

IMPACT SUMMARY

ALL ACCESS AUB: PORTFOLIO SUPPORT SESSIONS

OVERVIEW

Our Portfolio Support Sessions are the second activity in our All Access AUB programme. Designed to build confidence around portfolios, these allow prospective students to book up to two 1-1 online sessions with tutors from the summer residential, helping them build a strong, creative showcase of their work that'll support their application to Higher Education (HE).



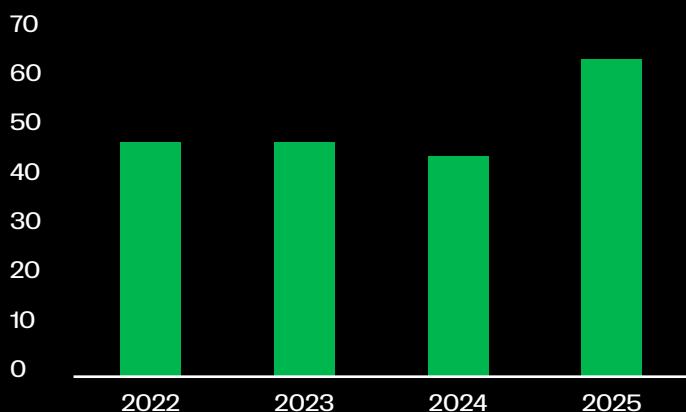
PROMOTION AND RECRUITMENT

Our A&P staff and tutors introduce students to this opportunity during the summer residential, followed up by emails with additional information around booking sessions and the benefits of attending. We also contact teachers, who'll support and encourage students to take part.

PARTICIPANTS

We've seen consistent engagement with our Portfolio Support Sessions over the last few years. From 2022-23, 47% of students took part, with a slight drop in 2024 to 44%. In contrast, 2025 saw an increase with 63% attending at least one session. It's worth noting that there are no evident patterns related to eligibility criteria, gender or home location.

% Engagement of participants with portfolio support



SUCCESSSES

Results to our pre- and post-session surveys have shown an increased score across all questions, though only six participants completed the post-event survey compared to 14 completing the pre-event survey, so comparisons may be unreliable to draw. Despite this, the overall response to our Portfolio Support Sessions has been overwhelmingly positive.

Here are a selection of comments from students who've all taken part:

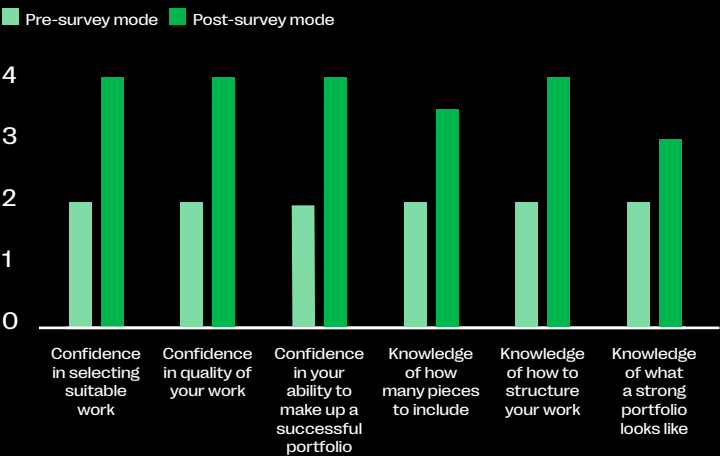
- “Clearer understanding of how to present my work, of what to include (both work and annotation wise). More confidence in my application.”
- “Helped my confidence with work that I was unsure whether or not to include, and gave me ideas of things to add in. To begin with I wasn’t sure I was going along the right lines with my portfolio, but the sessions made me feel a lot better about the entire process and made it less intimidating.”
- “I now know to include more pieces in my portfolio that show the theory behind textiles, including experiments with samples of fabric and trends research in colour and pattern. My portfolio should not just include the final product but the experimentation and research that went into this.”

Additional feedback included:

- “It was very helpful!!! Thank you very much for the opportunity.”
- “The portfolio sessions were so valuable! It was absolutely perfect!”

One participant also suggested longer or additional sessions – this is difficult due to resourcing, though this was provided alongside already positive feedback.

Modal change between the pre-event and post-event survey



LEARNING AND NEXT STEPS

Overall, our All Access AUB Portfolio Support Sessions have shown increased engagement and participants leaving with higher confidence around putting together a strong, creative portfolio for applying to HE.

The number of participants attending a second session remains a challenge. Potential improvements could include dedicated emails for parents and carers, which is now possible due to developments within our CRM system, as well as recorded video testimonials from previous participants – these could be sent out with initial booking emails to encourage more sign-ups to our sessions.

