustrator in editorial and publishing. He is also a specialist lecturer in the illustration Pathway

# How can you get a place on Art Foundation.....



- Enjoy current courses
- Work hard!
- Visit exhibitions, galleries
- Do extra - opportunities like Life Drawing and Art enrichment
- Build a successful portfolio of coursework
- Do your research and work out what is right for you.





outstanding  
Visual Arts

**Varndean**  
College Brighton & Hove