

School of Art & Design

Portfolio advice

# Graphic Design

## BA (Hons)



Seeing your portfolio during an interview helps us understand if you will enjoy studying with us and whether we're the right university for you. You should use your portfolio as an opportunity to showcase your skills, interests, style and personality.

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. If you are applying to us from an Art and Design Foundation Diploma, BTEC Extended Diploma or HND course, please do not include A-level or AS-level work in your portfolio; it is the work from your current course which we are most interested in looking at.

**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.** 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 should be provided in the form of an essay or report, completed as part of your studies.

### 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.

This information is for those applying to join this course in September 2020. This information is correct at the time of printing. Nottingham Trent University reserves the right to change this information without prior notice or justification.

## 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 (no CDs or DVDs). If work is on a USB stick, please make sure it is fully backed up.

## Frequently asked questions

Q – Should the work in my digital portfolio differ to my physical 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.

Q – Do I need to bring along specific types of equipment, computer hardware or software?

A – Not at all, just your portfolio and yourself!

Q – Where can I get some more advice on creating my portfolio?

A – We hold regular live chats throughout the year we you can log in and ask current graphic design students questions about producing a portfolio. Visit [www.ntu.ac.uk/art-livechat](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/art-livechat) to view our upcoming live chat dates.

Alternatively, you can email [art.ug-queries@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:art.ug-queries@ntu.ac.uk) with any questions.

We look forward to meeting you and having a chat about your work. To start getting more of an idea of what life as a graphic design student is like, browse our social channels!



**Facebook** @ntuart  
**Twitter** @ntuartanddesign / ntugraphics  
**Instagram** @ntuart / ntugraphics