School of Art & Design
Portfolio advice

Fine Art
BA (Hons)

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 15-20 pieces of your most recent work. 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. ☐

Your working process. We'd love to see evidence of your 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. ☐

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. ☐

Written piece. Please include a short, typed critical essay (max 500 words), which you have written recently on an aspect of contemporary art. We'd also be interested to see a printed list of artists, exhibitions and other sources that you feel have influenced your work. ☐

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 artist. Be ready to tell us how you connect with contemporary art, which galleries you have visited and what other cultural activities feed your ideas. ☐

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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.
- Self-motivated work which shows your passion for the subject.

Format

- Present your portfolio in a way that'll help you confidently talk to us about it. We like to see research alongside final outcome so think about the narrative that supports your portfolio and include what you want us to see.
- If your work is 3D or large scale, please include good quality photographic or digital prints.
- If you'd like to show us additional work on a laptop – particularly moving image work – this isn't a problem! Just bring your fully charged laptop with you, with any passwords you need to access the system.

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