

Extended Diploma in Art and Design Practice

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Course Level: Level 3 | **Campus: Newcastle** | **Subject Type: Creative Arts, Film & Media**

Course Overview:

Providing a rich and immersive experience for aspiring artists and designers. This course aims to develop your creative skills through a diverse range of projects and workshops.

Students explore various mediums, techniques and concepts in art and design; from drawing and painting to digital media and sculpture, learners develop their creativity and technical skills under the guidance of experienced practitioners. With an emphasis on experimentation and personal expression, students are equipped to pursue further studies or enter the creative industries with confidence and a portfolio of work showcasing their talent and vision.

What's Covered:

Realise your creative potential as you explore and develop your art and design skills through a range of specialist areas including Fine Art, Painting, Sculpture, 3D, Ceramics and Print.

We will help enhance your knowledge of art and design history and cover a range of specialisms which will enable you to build a comprehensive portfolio of artwork that will prepare you for your next steps in higher education or within the industry.

Throughout your first year you will learn how to develop a variety of techniques and skills, using a wide range of materials. You will generate and refine ideas and outcomes in response to project briefs and understand how to present ideas effectively to different audiences, creating your own visual language.

The course offers a variety of options taught by specialist staff including drawing, painting, mixed media, 3D design, ceramics, printmaking and contextual studies.

In year two, you will have the opportunity to explore progression routes and to focus your creativity, strengths, skills and knowledge into one of the course specialist areas, allowing you to really develop your knowledge of materials and techniques. You will have more independence in terms of writing your own briefs and choosing personal outcomes which will help as you begin to plan, produce and exhibit your work at the end of the course at the college exhibition.

You will also prepare a portfolio of your work which you can present during interviews for higher education or employment routes.

Entry Requirements:

You will need a minimum of four GCSE's, grade 4-9 in subjects relevant to the course you'd like to study, including maths and/or English Language at grade 4 or above. Alternatively, you'll have a Level 2 Certificate with overall Merit in a relevant subject. If you do not hold an Art related GCSE, you will need to present a good portfolio.

If you do not have a minimum GCSE grade 4 for Maths / English, you would study these as a part of your timetabled study programme. These structured weekly sessions will help you to improve your skills in these vital subject/s. In addition, Maths & English development is integrated into practical course sessions and assignments.

You will be expected to bring relevant examples of your artwork to the application interview to help staff assess your suitability for art and design study.

100%

pass rate

79.2%

achieved DMM+ in 2026

Assessment Information:

This is a hands on, practical qualification and you will be assessed throughout the programme at key assessment points. Formative Assessments provide you with a 'working at grade' which can change. Summative Assessments provide your final mark for a unit. This will involve research, project work, sketchbooks, practical work, design and drawing sheets, presentations and contextual studies notes and essays. All assessments will be graded Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Fees and Financial Support:

This course is free for anyone aged 16 – 18.

College Maintenance Allowance (CMA):

Anyone with a gross household income under £35,000 can receive financial support to cover college related costs such as transport, meals, course equipment and uniform. Bursary support is based on individual circumstances and will be allocated to best suit your individual needs. A range of other financial support is available depending on your personal circumstances. For more details visit nscg.ac.uk/finance

Progression:

On completion of the course, you will gain the BTEC Extended Diploma which is accepted by Universities for entry onto their courses such as: Ceramics, Crafts, Illustration, Fine Art, Printmaking, Interior Design, Art History and 3D Design. The qualification is also designed to prepare learners for appropriate direct employment in the vocational sector, and is suitable for those who have decided that they wish to enter a particular specialist area of work in the areas of Art and Design. It also gives you the opportunity to develop a range of techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

How do I find out more?

If you wish to find out more you can contact Rachel Muncey, Course Leader, at rachel.muncey@nscg.ac.uk or 01782 254357.