

Nottingham College Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1	Awarding Institution	Nottingham Trent University
2	Faculty/Campus	Creative Arts / City
3	Final Award	Foundation Degree Fine Art Practice
	Course Title	FdA Fine Art Practice
	Modes of Study	Full-time
4	Normal Duration	Full-time 2 years
5	UCAS code	Institution Code: N30 Campus Code: C UCAS Course Code: WW16

6 Overview and general educational aims of the course

The Fine Art course has been designed to enable you to pursue personal creative practice. You can embrace a full range of disciplines, working in materials and methods of your choice, including: drawing, painting, printmaking, illustration, photography, installation, intervention and performance. You will develop your creativity through projects that stimulate and challenge, while allowing you the time and space to develop your work.

Whilst primarily focusing on practical workshops and personal studio work, you will develop an academic understanding of both historical and contemporary ideas and debates. This is through the study of other fine art practitioners (both historical and contemporary), and engagement with relevant ideas and concepts in the development of critical thinking and self-reflection. The course ethos is a student-centred, broad-based explorative approach to the development of a creative practice. The course aims to promote creativity and critical reflective practice in all aspects of learning. The course promotes an enquiring, creative and challenging approach towards the making of individual work. Exploration and innovation are seen as essential to the development of creative ideas and content, which in turn promote reflective individual fine art practice.

Further, the Fine Art Practice course is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to pursue a career within the creative and cultural industries. This involves study of subjects such as business opportunities, marketing, self-promotion, funding and the legal issues. You will be meet guest speakers who will share how they make their living within the creative industries. As well as developing subject specific knowledge, you will be supported to develop a range of general transferable skills, such as problem solving, critical analysis, and negotiation and communication skills, to prepare you for general employment.

General Educational Aims

- to provide you with the opportunities to undertake creative fine art practice
- to develop the materials, technical and process knowledge and skills that enable the production of artwork
- to engage with the concepts and critical theories relevant to fine art practice
- to develop skills and knowledge of the professional and entrepreneurial aspects of pursuing and sustaining fine art practice
- to develop the abilities to work and develop both independently and as an effective team member
- to develop the abilities to respond to the requirements and demands of a brief
- to develop abilities in becoming an independent learner, with problem-solving, time management, communication and personal organisation skills
- to develop the knowledge and skills required to effectively self-reflect as an emerging creative practitioner, and to give consideration to personal and professional development
- to prepare you for progression to BA Honours study or employment

7 Course Learning Outcomes

The course outcomes have been developed with reference to the QAA Art and Design subject benchmark statement (Feb 2017) and the QAA Foundation Degree Characteristics statements (Sept 2015). Learning outcomes focus on preparing students for the academic rigour of continuing study at degree level, and therefore references have been made to both.

Knowledge and understanding. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- A1** Demonstrate appropriate knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and contextual ideas and issues that inform and underpin fine art practice [**A B**]
- A2** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the working methods, and technical and process skills that enable and support creative practice [**A B**]
- A3** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the fine art practitioner within society, both as a creative and as a commercial professional [**A B**]

Skills, qualities and attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- B1** Demonstrate the ability to identify, investigate and interrogate subjects of personal significance in creating and sustaining a creative body of artwork [**A B**]
- B2** Produce artwork as a thoroughly researched and considered personal response to a brief (whether tutor-set, self-initiated or client-set [**A**]
- B3** Negotiate and communicate with tutors, clients, partners, shareholders et al to instigate, create and present artwork within agreed settings and/or parameters [**A**]
- B4** Demonstrate the creative, technical and process skills that enable the production of artwork [**A B**]
- B5** Evaluate and reflect upon the effectiveness of the artwork produced, audience and client/commissioner response, and consider how this may inform personal and professional development [**A B**]

These learning outcomes have been written taking into consideration of a range of benchmarks, including:

QAA Foundation degree characteristics statement (2015)

QAA Subject benchmark statement: Art and design (2017)

All outcomes marked (A) are from the Foundation Degree Characteristics Statement
All outcomes marked (B) are from the Art and Design Subject Benchmark Statement

8 Teaching and Learning Methods

Your studies will revolve around practical project work that may be set by tutors or external partners, or be self-initiated and negotiated. This is supported by workshop demonstrations, lectures, seminars, tutorials (group and 1:1) and other supporting activities. You will demonstrate your learning via the project work that you produce, and also by the way that you can demonstrate the ability to critically self-reflect upon your own work and the work of others.

You will learn in different ways, both as part of a team but also as an independent learner. There is an expectation that you will increasingly take responsibility for your own learning as you move towards pursuing a professional career within the creative and cultural industries.

Academic and work related learning

The programme includes modules of study in work-related and work-based learning. These contribute to providing a 'real life' focus to learning and teaching, and help you understand the challenges and opportunities available in the workplace.

Teaching methods include:

- Specialist fine art tuition in studios and workshops (and other facilities and settings)
- Workshop inductions and demonstrations to develop practical applications
- Specialist demonstrations to support acquisition of new skills
- Lectures for delivery of subject-based theory and methodologies
- Seminars to support delivery of theory and methodologies and stimulate debate and academic enquiry
- Visits to relevant workplaces (like studios, galleries, community projects etc)
- Working with peers, tutors and external partners on work-related and work-based learning projects
- Group critiques to stimulate critical reflection and evaluation
- Team working to develop interpersonal skills
- Independent study and work to cultivate work ethic and sense of responsibility for achieving own learning aims
- Student presentations to peers to facilitate communication, transferable and interpersonal skills
- Group and individual tutorials to support progress and achievement

Learning methods include:

- Practical engagement with activities
- Demonstration of practical skills via the production of project work
- Planning and undertaking research activities
- Contributing to sessions proactively and appropriately
- Engaging with external organisations, clients and groups
- Engaging with work-related and work-based projects
- Successful completion of set projects and activities
- Challenging own practical and intellectual skills via exploration and experimentation to achieve outcomes
- Utilising directed private study time usefully and proactively to enhance achievement
- Engaging with peers, tutors and external partners to develop interpersonal skills

9 Assessment Methods

The project work that you are set is mapped against the learning outcomes of the course modules. In order to achieve your qualification, your tutors ensure that you have clear opportunities to meet all of the learning outcomes and to demonstrate this in your work. The work includes practical projects, the production of artefacts, the production of research and supporting materials, and written work that demonstrates academic, professional and self-reflective abilities.

The level of your attainment, and opportunities to progress in your learning, are identified via your project grades. The grading categories will be identified in your project briefs.

The completion of practical projects usually involves a group critique, where students look at and comment upon each other's work along with their tutor. This allows for discussion with regard to targeted learning outcomes, and with regard to improving practice and performance. The 'crit' is followed by 1:1 progress tutorials where assessment is used to set realistic and achievable targets.

Your first-year grade accounts for 20% of your final mark and your second year grade is 80%.

Assessment methods include:

- Production of artefacts
- Written work and production of other documents
- Sketchbooks / workbooks (self-development, exploration, reflection, team work, individual skills and so on)
- Presentations (group, individual, one-to-one)

10 Course structure and curriculum – Full-time

The Fine Art Practice course comprises of 4 modules that have been designed to complement and inform each other over the two years of study. There are 2 modules in Year 1 and 2 modules in Year 2.

Modules are of two types:

- Academic and Work related
- Specialist skills/knowledge and Work based

Year 1, Level 4 Modules

Module code	Module title	Credit points	Delivery
FAP401	Critical and Professional Studies 1	30	Semester 1 & 2 year 1
FAP402	Studio Practice 1	90	Semester 1 & 2 year 1

Year 2, Level 5 Modules

Module code	Module title	Credit points	Delivery
FAP501	Critical and Professional Studies 2	30	Semester 1 & 2 year 1
FAS502	Studio Practice 2	90	Semester 1 & 2 year 1

Students successfully completing all required Level 4 and Level 5 modules will obtain a Foundation Degree (240 credit points). Students who only successfully complete 120 credit points will be eligible for a Higher Certificate in Fine Art Practice.

LEVEL 4 MODULES

FAP401 CRITICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES 1

This is a taught lecture programme that will cover contemporary themes within Fine Art Practice. The emphasis will be on critical studies in element 1. In element 2 a mixture of Guest lecturers input and case studies will provide opportunities for you to both to meet with arts and business professionals and gain knowledge and understanding of the sector. You will take part in group discussion and begin to develop abilities in critical thinking, analysis and reflection about your work and employment opportunities.

You will keep full and documented research from the lecture programme and from further personal research.

FAP402 STUDIO PRACTICE 1

This module will allow you to develop a sustained body of artwork that is a personal response to briefs; this is the framework for experimentation, negotiation and making

You will undertake practical work in studios and workshops, and in other appropriate locations, supported by specialist tuition and guidance, and participate in a series of workshop activities that will introduce numerous materials and processes used by fine artists.

You will develop skills in handling materials and processes, and reflect upon the choices made when pursuing working methods. You will critically reflect upon the research and development of your ideas and the context of your work, and communicate in critical debate

LEVEL 5 MODULES

FAP501 CRITICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES 2

Moving on from Year 1, in Element 1 there will be a taught lecture programme that will cover themes, concepts and methodologies relevant to historical and contemporary fine art practice You will take part in group discussion and demonstrate a command of skills in critical thinking, analysis and reflection. In Element 2 you will focus of professional practice and examine practical strategies of developing work opportunities, reacting to exhibition opportunities and funding your art.

You will keep full and documented research from the lecture programme (and from further personal research), and produce written work that demonstrates that you can situate and contextualise your own developing studio practice and future aspirations

FAP502 STUDIO PRACTICE 2

This module enables you to focus upon concepts you have identified as central to your work, and to concentrate on developing work through informed making. This takes place in studios and workshops, and other appropriate sites You will understand the restrictions of working in a given site and engage with safe working practices, and undertake delegated roles within the group.

Tutorial and seminar discussions support the identification and sustaining of productive working procedures as part of the approach to building a distinctive and personal body of work. This will culminate in an end of course exhibition and showcase each student's individual artistic identity and interests

11 Admission to the course

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age on application.

Admissions are considered from students who have:

- Diploma in Foundation studies Art and Design
- 2+ A Levels at D with one being in an Art and Design based subject
- BTEC/UAL L3 Diploma or Extended Diploma in Art and Design or a related subject
- International Baccalaureate
- Mature students with relevant experience and/or qualifications, including Access to HE Diploma within Art and Design, are welcome to apply.

All suitable applicants will be asked to submit a portfolio/e-portfolio of relevant work or equivalent as evidence of their capability to sustain the course successfully. Candidates not able to do this may be required to sit assessments of their ability to complete the course satisfactorily.

International applicants will require an equivalent Level 3 qualification and may require an IELTS score of at least 5.5, with no component less than 5.0, in addition to the standard entry criteria. Equivalent scores from other English language tests will be considered. Additional support for speakers of languages other than English is provided in two ways; general academic English classes and technical tutorials. These technical tutorials give international students the opportunity to have technical language further explained. Non-UK qualifications will be assessed in comparison to their UK equivalents.

The course meets the requirements for widening participation and lifelong learning. The entry criteria encourage applications from a range of candidates including non-traditional HE applicants and meet the needs of a diverse range of learners.

Accreditation of Prior Learning

Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (APEL) will be available for applicants who have substantial experience in the Fashion sector and are able to provide evidence of their previous attainment of specific learning outcomes. Guidance will be taken from NTU's Quality Handbook relating to Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL), which includes specific guidance on APEL for admission with advanced standing. Additionally, guidance on the definitions and boundaries, policies and procedures will be taken from the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Chapter B6: Assessment of Students and the Recognition of Prior Learning. Any APEL decisions will be formally reported to the Examination Board.

Students who have recent relevant vocational experience and who have previously covered required competences and/or underpinning knowledge and understanding will be considered as individual cases.

Students who have achieved the outcomes identified for a whole module prior to joining the course will be eligible to apply for accreditation of prior learning. This will involve the accumulation by the student of a portfolio of evidence to support the application, which will be assessed during the interview process by the Course Leader in consultation with the relevant Module Leader. The module will be recorded as a Pass.

12 Support for learning

- Students undertake a Nottingham College induction delivered by the HE Centre team and a course induction delivered by the course team including course information and assessment, individual and group taster tasks, familiarisation with facilities etc.
- Key demonstrations are delivered and relevant handouts uploaded to the course interact page for students to reference.
- Sessions beyond the lecture series are timetabled where staff will review and 'workshop' written work prior to submission. This will clarify criteria and check work is on track. Students are also encouraged to form 'Study Buddy' groups out of taught sessions
- Trips during the year to related exhibitions also provide a valuable opportunity for more informal integration and the development of a sense of course community within the group
- Weekly group/individual tutorials, with fine art specialists, cover discussions on assessment process, health and wellbeing, time management, individual progress reviews etc.
- The needs of individual students are central to Nottingham College's vision to enable all students to develop and achieve whilst considering the diversity of the student cohort fairness and accessibility for all.
- The College and course team are keen to remove all obstacles to learning and achievement. Any Students with a particular needs will meet periodically with the course leader and their support tutor to discuss specific issues which may impact on learning and achievement. With permission information is then disseminated to the course team as required.
- Achievement and attendance are tracked and closely monitored and reviewed regularly by the course leader and at course team meetings
- Career and employment progression opportunities are discussed and researched within FAP501 and FAP502. The writing of CVs, personal statements and other applications are also covered.
- Students can access wellbeing support from the department's Learning Achievement Coach.

13 Graduate destinations/employability

Successful completion of the FdA enables you to apply for progression to Nottingham College's top up BA Honours third year. There are other 'top-up' degrees available throughout the country.

You may also apply to progress onto Year 2 or 3 study on the BA Honours programme at NTU (within the School of Art & Design).

You may choose to pursue relevant employment within the creative and cultural industries. The involvement with external practitioners and organisations during the programme will facilitate making contacts and networking within the industries.

You may choose to follow an employment path using wider skills you have learnt throughout the course. Some graduates go on to set up their own small business ventures and pursue the industrial links that were part of their course of study.

14 Course standards and quality

- The course team monitors student feedback on module delivery via HE Learner Voice Forum, the National Student Survey (NSS), online module feedback sheets, student representative attending the course team meetings, group tutorials and discussions
- Feedback is given on all assessed work and ongoing formative feedback during studio sessions
- Assessment is reviewed by an internal verifier, the courses independent External Examiner and a Nottingham Trent Academic Liaison who monitor the standard of students work and the delivery of the course; they both submit an annual report on the standards and quality of the course
- A Course Standards and Quality Report (CSQR) and action plan is produced each year and progress on action points carefully monitored
- The Foundation Degree Characteristics statements and BA Benchmark statements by the Quality Assurance Agency have informed the course's learning outcomes
- Student marks are presented formally at the Examination Board for ratification at the end of each academic year.

15 Assessment regulations

This course is subject to Nottingham College's HE Assessment Policy (located in the Handbook for Higher Education Students), a copy of which will be made available to you at induction.

All grades and decisions will be subject to ratification by the end of year Examination Board

16 Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):	Nottingham Trent University
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Foundation Degree Characteristics Statement; Art and Design subject benchmark statement
Date implemented:	September 2018