

NOTTINGHAM COLLEGE



Central College
Nottingham



Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Creative Arts /City: 25 Stoney Street
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	Foundation degree Arts (FdA) in Fine Art Practice (full time)
4.	Normal Duration:	2 years
5.	UCAS Code:	WW16

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

Overview

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, performance and digital technologies. You will develop your creativity through projects that stimulate and challenge, while allowing you the time and space to develop your work.

Alongside practical workshops and personal studio work, you will develop your own creative practices with an academic understanding of both historical and contemporary ideas and issues. 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.

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, marketing, self-promotion, e-commerce, funding and the law.

Individuals develop, therefore, as creative practitioners with knowledge and skills in professional practice and entrepreneurship relevant to pursuing employment.

Fine Art Practice is an 'outward-looking' programme and has been developed in collaboration with a range of partners who make an important contribution to the ethos and delivery of the programme.

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 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 outcomes

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- KU1** Demonstrate appropriate knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and contextual ideas and issues that inform and underpin fine art practice [**A B**]
- KU2** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the working methods, and technical and process skills that enable and support creative practice [**A B**]
- KU3** 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:

- SQA1** Demonstrate the ability to identify, investigate and interrogate subjects of personal significance in creating and sustaining a creative body of artwork [**A B**]
- SQA2** Produce artwork as a thoroughly researched and considered personal response to a brief (whether tutor-set, self-initiated or client-set) [**A**]
- SQA3** Negotiate and liaise with tutors, clients, partners, shareholders et al to instigate, create and present artwork within agreed settings and/or parameters [**A**]

SQA4 Demonstrate the creative, technical and process skills that enable the production of artwork [**A B**]

SQA5 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, often 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.

All the staff who teach you on the Fine Art course are active practitioners and artists.

Work-related and work-based 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 (studios, galleries, community projects and so on)

- Working with peers, tutors and external partners on work-related and work-based learning projects (WRL and WBL)
- 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
- Guest lecturers to offer alternative view points and approaches and to stimulate academic debate
- 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 (WRL and WBL)
- 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 are:

%	
70 – 100	Distinction
60 – 69	Commendation
40 – 59	Pass
35 – 39	Marginal fail
0 - 34	Fail

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.

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

The Fine Art Practice course comprises 9 modules that have been designed to complement and inform each other over the two years of study. There are 4 modules in Year 1 and 5 modules in Year 2.

Modules are of four types:

- Academic skills (AS modules)
- Specialist skills and knowledge (SSK modules)
- Work related learning (WRL modules)
- Work based learning (WBL modules)

Course Structure by Module (with level and credit value)

Academic Skills

30 credits

- **AS1** Critical Studies 1 (level 4 - 15)
- **AS2** Critical Studies 2 (level 5 - 15)

Specialist Skills/Knowledge

145 credits

- **SSK1** Materials and Processes (level 4 - 35)
- **SSK2** Studio Practice 1 (level 4 - 50)
- **SSK3** Studio Practice 2 (level 5 - 60)

Work Related Learning

35 credits

- **WRL 1** Professional Practice and Entrepreneurship 1 (level 4 - 20)
- **WRL2** Professional Practice and Entrepreneurship 2 (level 5 - 15)

Work Based Learning

30 credits

- **WBL1** Site-specific 'Experiential' Commission (level 5 - 20)
- **WBL2** Presenting and Exhibiting Artwork (level 5 - 10)

11. Admission to the course

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

Candidates should have a level three qualification related to the study of Fine Art Practice (BTEC BND or similar) or a minimum of two A levels at D level or above on entry. The UCAS tariff for this course is 48.

All candidates must have a portfolio of artwork and related materials (sketchbooks, photographs, research files, written work and so on) to present at interview.

All candidates must be able to demonstrate an understanding of fine art and the broader visual arts, and be able to indicate what they expect to achieve from the course. Some students who have a limited range of work may be set designated work by the interviewee and be re-interviewed following completion of this work.

All candidates must have GCSE in English at grade C or above (or equivalent).

All mature applicants will be considered on the merit of their work, experience and suitability. APL (Accreditation of prior learning) may be available to those mature students who have evidence that demonstrates significant abilities in specific areas. This will be discussed through a formal interview with the Programme Coordinator. The applicant may be asked to provide evidence and/or be asked to demonstrate skills / ability (see section 7 Accreditation of prior learning).

All candidates must apply through UCAS. All applicants will be interviewed.

Non-UK qualifications will be assessed in comparison to their UK equivalents.

12. Support for Learning

Support for learning is an important part of the students experience on the course. This is facilitated through the following procedures:

Personal Tutors:

You will be allocated a personal tutor at the beginning of the course. He or she will take especial interest in both your academic and pastoral needs, and will meet with you in programmed 1:1 tutorials. Your personal tutor will look out for your best interests and will seek to resolve any issues you have – as well as celebrating your successes.

Online Information:

The College and the course has a learning portal where all course projects, hand outs, course assessment and course structure materials can be located via a password given to students at the start of the

course.

Student Support Department:

There is a student support office where all students can go to request help in a number of ways. These may be financial issues, personal issues and other issues where students feel need for an external member of the College who is trained to give such help.

13. Graduate destinations / employability

Successful completion of the FdA enables you to progress to Year 2 or 3 study on the BA Honours Fine Art programme at NTU (within the School of Art & Design), or 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.

14. Course standards and quality

You will be given detailed written and verbal feedback on all assessed work.

A sample of assessed work is Internally Verified/double marked by another tutor.

An External Examiner approved by Nottingham Trent University visits the College and checks the standards and quality of provision, with an annual report submitted to NTU as awarding institution.

A Nottingham Trent University Verifier will also monitor and report on the standards and quality of the course on behalf of the awarding institution.

Student feedback and opinion is sought throughout the course through student committees and module questionnaires.

Consultation with industry partners has provided an important 'soundboard' in identifying and honing relevant and useful learning outcomes with real and practical value within the workplace. Partners were particularly valuable in this regard and discussions fruitfully revolved around the 'what, how and why'. This very much helped the emergence of a distinctive flavour for the Foundation Degree.

The course coordinator coordinates the design, organisation, delivery of the modules and the assessment of students and is expected to actively model best practice in course management and delivery.

15. Assessment regulations

The assessment regulations for Foundation degree programmes at Central College are outlined clearly in the Colleges Higher Education: Principles of Assessment policy.

Specifically, the assessment regulations for the Foundation degree shall be those of the NTU Quality Handbook section 16B. Available at:

http://www4.ntu.ac.uk/adq/quality_handbook/handbook_sections/index.html

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 2015; Subject benchmark statement for Art and Design 2017
Course recognised by:	
Date implemented:	September 2017
Any additional information:	

If a student is unable to complete the full two levels of the FdA (but has successfully completed level 1), NTU may consider the award of a Higher Certificate. This would be a contingency award only. A student may not set out to achieve this qualification at the commencement of study. Partial achievement of level 2 could be taken into consideration in the award of a Higher Certificate