

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE FOUNDATION ART COURSES



Updated May 2013

- ◇ How to apply
- ◇ Popular courses
- ◇ Putting together your portfolio & preparing for interviews.

Art & Careers Departments

WHY APPLY FOR A FOUNDATION ART COURSE?

- Foundation studies still represent the most common route into higher education for aspiring Art and Design students.
- Most university art and design courses require applicants to have taken a one-year Foundation course prior to starting the degree course.
- Foundation Courses last one year and offer students the opportunity to explore a wide range of design areas – including painting, sculpture, graphic design, fashion & textile design, three-dimensional design and computer-aided design.
- On a Foundation Course, students learn how to research design briefs and acquire a wide range of practical skills. This gives them confidence and a greater level of critical thinking and awareness with which to then start a degree course. Crucially, the course helps students to put together an appropriate portfolio for their chosen design area.
- Choosing a Foundation course is therefore very important as it prepares the ground for the next three or four years of your education.

Direct entry to a degree course may be easier for some design areas than others, eg:

Product Design
Industrial Design
Multimedia Technology
Computer Animation
3D Design

However, in all cases check the individual course requirements carefully, and if in doubt contact the Admissions Tutor for that course.

For degree courses you need to apply through UCAS. Some courses have a closing date of 15 January and others 24 March. Use Course Search on ucas.com to check closing dates. Bear in mind Godalming College's own deadline for UCAS applications (week beginning 4 November 2013 to your personal tutor) to ensure that adequate time is allowed for checking and adding references before the deadline.

Another possible route onto a degree course is to do a combined degree. All kinds of combinations are possible, but obviously you need to have a strong interest in both areas of study.

Basically, if you want to apply straight for degree courses after 'A' Levels, check out each course carefully to see if you are eligible.



DIRECT ENTRY TO DEGREE COURSES WITH A LEVELS?

You don't want to do a Foundation Art course but would prefer to apply for a degree course in Art or a combined Art course after A levels?

Bear in mind the advice given on p2. However, it may still be possible for you to get straight on to a degree course, without doing a Foundation Course first.

4 year courses

A number of institutions offer a 4 year course with an integral Foundation year, which does away with the need to do a Foundation Course first. The first year is sometimes referred to as 'year 0'.

On UCAS Course Search www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch/, look for 4 year courses which state "incorporating Foundation Year" or similar in the title.

You may see other 4 year courses called 'sandwich' courses. Usually this means that the 3rd year is spent on an industrial placement. However, many of these courses will still expect you to have done a Foundation Course first, so check with the individual institution before applying.

- There are over 200 Foundation courses in the UK and, although many students opt to study locally, a number of Godalming College students over the last few years have started courses further away.
- Applications for Foundation courses are made directly to Colleges and **not** through UCAS.
- You can apply for as many Foundation courses as you like, although many students decide on one near home for financial reasons. Competition for places can be fierce.
- When researching your courses, check the title carefully. An Art Foundation course may be referred to as 'Foundation Studies in Art and Design' or as a 'Foundation Diploma'. Don't confuse it with a Foundation *Degree*, which is something different.
- Do go to open days! For information on open days and exhibitions, check the individual college websites. For most open days it is essential to book in advance.



RESOURCES

Books available in the Careers Dept

Getting into Art and Design Courses
University Prospectuses

Useful websites

www.ucas.com

www.unistats.com

www.opendays.com

www.creative-choices.co.uk

www.gov.uk/further-education-courses for finance information

Students should also look at the Art College section on the Careers pages of Godalming Online.



East Surrey College

Gatton Point

London Road

Redhill, Surrey RH1 2JX

www.esc.ac.uk email: **enrol@esc.ac.uk**

☎ 01737 772611

Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

The course has a reputation for providing individual care and attention to its students. New state of the art purpose built art school with a proven track record (100 years) of art school skills and values.

University College for the Creative Arts (Epsom & Farnham)

Falkner Road

Farnham

Surrey GU9 7DS

Ashley Road

Epsom

Surrey KT18 5BE

www.ucreative.ac.uk email: **admissions@ucreative.ac.uk**

☎ 01252 722441 (Farnham) or **01372 728811 (Epsom)**

Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

The Diploma is offered at all 5 sites: Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone & Rochester.

Extremely popular with Godalming students. Over 90% progress to degree courses. Successful completion of the Foundation programme guarantees you a place on a degree programme within the University College.

Oxford Brookes University

Headington Campus, Gipsy Lane

Oxford, OX3 0BT

www.brookes.ac.uk

email: foundationart@brookes.ac.uk

Tel: 01865 483499

Diploma in Foundation Studies in Art and Design

Oxford is an excellent centre for the study of art, with the Ashmolean Museum, Christ Church Picture Gallery and Modern Art Oxford easily accessible.

Ravensbourne

Penrose Way

London

SE10 0EW

www.ravensbourne.ac.uk

email: admissions@rave.ac.uk

☎ 020 3040 3998

UAL Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

Design and Media or Media Production pathways

A university sector College on a purpose built site on the Greenwich Peninsula next to the O2 Arena.

A large proportion of students stay on at Ravensbourne for undergraduate courses. Very strong in Media, TV, Film, Fashion, Graphics.



16

FINANCE

No tuition fees will be charged to Home and EU students who are under 19 years of age at the start of their course. (Overseas students should contact the institution concerned for fee details).

However, Art Foundation courses are classified as *further education* and you **won't therefore be able to apply for a student loan to cover your living expenses.**

Think carefully about how you will fund your living costs before applying to a college away from your home area. (You can, however, apply for a student loan if the course is a year 0 of a degree course which you have applied for through UCAS).

There may be bursaries available from the individual college to help support you during the course (eg for assistance with the cost of art materials or with travel costs). Look at the Finance sections on the individual colleges' websites or contact them directly if it's not clear.



5

Open Days

Check individual college websites for details of their open days and book your place in advance.

Try to visit more than one college so that you can compare the facilities.

Some questions to ask when you visit!

How is the course structured?

How much one-to-one tuition is there?

How much access will I have to studio spaces?

How successful are they at getting students onto good degree courses/jobs?

Are there trips abroad?

How much written work is there?

Is there life drawing?

Deadlines

Many application deadlines are the end of January, but **CHECK CAREFULLY.**



London Metropolitan University

Admissions Office

166-220 Holloway Road

London N7 8DB

www.londonmet.ac.uk email: admissions@londonmet.ac.uk

Tel: 020 7133 4200

The Foundation Year (Year 0) in Art, Media and Design is the first year of a 4 year extended degree programme. The Sir John Cass Dept of Art, Media & Design is located at the London City campus & offers a range of specialist art degrees. Apply through UCAS.

Loughborough University (LUSAD)

School of Art & Design

Epinal Way

Loughborough

LE11 3TU

www.lboro.ac.uk email: y.s.clayton@lboro.ac.uk

Tel: 01509 228941

Art and Design Foundation Studies

Loughborough has one of the top-ranking Art and Design Schools in the UK. Consistently high teaching quality ratings and excellent record of graduate employability.



University College Falmouth

Woodlane

Falmouth

Cornwall TR11 4RH

☎ 01326 211832

www.falmouth.ac.uk email: admissions@falmouth.ac.uk

UAL Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

Small, friendly town in an unusual environment. Wonderful place to live and work.

Kingston University

Knights Park

Kingston upon Thames

Surrey KT1 2QJ

☎ 020 8417 4090

www.kingston.ac.uk

email: foundationartanddesign@kingston.ac.uk

Art and Design (Foundation) Diploma

Kingston usually attracts a high number of applicants from Godalming students.



A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

L6 SPRING/SUMMER TERM

- Begin researching Further/Higher Education
- Look at resources in the Careers Dept and in the Careers section of Godalming Online
- Send off for prospectuses
- Attend Open Days

U6 AUTUMN TERM

- Take your 'Art Foundation Reference Request Form' to your subject teachers for them to add your predicted grades. Hand the completed form to your Personal Tutor. They will then prepare your reference.
- Download application forms from college websites/apply online.
- Prepare your Personal Statement with help from your Personal Tutor and the Art Department.
- Show your completed application to the Art Dept, your Personal Tutor and to the Careers Dept - they all need to sign the checklist.
- Hand in all completed paper-based applications to the Careers Dept with the signed checklist.
- If doing an online application, you need to put David Adelman as your referee, but make sure that the email address you give is **college@godalming.ac.uk** and **not** the email address for your tutor or for David Adelman.

**COLLEGE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS
IS
TUES 12 NOVEMBER 2013**

YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

- Outline why you want a place on the course and discuss why you enjoy the subject.
- Write about your current project—what it is that interests you about it and how you have used your sketchbook to explore different subject matter, compositions, formats etc. Refer to the wide variety of media and techniques you have experimented with.
- Mention exhibitions and galleries you have visited and discuss the work of other artists that have influenced you.
- Write about any art related experience you have, for example running art workshops for children or helping out in a gallery.
- List the other subjects you are studying and what it is that interests you about them.
- Refer to any work experience you have had and what you have learnt from it such as working as part of a team, dealing with the public, getting up early on a Saturday morning etc
- Mention any outside interests or hobbies. If it includes things like reading, listening to music or going to the cinema then be specific and discuss the kind of literature, music and films you like.
- Sum up by saying what a keen and dedicated student you are and how you are the right person for their course.

Get a rough draft done as soon as possible and let a member of the art department staff look over it.

Camberwell College of Arts

Peckham Road
London

SE5 8UF

email: info@camberwell.arts.ac.uk

Tel: 020 7514 6302

Chelsea School of Art & Design

16 John Islip St

Millbank, London SW1P 4JU

www.chelsea.arts.ac.uk

email: info@chelsea.arts.ac.uk

☎ 020 7514 7751

Wimbledon College of Art

Merton Hall Road

London

SW19 3QA

www.wimbledon.arts.ac.uk ☎ 020 7514 9641

email: info@wimbledon.arts.ac.uk

The above three colleges (CCW) are all part of the University of the Arts, London. Together they run one Foundation Course, based at Camberwell at the CCW Progression Centre, but with some specialist aspects offered at the other two sites. A YouTube film on the colleges' websites explains how the course works.

Central St Martins College of Art & Design

10 Back Hill

London

EC1R 5EN

www.csm.arts.ac.uk

email: info@csm.arts.ac.uk

☎ 020 7514 7023

Part of the University of the Arts London group.

Foundation Diploma in Art & Design

College with a distinguished international reputation. Foundation students have access to facilities at the new purpose-built development in Kings Cross/St Pancras area.

FOUNDATION ART COURSES

The following institutions have been popular in the last few years with Godalming students. There are many other Foundation Courses not included here, and we are not in a position to recommend any particular courses to you.

The Arts University College at Bournemouth

Wallisdown, Poole
Dorset. BH12 5HH
www.aucb.ac.uk email: admissions@aucb.ac.uk
Tel: 01202 363225

Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

Pathways explored include Graphic Design, 3D Design, Costume, Fashion & Textiles, Photography, Fine Art, Film Art & Production, Animation & Illustration.

City College (Brighton & Hove)

Pelham Street
Brighton
BN1 4FA
www.ccb.ac.uk email: info@ccb.ac.uk
☎ 01273 667788

Art & Design BTEC Foundation Diploma level 3/4 .

Popular with Godalming applicants in the past, the College offers progression to its own HE courses in conjunction with the University of Brighton.

Flickr Accounts

Some colleges (eg Kingston) may require you to set up a Flickr account.

This forms part of the selection process. They will ask you to upload images of your observational drawings, research and final pieces. You will need to put your Flickr name and http/URL address on your application form so that the college can view the images.

Take careful note of the instructions on the college website and of how many images they want you to upload.

Other preparatory work

Other colleges may ask you to complete a project after application (eg Falmouth).

In the case of Falmouth this forms the first stage of the selection process. You will be sent a project brief as soon as the college receives your application form, and you then have 10 days to complete the project. Successful applicants are then invited for interview, which also includes a practical exercise.



Your portfolio

- should be mounted according to the requirements of the course. Check carefully what they are asking for!
- will be looked at to assess your current enthusiasm, creativity, intellectual and practical skills and your potential for further development.
- should indicate who you are, your visual awareness, your range of interests and your level of commitment to art and design and show evidence of technical ability in a variety of areas.
- should include representative examples of work you have done as part of your programme of study, so its compilation should not be seen as an end in itself but as one of the results of your study.
- Should show evidence of your research process and the progress of your ideas.

Logical presentation is helpful, and it may be worth grouping work in categories and in chronological order. It is useful to be able to trace the development of a work, so preliminary studies are best presented with the final work. Don't include multiple colour variations of a print, for example, as quantity alone is not helpful.

Including at least one sketchbook as part of your portfolio will give the course selectors an insight into your creative potential.

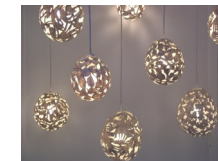


10

ART COLLEGE INTERVIEWS

Check if interview dates are given at the time you apply and make sure you will be able to attend. The style of interview will vary from college to college. It is very likely you will be asked to discuss your work and your opinions about art. Below is a list of possible questions. Avoid one word replies and always give reasons for your answers. Try and be relaxed, look them straight in the eye and come across as someone committed to your work and open to new ideas. Do not be put off if the interviewers seem bored or rush through your portfolio.

- Why do you want to study on their course?
- What aspect of art and design do you enjoy?
- Why is art important?
- What is the relationship between art and society?
- What artists are you interested in?
- Why did you choose the artist you are exploring for your critical study?
- What was the last exhibition you went to?
- What did you think of the work that won the Turner prize?
- What do you think about conceptual art?
- What area do you want to specialise in?
- Discuss both your favourite and least successful piece of work.



11