

School of Art & Design

Portfolio advice

Decorative Arts BA (Hons)



Image: Claire Dunn, BA (Hons) Decorative Arts

Showing your portfolio at an interview is an opportunity for you to showcase your skills, personality and potential. It should be a collection of your work that demonstrates how you and your creativity have developed. It's also an opportunity to make sure we have the right expertise and resource to support you during your time at university.

We understand your portfolio will be unique to you, but here's a handy checklist of things you should consider when preparing your portfolio.

Approximately 15-20 pieces of work and one 3D item. Be selective, showcasing the pieces of work which you feel are particularly relevant to this area of study, whilst best highlighting your skills and interests. Your selection of work should demonstrate your enthusiasm and ability in art and design, so that we can see who you are and what you do.

A variety of creative work. Please select a range of work which shows us who you are and what you are interested in, as well as showing a range of art and design skills. We'll be looking for a variety of creative pieces including design, photography, life drawing, mixed media work and digital work.

3D work. If you have work that demonstrates 3D skills please select one piece to bring along and show photos of others in your portfolio.

Your working process. We'd love to see evidence of working process. The best way for you to showcase this is by bringing your two most relevant sketchbooks and any working drawings which relate to specific projects in your portfolio.

Written piece. Please bring a piece of writing in the form of an essay or report, completed as part of your studies.

Showcase your passion. One of the most important things to remember whilst preparing your portfolio is to fill it with passion, showing us your potential as a future designer / maker.

What are we looking for?

- A quality and range of visual concepts, and level of innovative thinking.
- Good presentation skills, and the ability to visualise ideas.
- Your ability to handle a variety of technologies, materials and processes.
- Your willingness to experiment in a range of visual media.
- Good observational skills in drawing.

Format

There is no need to window-mount the work, or spend money on mount board. We are happy for the work to be float-mounted onto plain white cartridge paper or thin white board.



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