

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Fine Art



This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, graduates, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to provide the course described in the Programme Specification, the University reserves the right to make such changes as may be appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to circumstances beyond its control. Any changes are made in accordance with the University's academic standards and quality procedures.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **BA (Hons) Fine Art** course, and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found in your Course Handbook.

<u>Key Course Information</u>	
Final Award	BA Honours
Course Title	Fine Art Fine Art (Interactive Arts) Fine Art (Urban & Public Art) Fine Art (Drawing) Fine Art (Curatorial Practice)
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the Faculty of	Art, Design and Architecture
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	3 years Full Time 5 years Part Time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject benchmark statement(s)	Art and Design
UCAS code	W100
Language of study	English
External Examiner for course	Janice Howard Oxford Brookes University
Date of Validation	1999 – Full-Time 2003 – Part-Time
Date of most recent review	2008
Date programme specification written/revised	Revised September 2013

Course Philosophy

Practice is paramount. The course actively encourages students to develop and define their own personal practice whilst recognising the mutability of that practice and that it may at any time involve any combination of a number of elements such as: making, research, curation, writing or collaboration with other artists and disciplines.

The course promotes an expansive interrelationship between forms of contemporary fine art and aims to develop practitioners who question the shifting dynamics of the social, historical, cultural and political landscapes they are part of. An enquiring mind and insatiable curiosity are essential attributes of students who are successful participants in the course.

BA (Hons) Fine Art provides a framework in which these developing artists can question existing forms and methodologies; use, adapt them and invent new strategies in order to express their individual ideas and concepts. The course is committed to promoting dialogue and practice across discipline boundaries by nurturing communities of practice within a diverse and pluralistic studio environment and by collaborating with other specialisms, agencies and organisations on a local or international level.

The course celebrates and engages with the important role that Fine Art plays in a world of growing political fluidity, acknowledging that the cultural arena is one of rapidly accelerating change. We recognise the growth of international events as a focus for exhibition and display, characterised by the proliferation of biennales and festivals, which at the same time give a platform for national and regional expression. The course is outward-looking and believes in the permeable nature of the fine art studio. Graduates of this course will be proactive agents of progress and change within wider society. An entrepreneurial attitude is fostered within the course in order to encourage you to engage with the wider cultural environment in an ambitious, provocative and professional manner.

Course Aims

The course aims to provide a seamless and integrated curriculum in which the three major strands of learning (practice, theory and professionalism) are interrelated, interdependent and embedded in practical production of artworks, projects and events as part of the your individual or collaborative practice and endeavours. The curriculum will present you with opportunities to design your own individual learning route through the course by providing elective elements to units and optional units and projects to facilitate personalised and progressive development.

By providing a critical basis for understanding and contextualising contemporary fine art practices the course seeks to create a flexible and challenging environment in which a wide range of media can be explored and creative strategies developed.

The course aims to develop confident and informed artists with strong critical skills and a dynamic engagement with contemporary fine art. It encourages an open, speculative and questioning approach in order to develop independent-minded individuals with a deliberate and sustainable practice.

The course considers an understanding of the professional aspects of fine art

practice to be a vital part of an artist's education. Consequently it aims to develop a critical awareness of the relationship between the artist and their audience. The course recognises the importance of fostering an imaginative and entrepreneurial attitude within its students, equipping them with the drive and ambition to become influential and thought-provoking agents for change and improvement within society and the cultural sector.

Course Outcomes

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

- LO1 Challenge the boundaries of existing subject knowledge in defining your own practice. Understand the values of risk-taking, the unknown and ambiguity in the strategic development of your practice. Confirm distinct and individual concerns and approaches through a body of resolved work.
- LO2 Resolve ideas through making. Structure creative approaches and utilise technical skills with confidence and authority towards fulfilling intentions.
- LO3 Relate your practice to an understanding of the nature of fine art and its role in reflecting and shaping contemporary consciousness.
- LO4 Interpret and respond to the historical, social and cultural contexts in which your work is positioned and how this shapes the relationship of the audience to the work.
- LO5 Articulate coherent ideas and arguments in visual, spoken and written forms informed by appropriate research methodologies.
- LO6 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key developments in current and emerging practices and media in Fine Art.
- LO7 Apply analytical, interpretative and creative thinking skills in observation, practical investigation and speculative enquiry.
- LO8 Employ resourcefulness, entrepreneurial imagination and personal responsibility in managing your own career development, future learning and professional relationship with the world.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including:

- Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

AUB Undergraduate Regulatory Framework

AUB Learning and Teaching Strategy

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Course Structure

The Fine Art degree course is divided into three levels. For a full-time student, each level is one academic year of study. For a part-time student a level takes five terms to complete and the full degree course will take five years.

All students are registered for the award of BA (Hons); however exit awards are available if you leave the course early, having successfully completed one or two levels. If you successfully complete a level of the course, you will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 4. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University following successful completion of the first year of your course.

For the award of a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 240 credits of which a minimum of 120 must be at Level 5. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University following successful completion of the second year of your course.

For the award of a BA (Hons) you must have achieved a minimum of 360 credits of which a minimum of 240 must be at Level 5 or above, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at Level 6. This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of your course.

A BA without Honours may be awarded if you have achieved 300 credits, at least 180 of which are at Level 5 or above, and at least 60 of which are at Level 6.

Course Content

The commencement of Fine Art studies in Level 4 will encourage you to develop your knowledge and understanding through thoughtful experimentation and making in the studio, exploring a variety of materials, techniques and processes and researching the theoretical framework of the Fine Art context, at the end of which you will begin to define your individual area of practice.

In Level 5 you will examine and interrogate your practice in order to understand how your work communicates and where it is placed within the breadth of creative thinking and debate. There will be some sessions to start you thinking about professional development and career ambitions supported by opportunities for work experience and live projects, often off-campus and in the public domain. You may wish to spend a term or more studying abroad which will promote a greater awareness of the international context. Your research becomes more focused and relevant to your individual concerns and interests.

Level 6 is a time of consolidation. You will bring all the experience and knowledge you have accrued on the course to bear on your personal area of practice. As you move towards the completion of your degree studies, you will develop the independence of thought and coherent and sustainable practice that will take you through and beyond graduation.

Running through the three levels of the course, there are three main elements of content these are Practice, Theory and Professionalism.

Practice: the major part of the course content and your study time will be dedicated to the production of creative works. The direction, content and form of your practice will be defined by you through negotiation with, and with the support of your the tutors.

Theory: as your practice develops and becomes more specific to your individual concerns, so does your research into the theoretical framework which supports your practice. You will progressively deepen your understanding of the fine art context.

Professionalism: throughout the course, you will gain greater knowledge and experience to equip you to become a successful professional after graduation. You will formulate career plans and undertake work and research to make those plans achievable.

Much of the content of these three strands of learning and teaching are embedded into the practical units of the course which emphasises the mutually interdependent and interconnected nature of these three strands in preparing you for a successful career.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Self- determination and choice are features of the learning opportunities offered to you through the course. At various points you will be able to make choices about the type of learning or location of that learning within the university or within defined pathways within the BA (Hons) Fine Art. These elective elements may take the form of part of the content of a unit (a workshop or seminar choice for example) or may involve a choice of a whole unit of study in order to support your individual direction and development.

A lot of the time on the course will be for you to undertake independent learning to enable you to build a substantial and individual body of work. Taught sessions underpin independent learning. They include tutorials, seminars, group critiques, lectures, unit briefings and study visits. They are delivered by the Course Team, which is made up of practising artists and researchers. This is supplemented by input from visiting artists, other professionals and academics.

Independent learning includes studio practice, research, analysis and critical reflection. Learning is most effective when it is active and when the learner takes responsibility. Teaching by the Course Team is therefore directed at supporting you in managing your learning. You are encouraged to develop strategies for independent learning in each unit of study, and this responsibility progresses as you move through the levels of the course. The studio environment is an important support to learning and teaching and the Course Team promotes the value of peer learning accruing from studio-based practice and discussion.

Open workshops, seminars and lectures

Supplementary to the teaching that takes place within units, students from all levels and both modes are able to sign up to other open sessions. These allow you to

specialise in various areas of fine art practice and research. Choices of attendance are made on the basis of the session's relevance to your individual interests and thus support and inform individual learning plans. Responsibility and self-direction of your own learning is implied in these choices. All sessions introduce skills and knowledge that can be applied to meeting the requirements of course units. Sessions take place throughout the academic year, and will be taken up when and as they become relevant to your developing and changing learning needs as you progress through the course. The open sessions will present possibilities for you to cover diverse aspects of practice and theory. Examples include a series of drawing workshops (that develop an understanding of the uses of drawing), technical skills workshops (that deepen understanding of materials and processes within a range of resource areas), creative writing seminars (aimed at informing approaches to written units) and sessions to document studio work.

This is not a finite list but indicative of the diversity and range of learning opportunities available. Cross-level mentoring and peer learning is actively valued and encouraged through the shared workshops.

The Virtual Learning Environment

The Virtual Learning Environment is used increasingly to enhance course delivery. With more and more web-based resources and in response to the growing online culture it allows you to access and engage with your studies in new ways. You benefit by having remote access to course information and a means of online communication. What is available is continually being developed to meet the needs of students, providing information about the Course, Staff, the Library, etc.

Assessment

Each unit is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement, and also gives you regular feedback on how your learning is developing.

For every unit of your course you will be provided with a Unit Handbook, which will state what you are expected to learn within the unit; the work that you have to submit; and how it will be assessed. The Unit Handbook will also give the deadline for presenting your work for assessment.

You will receive a final mark for each unit in the form of a percentage, which will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). Each component of assessment is graded using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each grade. The only marks available within any ten-point band are *2, *5 and *8 (e.g. 42, 45, 48). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

On successful completion of your Honours degree course, you will be awarded a degree classification based on your unit marks. The final classification is determined using all unit marks at Levels 5 and 6 using two different algorithms, which are detailed in your *Quick Guide to the Regulations*. If the two algorithms produce different results, you will be awarded the higher class of degree.

If you have joined Level 6 having completed a Foundation Degree (FdA) the final classification is determined using only your unit marks at Level 6.

For further information on progression, awards and classifications, please visit <https://my.aub.ac.uk/viewpoint/>

Named Awards

BA (Hons) Fine Art
BA (Hons) Fine Art (Interactive Arts)
BA (Hons) Fine Art (Urban & Public Art)
BA (Hons) Fine Art (Drawing)
BA (Hons) Fine Art (Curatorial Practice)

These are named awards within the Fine Art area of study. The named awards reflect areas of distinct practice and research which you may develop and wish to be acknowledged by the title of your degree award. The four named awards offered as part of the Fine Art degree course reflect some of the areas of specialist practice and recent developments within the Fine Art discipline and it is anticipated that some students, depending on how their practice evolves over the first half of the course, may wish to study one of the four named specialisms in more depth as part of the curriculum of the second half of their degree studies. The named areas of specialism will be led by a tutor who is a specialist within that given field. Specialist materials, equipment and projects will add focused support to your learning in any of these optional specialisms.

Interactive Arts as an award will enable students to opt to specialise in some of the areas of practice which have emerged over recent years. This may be appropriate in the case of some performance-centred practice or socially-engaged practice as well as the area of crossover between Fine Art and digital media design. Artists are increasingly turning to digital space as an arena of interest and enquiry, examining how contemporary phenomena such as social networking, electronic databases and the democratisation of publishing alter our relationship with the world and with ourselves.

Urban & Public Arts is a specialism that will explore the public realm as an arena for practice and audience engagement. It can be seen as a crossover between visual arts, street culture and the visual culture of public space.

The discipline of drawing has been receiving increasing attention within contemporary art theory and practice in the last two decades. Artists are elevating drawing as an art form in its own right, and identifying the relevance and significance of drawing in contemporary culture.

Curation is a strong complementary strand to many artists' practice as well as being an increasingly important discipline in itself. The role of the curator can be defined in many ways, not just in facilitating the public consumption and interpretation of art but also as an agent in the creation of new aesthetic concepts, in the mode of curator as cultural worker.

The awards will be delivered through specialist teaching and course content which are positioned in a 40 credit unit in Level Five and an 80 credit unit in Level Six of the curriculum. Within these units if you have elected for a named award, you will engage in specialist teaching and learning in that area. If you choose to follow a named award route, the units will provide a body of learning that gives focused attention to the histories, practices, conditions and concerns within your chosen specialism.

You will confirm or make a choice of named award, if you choose to take one of the four specialist options, at the beginning of Level 5.

Course Units

Unit code		Unit Title	Credit Weighting
Full-time	Part-time		
Level 4			
FAR450	FPT450	Thinking Through Process	40
FAR451	FPT451	Visual Thinking	40
FAR452	FPT452	Establishing Strategies	40
Level 5 Option 1			
FAR550	FPT550	Project by Proposal	40
FAR554	FPT554	Contemporary Practice	40
FAR551	FPT551	Content and Context	40
Level 5 Option 2			
FAR550	FPT550	Project by Proposal	40
FAR554	FPT554	Contemporary Practice	40
FAR552	FPT552	Compact Content and Context	20
FAR553	FPT553	Independent Study Unit	20
Level 6			
FAR650	FPT650	Studio 3	20
FAR651	FPT651	Research Project	20
FAR652	FPT652	Major Project	60
FAR653	FPT653	Professional Development and Evaluation	20

Course diagram

This schematic diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit with assessment periods. Further information on the structure of each unit will be included in unit handbooks.

Full-time

Year 1 Level 4																														
Autumn term											Spring term										Summer term									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Induction week	FAR450 Thinking Through Process (40 credits)										FAR451 Visual Thinking (40 credits)										FAR452 Establishing Strategies (40 credits)									

Level 5 (Option 1)																														
Autumn term											Spring term										Summer term									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
FAR550 Project By Proposal (40 credits)											FAR551 Content and Context (40 credits) <i>*For those opting for Named Awards, specialist content is positioned within this unit.</i>																			
											FAR554 Contemporary Practice (40 credits)																			

Level 5 (Option 2)																														
Autumn term											Spring term										Summer term									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
FAR550 Project By Proposal (40 credits)											FAR552 Compact Content and Context (20 credits) <i>*For those opting for Named Awards, specialist content is positioned within this unit.</i>																			
											FAR553 Independent Study Unit (20 credits)																			
											FAR554 Contemporary Practice (40 credits)																			

Year 3 Level 6																														
Autumn term										Spring term										Summer term										
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
FAR650 Studio 3 (20 credits)										FAR652 Major Project (60 credits)																				
FAR651 Research Project (20 credits)																														
										FAR653 Professional Development and Evaluation (20 credits)																				

Part-time

Note that some units might carry forward to the following year

Year 1 Level 4																														
Autumn term										Spring term										Summer term										
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Induction week	FPT450 Thinking Through Process (part 1) (40 credits) <i>Assessment Component: Research presentation</i>									Assessment	FPT451 Visual Thinking (40 credits)									Assessment	FPT450 Thinking Through Process (part 2) (40 credits) <i>Assessment Component: Body of work</i>									

Year 2 Level 4											Level 5																			
Autumn term						Spring term						Summer term																		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	FPT450 Thinking Through Process (Cont.)			Assessment	FPT452 Establishing Strategies (40 credits)											Assessment	FPT550 Project By Proposal (40 credits)													

Year 3 Level 5 Option 1																														
Autumn term							Spring term													Summer term										
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>FPT550 Project By Proposal (continued)</i>							FPT551 Content and Context (40 credits) <i>*For those opting for Named Awards, specialist content is positioned within this unit.</i>																							
							FPT554 Contemporary Practice (40 credits)																							

Year 3 Level 5 Option 2																														
Autumn term							Spring term													Summer term										
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>FPT550 Project By Proposal (continued)</i>							FPT552 Compact Content and Context (20 credits) <i>*For those opting for named awards, specialist content is positioned within this unit.</i>																							
							FPT553 Independent Study Unit (20 credits)																							
							FPT554 Contemporary Practice (40 credits)																							

Year 4 Level 5 Option 1											Level 6																			
Autumn term											Spring term										Summer term									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>FPT551 Content and Context (continued)</i>											FPT650 Studio 3 (20 credits)																			
<i>FPT554 Contemporary Practice (continued)</i>											FPT651 Research Project (20 credits)																			

Year 4 Level 5 Option 2											Level 6																			
Autumn term											Spring term										Summer term									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>FPT552 Compact Content and Context (continued)</i>											FPT650 Studio 3 (20 credits)																			
<i>FPT553 Independent Study Unit (continued)</i>											FPT651 Research Project (20 credits)																			
<i>FPT554 Contemporary Practice (continued)</i>																														

Year 5 Level 6																														
Autumn term											Spring term										Summer term									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>FPT652 Major Project (60 credits) For those opting for named awards, specialist content is positioned within this unit.</p>																														
<p>FPT653 Professional Development and Evaluation (20 credits)</p>																														

Resources

Course specific resources

Permanent personal studio spaces for independent study are unfortunately not available for students undertaking the part time mode of the course. However, the course does offer the use of bookable project spaces that can be booked out by part-timers for short durations as and when needed in order to undertake self-directed activities. Due to these limitations it is recommended that part-time students have their own studio or workspace at home or elsewhere. The diverse nature of individual practice will determine what kind of workspace a student will need to undertake work for the course.

University Resources:

Library

The course is supported by a Subject Librarian who liaises closely with the team to ensure that the Library resources are relevant and meet student and staff research needs. As part of the AUB's Information Literacy Framework, the Subject Librarian provides sessions on researching and using information, as well as individual support for students in the use of Library resources

The Library holds an excellent range of specialist learning materials including books, journals, CDs, DVDs, and newspapers. It has subscriptions to a wide range of specialist electronic resources focusing on art, design, media and performance, including e-books and e-journals. The Library's facilities include computers, viewing rooms, a presentation space and a silent reading room.

The Library consistently receives high scores in both the in-house and national student surveys, which are carried out annually.

Information technology

The University provides a comprehensive range of IT resources, utilising Apple Macintosh, Windows Personal Computers and specialist resources for its art, design, media and performance disciplines. The University uses Industry standard software from Microsoft, Adobe, Macromedia, Apple, Quark and leading software suppliers, and is continually investing in its technology and resources.

IT resources are also available to you via the Library, plus through a number of bookable IT suites and dedicated base room provision. To enable access to learning resources, wireless internet access is also available.

The ITCS section (Information Technology and Communication Services) provides a helpdesk facility for IT enquiries and fault notification. The Helpdesk is open from 8.30am until 5pm from Monday to Friday Email: itcshelpdesk@aub.ac.uk

Museum of Design in Plastic (MoDiP)

MoDiP is a registered museum of 20th and 21st century design and popular culture with a focus on plastics. Its collection is unique within the UK and has been developed to support teaching and learning at the Arts University Bournemouth.

There are many ways in which MoDiP can play a part in your studies:

- as a source of inspiration – large numbers of items may be viewed, handled and explored in depth, drawn, photographed and filmed
- as the focus of a brief for products and projects relating to course work
- as an exhibition venue – your work can be displayed in relation to the collections and exhibitions and events may be mounted in the museum space

The Museum is in a purpose built space within the Library, designed with wheelchair access in mind, and has the same opening hours as the rest of the University for the viewing of exhibitions. Objects not on display can be borrowed and taken to the studio. To see what is available, go to the [Plastics Network](http://www.plasticsnetwork.org) website (www.plasticsnetwork.org).

The Gallery

The Gallery is a major resource for contemporary visual art at the Arts University Bournemouth and has received regional and national recognition. There are regular gallery events, including collections on loan from galleries and museums, as well as individual exhibitions by some of today's leading artists, photographers, designers and critical writers.

It also functions as a learning resource and is integrated into the teaching, learning, and research practice undertaken at the University.

text + work is the ethos which underpins the exhibition programme at the Arts University Bournemouth. The **text + work** concept promotes and provides a forum for challenging dialogue between innovative contemporary art, design, and media practice and its theoretical context.

There are **text + work** gallery events, critical texts, shared and networked exhibitions and a **text + work** website.

Student Support

Academic Guidance

Academic staff are responsible for providing you with feedback on your work and your general academic progress, and for providing academic support and guidance through the course. This is provided through "critiques" and written feedback, as well as guidance on practical work and informal discussion about your concerns. These sessions may be individual or, in the case of collaborative work, in small groups.

Academic tutorials are scheduled to allow you to discuss in depth matters relating to creative or theoretical work, or the course in general. You will be entitled to at least

one formal recorded academic tutorial per term with a nominated member of the Course Team.

Support and advice is also provided on an informal basis throughout the course, through discussions between staff and students.

Career Education, Information and Guidance

You will be prepared for employment, and given the opportunity to learn about the various career options available to you, through a wide range of projects which may include live briefs or external competitions. Academic staff remain very familiar with the discipline, and will often still work in the field, and are also able to advise on specific opportunities.

The Careers Service within the University offers impartial, confidential advice, support and guidance, to help you explore and develop your career ideas and manage your future career successfully. The Service offers individual career guidance interviews, as well as advice on job seeking strategies, CVs and interview skills, self-employment / freelancing, and further study opportunities.

The Senior Careers Officer holds regular lunchtime lectures, which cover a range of popular careers topics, including Postgraduate study and funding, Career planning, Networking and self-marketing, and Teaching as a career. Full details and dates of forthcoming lectures are available on the Careers intranet pages and on the Student Services notice boards.

The Careers Service also offers specialist events, working in partnership with local employers, AUB alumni, and external agencies to bring together a range of art, design, media and performance expertise.

Learning Support

Support for students with disabilities (including dyslexia)

The Arts University Bournemouth is firmly committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all students and positively welcomes applications from people with disabilities and/or additional needs. Throughout all aspects of University life, we actively encourage and support the participation of students with disabilities. We aim to support disabled students by offering needs assessments and support plans which enable you to achieve your personal goals.

The Learning Support team provides academic support for students with specific learning difficulties including dyslexia. We ask all new Home students to complete a 'Quickscan' screening programme when they join the University. This screening is designed to check your learning style (the way you learn best) and whether you might have signs of dyslexia. If appropriate, you will be referred to an educational psychologist for a full assessment.

Students with a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia are able to access individual tutorials aimed at improving your independent study skills, and are supported in applying for the Disabled Students' Allowance, which can provide specialist equipment and, if appropriate, personal support.

The Senior Disability Officer and Wellbeing Officer provide ongoing support and advice for students with all other types of disability, including mental health difficulties, physical disabilities, medical conditions and sensory impairments.

The Arts University Bournemouth has a duty to anticipate the needs of disabled students, and to make “reasonable adjustments” to ensure that these students can access education and related services. If you feel that some aspect of the learning, teaching or assessment on your course places you at a disadvantage because of your disability, please contact the Senior Disability Officer within Student Services, who will be happy to work with you and your course team to identify any appropriate reasonable adjustments. Contact Barry Gilbert on bgilbert@aub.ac.uk or telephone 01202 363291.

Support for students for whom English is a second language

If English is not your first language you will be invited to complete a brief written exercise during the initial weeks of your course, so that your current academic language skills can be assessed. Our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) tutors, who are part of the Learning Support team, will review the exercise and contact you if your work indicates that you would benefit from additional support. An EAP tutor will work with you to draw up an Individual Learning Plan, which will set out a structured approach to developing your independent academic and study skills. This may include helping you to develop strategies for interpreting assignment briefs, working on the structure of your written work, or developing your proof-reading skills, for example. The plan will be reviewed each term and will be shared with your course tutor so that they are aware of the work you are doing to improve your study skills. If necessary, your EAP tutor will refer you to a local language school so that you can improve your generic English language levels.

Pastoral support and guidance

Support and advice on non-academic matters is provided through trained and qualified professional staff within Student Services. We have a team of professionally qualified male and female counsellors, with appointments available during weekdays and evenings. Students accessing the service are offered various levels of support ranging from regular weekly sessions, occasional support or just a “one off” consultation. In most cases, you can expect to be seen for a session within two days of making initial contact with the service. If the situation is very urgent and you are very emotionally distressed, we also have a crisis support service and you will be seen by one of our counsellors almost immediately.

Pastoral support is also available from the AUB Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy at the Arts University Bournemouth is shared with Bournemouth University and is an inclusive Chaplaincy, which welcomes people of all faiths and none. The Quiet Room and the Islamic Prayer Room are in regular use by staff and students, and meetings with ministers of any faith can be arranged.

Advice and support with practical issues such as funding, accommodation or childcare is available from the Student Advice, Funds and Accommodation Office within Student Services.

Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Teaching and Learning

The course is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course engages with the QAA Quality Code.

In addition all courses undertake an Annual Course Review which takes account of relevant information such as:

- External Examiners' Reports
- Key statistics including data on application, retention and achievement
- Results of the National Student Survey
- Results of the in-house Student Perception Survey
- Feedback from Student Representatives
- Feedback from relevant employer groups, including the course Industry Liaison Group

All courses develop an action plan arising out of this exercise, which is monitored by the Course and Faculty Boards of Study. Your student representatives can keep you informed about progress against the action plan.

Staff development priorities for the course team as a whole are identified through the Annual Course Review process, and for individuals through the Staff Performance Review process.

Indicators of Quality and Standards

The Arts University at Bournemouth was granted taught degree awarding powers by the Privy Council in 2008 following an intensive period of scrutiny by experienced academics from across the higher education sector.

The University was audited by the QAA in May 2011 and received a judgement of 'Confidence' in the management of the academic standards of its awards, and its management of the quality of learning opportunities. This is the best available outcome, and confirms that our quality assurance mechanisms are robust, meaning that we can have full confidence in the standard of course outcomes, and the quality of the educational experience we deliver.

More detailed information is available in the following documents:

- Online course information
- Quick guide to the regulations
- Unit Handbooks
- HE Student Regulations – <https://my.aub.ac.uk/viewpoint/>
- AUB Student Guide