

Art Foundation Courses

The art and design foundation diploma is an introductory, bridging course that helps students make the transition from school or college to specialist art and design education, and many university art and design degree courses require applicants to have taken a one-year Art Foundation course first. Art Foundation courses offer students the opportunity to explore a wide range of design areas – including painting, sculpture, graphic design, fashion & textile design, 3D design and computer-aided design - before putting together an appropriate portfolio for their chosen design area.

An Art Foundation course may be referred to as “Foundation Studies in Art and Design” or as a “Foundation Diploma”. It will be a Level 3 or 4 course and classified as FE (Further Education) not HE (Higher Education). Don’t confuse it with a Foundation Degree, which is something different.

How to apply?

Applications for Foundation courses are made directly to each institution, whether a university or college, and **not** through UCAS. Students can apply for as many Foundation courses as they like, although many finally choose to attend one near home for financial reasons. Formal entry requirements are likely to be reasonably basic – 5GCSE passes and 1 A Level pass in a related creative subject (check each course website carefully for individual requirements) – as most require to see a portfolio of work (likely to be required in a digital format) and will base their decision on that.

More information is available to students in the Art section of the Careers’ pages on *Godalming Online*.

What finance is available?

No tuition fees are charged to Home students who are under 19 years of age on 31 August of the year of entry, but you are normally expected to pay for the necessary materials for your course. This should be made clear on the institution’s website.

However, Art Foundation courses are classified as *further education* and students **are not able to apply for a student loan to cover their living expenses**. Students need to think carefully about how they will fund their living costs before applying to a course at a college away from their home area.

What are the courses like?

The best way to find out is to visit. Check individual college websites (several are listed below) for details of their open days. These are often oversubscribed and you will need to book a place in advance.

Where to study Art Foundation Courses?

The following institutions have been popular in the last few years with Godalming students:

UCA - University for the Creative Arts (includes the colleges at Epsom & Farnham. Individual applications are made to each college.)

<https://www.uca.ac.uk/>

UAL - University of the Arts London (There are two Art Foundation courses available at UAL – you can only apply to one.)

- **Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design**
<https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins>
- **Camberwell, Chelsea and Wimbledon Colleges (CCW)**
based at the CCW Progression Centre at Camberwell
College of Arts in South London.
<https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/camberwell-college-of-arts>

Arts University Bournemouth

<https://aub.ac.uk/>

Kingston University

<https://www.kingston.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/art-design-media-practice-foundation-diploma/>

Oxford Brookes University

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/art-and-design-foundation>

Greater Brighton Metropolitan College (MET)

<https://www.gbmc.ac.uk/>

Loughborough University (LUSAD)

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/aed/foundation/>

Leeds Arts University

<https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/>

Manchester Metropolitan University

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/>

Ravensbourne

<https://www.ravensbourne.ac.uk/>

East Surrey College (Reigate School of Art)

<https://www.esc.ac.uk/home>