

**L3 Applied General Extended Diploma in Art & Design**

**FAQ’s**

**I only did one art subject as school, is this a problem?**

No – some of you will have done art, others textiles, graphics, photography or design technology. The course it tailored to upskill you in all areas in year one. You will explore a broad range of media, techniques and processes so you become very familiar with the art department and use a number of different classrooms and studios.

**I’m not very good on computers, will I have to use a MAC?**

Yes – in year one you will have lessons in digital media as well as drawing, printmaking, painting, textiles, sewing, 3D, ceramics, metal work, photography and loads of others! It is important that you learn how to use the MAC and make digital outcomes because many professional artists and designers need these skills to work and compete in their field. Also, you will need these skills at university, many courses now incorporate digital media for example digital textile design. You will learn Photoshop and Illustrator and how to put together a PowerPoint to present your work to the exam board for assessment.

**I didn’t like some of the projects I did at school – can I do what I want for projects on this course?**

In year one, you will be given ‘themes’ to respond to, and you can interpret these creatively. You will be introduced to a range of artist/designer/illustrator/photographer work during the first year, and we use these to inspire the style and concept of your work. We encourage all students to explore their personal interests and develop a personal style while still meeting the exam board criteria, so there’s a balance between the two.

In year two, students have a lot more freedom and the final project is called the ‘Final Major Project’ (FMP), where students write their own brief and work in a style, media that they enjoy and excel in.

**I want to be a tattoo artist, can I make tattoo designs?**

Over the years several of our students have gone on to become tattoo artists. You are able to explore tattoo art and body art as part of your project research, it has an interesting history with strong social, religious, political and cultural contexts so we expect you to take an interest in this. But alongside this research, you will undertake wider reading around your themes, we expect you to remain open minded about your art work and how it will develop. If, after all your research, you still end up developing tattoo art, then it will be underpinned by your wider reading and there will be a clear visual link in your designs and final outcomes.

**How will I present my work?**

Students work mainly in sketchbooks but also in blogs, on loose sheets and in PowerPoint presentations. You must only buy your sketchbooks in the college shop because we order them in from special art materials providers, with carefully selected paper type and sizes. They are sold cheaply and are good quality.

**I’m not good at drawing – is there a lot of drawing on this course?**

Most art projects start off with drawing, drawing is a vital skill in art and design to gather research and develop ideas. Some artists also use drawing in their final outcomes, illustrations or design work. There are many types of drawing; architectural, design, digital, observational, fashion illustration, expressive etc. etc. You will explore all of them and become good at the ones that are most relevant to you and those that you practice more. Universities expect to see drawing in your portfolio. You are taught drawing skills and teachers understand that some of you are better at it than others because some students have never done drawing at GCSE and other have.

**Is there a lot of writing on the course?**

You will be taught how to reflect on your own work and progress – you are assessed on your ability to evaluate your work, identify areas to improve and solve problems. Students capture these thoughts and views in written annotation – so that a moderator knows ‘what’s in your head!’ You will use the work of other artists/designers/illustrators to inspire your own work. You need to analyse this work to show you understand their ideas, techniques and what influenced their work. Also, as part of your research, you will read around topics and write up your findings – it is this information which helps inspire the concept/message in your design work.

**Do I need a Mac or camera at home for this course?**

You will be timetabled normally over 4 days. Within each day, there are ‘study periods’ where you can borrow cameras and access Macs in classrooms and college study zones. In the library, you can book a Mac in advance. You will have one day a week which is a ‘Study day’; Visual Arts students often chose to come to college on this day to gain access to materials and equipment they do not have at home. Some students who particularly enjoy digital techniques opt to buy the Adobe software for use on their home pc/laptop, seeing this as something they will need as part of their career. However, this is not essential to complete the course.

**What costs are there on the course?**

All students at Runshaw are given £10 print credit each year. In Visual Arts, we recognise that a lot of printing will be in colour, and therefore, you will use this print credit quicker than a student doing Business studies! Therefore, we ‘top-up’ your college print credit with an additional £10. At the start of the course, you will be given a ‘kit list’ which shows what basic materials/equipment we expect you to have. We source this kit to ensure we get the best price for quality goods – so at the start of the year, you can purchase this kit through our technician. For trips we organise, you would be expected to pay for the travel and any entry to galleries/locations. For example, for this year’s Blackpool trip, students paid £10. You can apply for a bursary to support you with costs related to your studies/course – this is means tested and completed by the Study Support team.

**What can I progress onto after doing this course?**

This course is the equivalent to completing 3 A levels, so your options for progression could be onto University, employment or apprenticeship. Past students have progressed onto degree’s in Graphic Design, Illustration, Architecture, Photography, Animation, Advertising, Film, Fashion marketing, teaching, Concept design, Gaming, Art therapy, Digital marketing, Botanical/scientific Illustration, fine art, 3D and product design, theatre and costume design, textiles, fashion or fashion brand promotion - to name just a few! Some students enter onto our Foundation Art Diploma – this is a 1 year course which will enable you to further develop your skills and knowledge. It will also help your decision for progression and if you aim to apply for prestigious universities, your portfolio of work will be advanced beyond the Level 3 course. Some of our students decide to enter onto apprenticeships and others set up as Freelance designers.

**How is the course structured?**

In year 1, you will complete your Diploma, in year 2 your Extended Diploma. In the first part of year 1, you will complete projects which aim to teach you the broad range of practical skills you need. In the second part of year 1, UAL sets a ‘theme’ for the assessed Unit 1. You work on this project from February in year 1, during classes and study periods/homework. The exam is where you present your work visually and write your reflective annotations – so there is no revision needed to sit the exam!

The grade you achieve for Unit 1 is your Diploma grade and is 50% of your Extended Diploma.

In year 2, you will complete a Final Major Project – this is a personal project, so students write their own ‘brief’ and work in media/techniques/theme they enjoy/excel in.

To read the full qualification specification – please click the link below -

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/partnerships/ual-awarding-body/qualifications/art-and-design/level-3-applied-general-diploma-and-extended-diploma-in-art-and-design>

Have another question?

Please email Amanda Lavery, year 1 course leader – lavery.a@runshaw.ac.uk and I’ll get back to you!