School of Art & Design

Portfolio advice

Illustration

BA (Hons)











Bethany Leah Jones, The Hjemlig Collection

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 has 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 pieces of work. Be selective, showcasing the pieces of work which you feel best showcase your skills, passion and enthusiasm for Graphic Design.	
Working process . We love to see evidence of your working process so we understand your ability to ideate. 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.	
A variety of creative work. This could include design, photography, life drawing, mixed media work and digital work, as applicable and relevant to your area of study. Your focus may vary but please select work that you feel demonstrates your creative potential and passion for graphic design.	
A piece of writing. This could take the form of an essay or overview/reflection of a completed project within your portfolio.	

What are we looking for?

- A quality and range of visual concepts, and your level of innovative thinking.
- A well organised portfolio with good presentation. 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.
- Your ability to handle a variety of technologies, materials and processes.
- Your willingness to experiment in a range of visual media. Don't worry if something didn't work out the
 way you hoped; instead, be confident in telling us the challenges you encountered, and what you might
 do differently.
- Good observational skills in drawing.



Format

- We would like to see pieces in a physical portfolio to evaluate your work, so please do not present just using a USB stick.
- If you have digital work including moving image, this can be showcased using USB stick or weblink only. If work is on a USB stick, please make sure it is fully backed up.

Frequently asked questions

- Q Should the work in my portfolio for interview differ to that submitted as part of the digital portfolio? A You should be selective of the work you bring in your portfolio, which may of course include samples used in your digital portfolio. You may wish to add to your digital portfolio with any new pieces you've created since.
- Q Can I bring physical / 3D objects?
- A Yes, if your work is easily transferable. If not, we suggest taking some photographs and including them in your portfolio.
- Q What if I don't have 15 pieces of work?
- A Don't worry too much, although you should aim to be as close to 15 as possible. Don't forget, we're looking for a wide range of work and your potential.
- Q Do I need to bring along specific types of equipment, computer hardware or software?
- A Not at all, just your portfolio and yourself!



