

BA (Hons) Fine Art: Portfolio Guidelines

We conduct individual interviews in which one or two tutors will look through your portfolio and talk to you about it.

Whilst you are here you will be able to talk to the tutor about the course, as well as discuss it with current students and have a tour of the studios and the wider campus.

In the interview we will want to talk with you about:

- the ideas behind your work: how you have achieved the outcomes, what you think is successful, what is less so, and why. Remember that we are looking for potential as well as existing ability
- how you experiment and take risks
- how you support your development through 'research' of the widest kind – books and articles that you have read; gathering written and visual information and responses to artists who interest you and exhibitions that you have visited
- how you keep sketchbooks and research files so that we can see how you develop your ideas
- why you are enthusiastic about fine art and to be able to see evidence of that in what you say as well as in your portfolio

Tips for preparing your portfolio:

- organize your portfolio so that it makes sense to the person interviewing you and so that you feel confident about talking them through it. So you could lay it out either chronologically or grouped by themes, projects etc
- remember that the tutor interviewing you will want to see how your portfolio shows your progress and your potential for development at degree level
- present your work in a way that shows off each piece to its best advantage. Avoid excessive use of card and window mounting - work on paper is often best presented without any mounting. Only in exceptional cases should work be rolled together – for example large-scale paintings or drawings. Try where practical to bring original work to your interview, rather than a photographic record of it.
- include a representative selection of your course projects as well as self-initiated work. We are interested in what you do outside the structure of your current course of study – we want to see strong self-motivation
- include a range of sketchbooks and be prepared to discuss them in relation to some of your developed work in the portfolio
- you will be asked about your awareness of current fine art practice, recent exhibitions you have seen, your particular interests, etc. So it would be useful to include evidence of this in your journals

Finally: Please be ready to talk to us and to ask questions: that is why we carry out face-to-face interviews. We want to find out whether you would thrive on our degree.