

Education Advisers

eGuide



*Getting into Art School
Degree, Foundation Courses, Sixth Form*



Education Advisers Ltd

UK Private School Consultancy service

Choosing the right private school for your child can be an overwhelming and nerve-racking experience for the whole family. It is, without doubt, one of the most important decisions you will make for your child. Your child's school will play a huge role in forming positive and resilient characteristics, developing talents, building confidence, and preparing them to face our ever-changing world. It is therefore essential you are confident you have fully investigated all suitable options, and are sending your child to a school in which they will thrive both academically and emotionally.



Since 2004 Education Advisers Ltd has supported over a thousand British and international families in identifying and gaining entry to the best-fitting schools. Our commitment is to provide completely impartial advice, and to ensure you and your child are fully informed and prepared from the very beginning until they are happily enrolled in a school.

The process of identifying and applying to schools need not be stressful. Managed with expertise and empathy, it should be the first step of an exciting and life-changing journey for your family.

We produce these guides to provide parents with what our experience tells us are the most important considerations when navigating your child's education. We hope you find this guide on How to Choose the Right IB school a useful resource with which to begin your journey.

We also invite you to request a free initial 20-minute phone consultation to explain your objectives and learn more about the most suitable strategy for your individual circumstances.

Mary Murayama BA (Oxon), MA (Sheffield) QTS - Managing Director

Our core services

Our key commitment is to find the best-fitting private school options for any particular family or child. Our advice is completely impartial, and led by each family's priorities and requirements. We offer a range of bespoke consultancy services, but most fall into one of the following categories:

- Education for Life strategy and consultancy service for new parents
- Day school advice and enrolment service (Ages 2-19)
- Boarding school advice and enrolment service (Ages 6-18)
- 6th form applications, day or boarding
- Full consultancy and school enrolment service for families relocating to the UK
- Full consultancy and school enrolment service for families with dyslexic or SEN children
- Personalised pupil assessments in English and Maths
- Consultancy and mentoring for elite school applications
- Summer School recommendations
- University application consultancy service

Please note we do not offer visa, tutoring, guardianship or home relocation services. However, we can offer some initial advice, and introduce relevant, reputable service providers with whom we frequently collaborate.

Making Choices at 16+

Choosing your Subjects

If you are planning to study Art or an Art-related subject at Art School or University you need to make the right decisions for your education at 16+. If you are studying at school or college in the UK you will probably be taking A-levels, Scottish Highers, the IB, the pre-U, or in some cases, BTEC courses. You may have the option of combining one or more A-Levels with BTEC courses.

A-Levels

Choosing which subjects to study at A-Level can be very difficult, especially if you are not entirely sure what you want to do in the future. It is always a good idea to combine Art with subjects in other disciplines which will enable you to keep your options open, as well as add breadth to your education. If you know that you want to specialize in a particular area, such as Fashion, you might consider taking an A Level in Textiles as well as Art. If your interest is in Product Design, you should consider combining Art with Design and Technology. For Architecture, many universities like you to have also studied Maths and Physics. If you are considering a career in the commercial side of Art, you might want to take Business Studies and/or Economics. You may also want to study History of Art.

Within A Level Art and Design there are a range of separate subject options (known within the specifications as "endorsements") offered by the main examination boards. These include Fine Art, Art, Craft and Design, Graphic Communication, Three-dimensional Design, Photography (Lens and Light-based media), Textile Design and Critical and Contextual Studies.

The majority of private schools and 6th form colleges offer the Fine Art option. Within this it is possible to develop skills in a range of different disciplines, and you have a lot of freedom to explore areas that you are particularly interested in, whether that is painting, sculpture, ceramics or photography. Assessment of Fine Art at both AS and A2 has a strong focus on the development of your own personal artistic response to a topic or question and you will be able to experiment with a range of different media, including new media.

Some schools and sixth form colleges offer more than one endorsement as separate A-Level subjects, so that it is possible to specialise in a particular discipline. If you are particularly interested in Photography, for example, you should see whether this is offered as a separate subject. In theory it is possible to study Art and Design (Fine Art), Photography and Textile Design as three separate subjects at A-Level.

As we also explain later, the minimum entry requirements for University Art School can appear quite low in comparison to other degree courses – sometimes it may be as low as one A Level pass plus a Foundation Programme in Art. In reality most Universities want more than this, but there is no doubt that your "portfolio" is more important than your A Level. This also raises the question "which A Level subject is the most important to take?" Many University admissions departments will say "it does not matter" but in our view it does. If you want a degree which focuses on practical art or design, you should at least take Art & Design. If you are more interested in an academic degree which focuses on Art History, you may want to consider taking History of Art. Of course you can take both if you are totally committed to studying Art, but generally we would recommend a broader range of subjects in case you change your mind.

IB Diploma

For students taking the IB and wanting to go on and study Art and Design, it is possible to take Design and Technology as your Science option and then take Art as your additional (sixth) choice. This is not necessary however, and it is quite possible to move into Higher Education with the IB if you take Art and five other subjects.

BTEC Qualifications

A few schools and colleges offer BTEC qualifications in Art and Design instead of, or in addition to, A Levels. These are courses with a greater emphasis on the practical application of Art and Design. The BTEC National Diploma at Subsidiary Level is equivalent to one A-level and the Extended Diploma is equivalent to three A Levels.

Education Advisers can advise you on the best type of course for you, depending on your educational background and your aspirations for the future. We work with the full range of private schools and colleges and can help you identify those that offer certain combinations of subjects and which may offer Art scholarships.

Choosing where to study in the Sixth Form

To study at degree level in a UK University or Art School you will need a good academic record, demonstrated by good A-level passes, including one in Art and Design (or equivalent) and will need to show both talent and commitment to the subject. You will be expected to demonstrate your passion for the subject through building up a portfolio of your work.

A strong portfolio which clearly shows the development of your skills and ideas will be an essential part of your application for any higher level course.

You need to choose a school or college where you will receive high quality teaching to enable you to achieve the grades you need as well as support and guidance for putting together an impressive portfolio.

Whilst all senior independent schools are likely to offer Art and Design as an A-Level subject, there are some schools that offer quite exceptional teaching and facilities.

If you are certain that you want to study Art and Design you may want to choose a school or college where you can focus on practical Art and Design subjects.



Independent School Sixth Form or Private Sixth Form College?

Being a member of the sixth form in an independent senior school will give you access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and you will benefit from being part of a larger school community. Facilities at independent day and boarding schools are generally superb and many schools have exceptional provision for Art and Design.

The range of Art and Design subjects offered varies considerably from school to school and you should look carefully at what specific courses are offered and what facilities there are in the different disciplines. Some schools, for example, have a separate study area for A-Level students where each student has his or her own work space. Subject choices in schools may also be restricted by timetable restraints so you should check whether you will be able to do all your chosen subjects. Some schools may advise you not to take more than one or two Art-related subjects. This can be very sensible as a broad range of A-level subjects allows you to keep your options open, in case you change your degree / career ambitions.

You may prefer to consider a private sixth-form college that either specializes in Art-related courses or offers full flexibility of subject choice. At these you will be able to concentrate on those subjects that really interest you, and spend time honing your skills in these areas. For example, you could choose to take Art and Design, Textile Design, History of Art and Photography.

Private sixth-form colleges normally offer a wide range of subjects and you will benefit from being taught in very small classes, and many have excellent facilities for Art and Design courses. In fact there are some sixth form colleges that have far bigger art departments and course options than you can find in any mainstream school. Students are expected to be mature and self-motivated, and there are likely to be fewer “rules” than in a school environment. However, because they are smaller, private sixth-form colleges normally have less provision for extra-curricular activities than a school.

Many private sixth-form colleges offer special Foundation Programmes in Art and Design which prepare students for entry to specific degree courses. It is often possible to combine such a programme with A-Level study which makes this a particularly attractive option for international students, or students who only want.

The choice between private sixth-form college and school is a difficult one. There are many factors to consider, not least the location and the cost. It may be hard to determine the best option. We are always happy to talk to parents to discuss your priorities and make appropriate recommendations to suit your child.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING A SCHOOL/COLLEGE:

- Is there a large and flourishing Art department?*
- Is Art celebrated throughout the school?*
- How many students take A-Level Art?*
- What other Art-related subjects are offered?*
- Are you allowed to select any combination of Art-related subjects?*
- How many students are successful in gaining places on top Foundation courses and degree courses?*
- What are the main Leaver destinations?*
- Does the school/college offer Art scholarships?*
- What are the Art facilities like?*
- Do sixth-form students have their own dedicated study areas?*
- Does the school specialize in any particular areas such as Ceramics or Photography?*
- Is there a dark room?*
- What is the quality of the work on display?*
- What is the Head of Art like? Did they inspire you?*

You will of course also have to consider other factors: your budget, exam results, location, extra-curricular provision, boarding facilities etc.

What is a Foundation Course?

A Foundation Course is often regarded as an essential step between school and a degree course in Art at university or Art School. Some reasons why taking a Foundation Course is a good idea:

- You know you are interested in Art and Design but you are not sure which area of Art you are most interested in. A Foundation Course will give you the opportunity to try out lots of different disciplines before specializing.
- Many degree courses will require you to have done a Foundation Course first (check the requirements of any courses you are interested in).
- It will introduce you to working in a completely different style from at school which you will need when you start your degree course.
- You will have the chance to develop your skills, for example in drawing, printmaking, photography and 3D work.
- It will give you time to develop a portfolio plus expert guidance from your tutors.
- Students who have completed a Foundation course may be equipped with better practical skills, more design maturity and a stronger portfolio than other applicants. This will impress university admissions tutors.
- You do not have the right qualifications to gain entry directly to a degree level course.
- English is not your first language and you need to take a course which includes extra English Language tuition.



Alternatives to an Art Foundation Course

Some Art Schools and Universities now offer 4 year degree courses, where the first year is more like a Foundation Course. You will have the chance to develop skills in different areas before specializing.

If you have taken a BTEC course, or two or more Art and Design related A-Levels, and know exactly what you want to focus on, you may feel that you already have a sound basis for further study, and don't need the extra year of a Foundation Course.

Some schools and colleges provide extensive guidance in preparing your portfolio (and may even offer a Foundation Course qualification) alongside A-Level study and you may feel ready to apply straight to a degree course.

Be sure to check the entry requirements for your chosen degree before making a final decision!

Specialist Foundation Programmes and Portfolio Courses

An increasing number of universities are now offering their own Foundation Programmes, designed to prepare students specifically for entry to their own degree courses. These may focus purely on Art and Design and be similar in content to the Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, or may include other elements such as English Language tuition and study skills.

There are some private colleges which offer specialist Foundation Programmes to prepare you for degree level study in a particular area of Art and Design, for example Textile and Fashion Design. These enable you to develop essential skills before starting your degree course.

A Portfolio Course is designed to give you the opportunity to work in a range of disciplines, develop skills and ideas, and build a portfolio of work to support your application to a degree course. You will benefit from specialized teaching, fantastic facilities, and individual attention and guidance.

The Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

Traditionally, most Art students in the UK have taken a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design as a bridge between school (A-Levels) and University/Art School. These courses are offered at some state Further Education colleges, as well as a number of private specialist sixth-form colleges. Some of these are affiliated to specific Universities or Art Schools.

It is well worth looking around to find a Foundation Course that really suits you and will prepare you well for degree level study. Although the format of the course is similar wherever you study, the quality of teaching and facilities and the amount of input you will receive from tutors can vary enormously. It is essential to check out different courses before deciding. Speak to Art teachers, look at the websites of course providers and, wherever possible, attend open days or visit on a normal working day.

UK students under the age of 19 do not generally have to pay course fees for a Foundation Diploma at state run institutions, BUT you will not be eligible for a maintenance grant or loan because the course is classified as “Further” and not “Higher” education. Non UK students must pay tuition fees.



ROUTES INTO UK ART SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Why study Art and Design in the UK?

Art and Design courses in the UK enjoy extremely high status. Graduates of top Art Schools frequently become leaders in their field, and are sought-after in the creative and design industries. The emphasis is increasingly on creativity and innovation, and you will develop both the skills and the confidence to put your ideas into practice. Many countries are keen to tap the creative energy that Britain is renowned for, and studying here will give you an edge that will be attractive to international employers.

Where to study at 16+

If you are not at school in the UK you may be studying for other school-leaving qualifications, which may or may not include courses in Art. Or perhaps you are considering moving to the UK to complete your secondary education and prepare for higher level study here. You will need to choose your courses very carefully, based on your educational background, your age, your English language ability, your particular interests and your future plans. Once you have identified the type of course that is right for you, you will need to decide on which school or college to apply to. For international students coming to the UK to continue their education, there will be many other things to consider.

Boarding Schools with specialist Art and Design provision

If you will be of sixth form age (16-19) when you come to the UK, you will be able to join the sixth form of a private boarding school where you will probably choose 3-4 A level subjects which you will study for 2 years (normally only 3 in the second year). One of these could be Art and Design, but, depending on which school you go to, you might also be able to take a related subject such as Textile Design, Graphic Design, Photography or Design and Technology. In addition you will have to choose two or more subjects from a wide range available. You could, for example, study Maths, Business Studies, Art and Photography. The choices available vary widely from school to school so it is important to find out what each school offers. A Level courses usually last for two years (the first year is called AS (Advanced Subsidiary) and the second year A2. Courses start in September each year. To start an A Level course you will need a good level of English (min IELTS 5.5 or equivalent)



Private Sixth-Form Colleges and Specialist Independent Colleges*

These offer courses for students age 16+ and specialise in preparing you for further study or careers in Art and Design. Most offer two year A-Level courses (you will choose a combination of Art and Design related courses and other academic subjects)

You will receive intensive support and guidance in building your portfolio and preparing for further study. Several colleges combine A-Level study with a special Foundation or Portfolio Programme so that at the end of your 2-year course you are prepared for degree level study.

A number of these special Foundation Programmes are run in conjunction with Universities and Art Schools to enable a smooth transition to a degree course if you successfully complete the programme. If you have not completed secondary school in your own country (equivalent of GCSE) or if you need time to develop your English Language skills, you can do a “Pre-Foundation Course”. You will combine language lessons with Art and Design courses and will then be able to do a Foundation Programme.

** A number of Private Sixth-Form and Specialist Independent Colleges provide boarding facilities. Others will assist in arranging suitable accommodation.*

University Art School Applications for International Students (non EU)

UK and EU students are eligible for significantly discounted fees at UK universities. (eg. £9,000 pa instead of £13,000 pa)

The blunt fact of the matter is that international students are more profitable for UK Universities than EU students (although they will never admit this!) You will find that they have much bigger marketing budgets to attract international students and are often prepared to send their staff overseas to interview students in major cities. The first difference in applying is that many UK Art Schools will accept foreign applications at any time rather than before the UCAS prescribed deadlines. Now, we are not suggesting that you send in your application late, but it might pay to send it in early, because you will probably be considered before they know how they are filling up their vacancies (provided you are good enough. This does mean you have to get your portfolio ready early.

Universities do not typically differentiate between an international student who is completing studies in their own country and one who is studying at a UK boarding school. UK schools / colleges will know better how to prepare help a student build their portfolio and prepare for their interview. Also Foundation Programmes are widely available in the UK but not necessarily outside of the UK. So we do recommend you study your final 2 years before University in the UK.

At Education Advisers we can help you identify the best course and school/college for your needs based on your educational background, your budget, and your future aspirations.

We have a great deal of experience advising parents of international students and can provide information on qualifications and entry requirements. We can assist you with all aspects of the application procedure and arrange visits to schools and colleges. We personally visit a huge range of private schools and colleges and can recommend the best ones to match your specific needs.

DEGREE COURSES IN ART AND DESIGN

What degree courses are available?

The Art and Design course you choose will depend both on your particular interests and on your educational background and qualifications. If you have completed secondary education to A-level standard or equivalent, you can apply directly for an Art and Design Degree Course at a University or Art School, although many students choose to apply first for a Foundation Course and this is an entry requirement for some degree courses. Degree courses last 3 or 4 years, and there is a huge variety (over 1200!) on offer, from Fine Art to applied courses such as Garden Design.

Courses fall roughly into six main areas:

- General Art and Design
- Fashion and Textiles
- Graphic Design
- 3D Design
- Product and Industrial Design
- Fine Art (painting and sculpture)

It is essential to look very carefully at the courses you are interested in before applying as they vary hugely and courses with similar names may actually be very different from place to place. Textiles, for example, may or may not include Fashion Design. Another increasingly popular option is to take a combined honours degree, where you study two or more disciplines. For example Fine Art and a Modern Language, or Fine Art and History of Art.

Degree courses in Art and Design are generally quite specialized, so it is important to know exactly what area you want to focus on before you apply. You should bear in mind that the more specialized the course is the fewer career opportunities it will lead to. So before applying for a degree in Theatre Design, for example, you need to be sure that this is what you want to do professionally!

The course search facility on the UCAS website will list all available courses for your target year of entry. Applications for degree courses listed on the UCAS website must be made through UCAS and there are strict deadlines for UK/EU students.

For Art and Design courses there are three deadlines (15 October, 15 January, 24 March) , depending on the course so it is important to check very carefully.

<http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/coursesearch>



Things to consider when choosing a degree course:

- **Use the Resources Available**

Given the huge range of courses available, you will need to narrow down your search. There are many sources of information and you should make use of all the resources you can find.

- **Ask your teachers and tutors**

If you are at school your first stop should be your Art teachers who will be able to tell you about at least some of the options, and may have course prospectuses that you could look at. While you are doing a Foundation Course your tutors will provide you with a great deal of information about degree courses, so use their knowledge and expertise.

- **Attend Open Days**

All Universities and Art Schools have Open Days when you can go and have a look around. This is a really valuable opportunity to find out if you could imagine yourself there. Dates for Open Days are always advertised on university websites and you generally need to book in advance.

- **Check Entry Requirements**

When looking at degree courses it is very important to look at the entry requirements for specific courses. There is no point applying for a course in Product Design which requires an A-Level in Maths if this is not one of your subjects!

Similarly, you must look at the types of offer made to applicants. If your predicted grades are BBB, it would be pointless only applying for courses where the standard offer is AAB. Be wary, however, of simply looking at the ratio of applications to offers. Whilst this can indicate how competitive a particular course is it may also be a sign that a lot of people apply who simply do not have the right qualifications. Some of the very best courses may not attract huge numbers of applicants, often because people may feel the entry requirements are too high.

- **Consult an Adviser**

Education Advisers offer a comprehensive University advice and placement service. Our experienced advisers can help you choose the right course and assist you with all aspects of the application process. Please call +44 1622 813870 or complete the online form at www.universityadvice.co.uk

RESOURCES

Websites:

Individual University and Art School websites (these can be accessed via UCAS)

UCAS: <http://www.ucas.ac.uk/>

Council for Higher Education in Art and Design (CHEAD): <http://www.thead.ac.uk/>

<http://www.britisharts.co.uk/artcolleges.html>

Books:

HEAP University Degree Course Offers: Heap, Brian (Trotman 2012)

Updated annually with a wealth of information about the different courses on offer, entry requirements and application data.

Getting Into Art and Design Courses: Burnett, James (Trotman 2014)

CHOOSING AN ART SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY

Choosing the Right Art School or University

For a student looking for the right place to study the choice can be bewildering. There are several different types of institution that fall within the broad category of “Art Schools”, and they vary enormously in terms of size, type and reputation. Some specialize in particular branches of Art and Design, and some offer a wide range of different disciplines. It is very important to look at the type of institution which is appropriate for your needs, taking into account what stage of education you have reached and the qualifications you already have, and your future plans.

Universities

Art and Design degree courses are offered at many UK universities. Some are taught in departments which are an integral part of the whole university, and others are taught in Schools or Colleges of Art which are separate institutions but affiliated to a university, such as Slade School of Art (UCL), and the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art (Oxford University).

There are a few universities which specialise in Arts courses and are made up of a number of separate institutions. One of the most famous is University of the Arts London (UAL).

UAL is made up of six separate institutions:

- Camberwell College of Arts
- Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design
- Chelsea College of Art and Design
- London College of Communication
- London College of Fashion
- Wimbledon College of Art

Another is University of the Creative Arts (UCA) which has four separate campuses in the South-East of England.

Specialist Art Schools

These are institutions which specialise in Art and Design courses. Traditionally, courses at Art Schools have led to Diploma qualifications, but most now offer degrees, which are validated by a university. They have the same status as a University. Some of the most well known are:

- Glasgow School of Art (University of Glasgow)
- Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (Birmingham City University)
- Hereford College of Art (University of Wales)

A few Art schools have themselves taken on the status of Universities, such as University College Falmouth, and Norwich University of the Arts.

There are also one or two independent Art Schools that confer their own degrees, most notably the City and Guilds of London Art School. Most specialist Art Schools and Colleges offer both degree level courses and Foundation Courses.

Independent Specialist Institutions

If you have a particular interest in a certain area of Art and Design – Fashion for example – you may choose to apply to a private specialist institution that offers a limited range of degree courses in a particular field. Such institutions can provide a stimulating environment for studying with tutors who are practising professionals in their field. An example is the Istituto Marangoni, which specialises in Fashion.

Which are the top art schools?

It is extremely difficult to rank Art and Design degree courses as there are many factors which make different courses and universities attractive places to study. It is important to focus on the “Questions to ask when choosing where to study”, when you are deciding where to apply.

However, there are various League Tables which rank providers of Art and Design degrees according to factors such as overall student satisfaction, the percentage of graduates employed after 6 months, the amount spent on each students, and the student:staff ratio.

The following institutions consistently score highly:

The Slade School of Fine Art (UCL)
The Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art (Oxford)
Lancaster University
Brunel University
Newcastle University
University of Kent
Goldsmiths, University of London

League tables vary considerably depending on the criteria used to judge the quality of courses and should be used with caution for Art and Design degrees.

The following give some useful and interesting data:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2016/may/23/university-guide-2017-league-table-for-art>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings?s=Art%20%26%20Design>

Education Advisers offers a bespoke university advice and consultation service to assist with all aspects of choosing a degree course, and preparing and submitting your application. Our consultants include ex senior Admissions Officers at Russell Group universities and all have many years experience of advising students.

For further details please call + 44 1622 813870 or complete the online form at www.universityadvice.co.uk



QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING WHERE TO STUDY:

- What exactly do I want to study?
- Is there a particular discipline that I want to focus on?
- What does this institution specialise in?
- What is the staff/student ratio?
- What are the facilities like?
- How will I be assessed?
- What is the location like?
- Do I want to live and study in a big city or would I prefer to be in a small town?
- What accommodation is provided and how far is it from the University?
- What extra-curricular activities will be available?
- Do I want to be part of a bigger University or would I prefer to study at a specialist Art School?
- How competitive is entry to my chosen course?
- What is included in the tuition fee? Will I have to pay extra for materials?
- What teaching methods are used?
- Is the course flexible enough to allow me to pursue new interests?

SUBMITTING A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

Entry Requirements and Application Procedures

You will find when you look at different Art and Design courses in the UK that they often have different entry requirements and the application procedure can be quite confusing. The basic requirement is that you are interested in Art, and have some degree of talent! Formal qualifications for entry to degree courses vary considerably. How and when you apply to a school, college, Art School or University depends on the level of course, your age, your previous qualifications and whether you are a UK/EU or international student.

The table below shows the basic qualifications needed to apply for different courses. If you have different qualifications and are not sure if you are eligible to apply please contact Education Advisers for advice. We can almost certainly find the right course for you!

English Language Ability

Unless they offer a specific English as an Additional Language course, most schools and colleges will require you to have the equivalent of IELTS 5.5 in order to study Art and Design at any level. For degree course a score of 6.0 is general needed. English Language entry requirements vary so it is important to check with the institution you want to study at.



Applying for a Sixth-Form Place to study A-Level

Schools and sixth-form colleges will all want to see your school reports for the last two years. Entry is typically conditional on minimum GCSE grades. You may be required to sit admissions tests when applying to a private school. Other application requirements and procedures vary.

Applying for a Special Foundation Programme with or without A-Levels

Each institution has its own specific application procedure. You will generally need to provide school reports for the last two years, evidence of your English Language ability and in some cases a brief personal statement to explain why you want to take the course. You may also be asked to submit a portfolio of your work. This can be done electronically.

Applications for all Sixth-Form and special Foundation Programme courses can be made through Education Advisers. We can discuss your requirements in detail, help you identify the best course for you and assist with the application process.



ENTRY TO	UK QUALIFICATIONS	INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	NOTES
A-Level/IB/Pre-U	GCSE – normally 5+ subjects at Grades A*-C MYP completion	High School graduation at 16+ Minimum 2 years school reports IELTS 5.5 - 6.0*	Most schools require you to have at least a B grade at GCSE for any subject you want to study at A-Level. Sometimes a Grade A is required.
Special Foundation Programme + A-Levels	GCSE – normally 5+ subjects at Grades A*-C MYP completion Personal Statement Portfolio	High School graduation at 16+ Personal Statement Portfolio IELTS 4-5*	Entry requirements for Special Foundation Programmes vary. Contact us for details. Some colleges offer extended programmes for students with lower level qualifications.
Foundation Course	A-Levels (2+ at Grades A*-E, including at least one in Art and Design) Personal Statement Portfolio Interview	High School graduation at 18+ Personal Statement Portfolio IELTS 5.5	
Degree Course	A-Levels (1 or 2+ at Grades A*-E) GCSE English and Maths (Grade C or higher) Personal Statement Portfolio Interview (Completion of a Foundation Course)*	High School graduation at 18+ Personal Statement Portfolio Interview IELTS 6.0	These are the MINIMUM requirements for degree courses. Many courses have much higher entry requirements. Not all Art Schools/Universities interview applicants.

APPLYING FOR A FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN ART AND DESIGN

Applying for a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

For UK/EU students, applications for Foundation Diploma courses should be made by December of the year before you want to start your course. There is no limit to the number of Foundation Diploma courses you are allowed to apply to. Application deadlines vary so it is essential to check with the institution you are applying to.

Application Procedures

Each institution has its own specific application procedure. Some or all of the following are likely to be required:

- **Completed application form**

Obtain an application form from the institution. Some forms can be completed and submitted online. Others need to be sent by post. Ensure that the form is completed fully and by the deadline, as schools and colleges may not consider incomplete or late applications.

- **Personal Statement**

If you are asked to write a personal statement, you should use it to explain why you have chosen to take a Foundation Course, what your particular Art interests are, examples of projects you have worked on, artists you are interested in and any plans you have for future study.

- **Portfolio**

Your portfolio is the most important part of your application. It is your chance to show what you can do, and how you work as an artist. In some cases you will be asked to physically deliver a portfolio to your chosen college for the admissions tutors to review. You will be given a date once you have submitted your application. In other cases you will be asked to submit an electronic portfolio.

It is essential to read the instructions carefully and ensure that your portfolio is submitted in the correct format and by the deadline. See the Portfolio section for top tips on putting together an impressive portfolio.

- **Interview**

Some colleges will ask you to attend an interview to discuss your portfolio and to find out more about what motivates you. They will be looking for a genuine interest in Art and Design and evidence that you have the ability and the drive to successfully complete the course.

For international students (non EU) the application procedures and deadlines for Foundation Diploma Courses are different.

Please contact us for advice on the best courses and for details of how and when to apply.

APPLYING FOR A DEGREE COURSE IN ART AND DESIGN

Applying for a Degree Course in Art and Design at Art School/University

Applications for Undergraduate Degree courses are submitted through UCAS (University Central Admissions Service) Further information can be found on the UCAS website. <http://www.ucas.ac.uk/>
Note: International students may be able to apply direct to an Art School rather than using the UCAS procedure

There are strict deadlines for applying for degree courses. It is essential to check with the Art School/University you are applying to. For Art and Design courses there are three deadlines (15 October, 15 January, 24 March)

University Applications for UK and EU Students

If you are a UK or EU student your application follows the same process and route as for any other UK degree course in that you must submit your UCAS Application Form including your Personal Statement by the usual deadlines. You are allowed to apply to up to FIVE Art Schools/Universities in one year.

For Art and Design degree courses you are normally asked to submit a portfolio in digital format and then you may subsequently be invited for an interview, typically in February or March.

Note that many of the best Art Schools receive more than ten times as many applications as spaces. The initial applications are typically thinned down to three times in terms of applicants invited to interview, when they must bring their paper portfolio.

Note that you can apply to a full BA degree or a Foundation Programme at the same University at the same time and then choose one. If you apply for a degree course but the admissions tutors think you would benefit from taking a Foundation Course first, they may recommend this.

If you are an international student it is possible to apply for a degree course after the UCAS deadlines if there are still places available.

Education Advisers Ltd offers a comprehensive University Consultancy Service. Our consultants include ex senior Admissions Officers at Russell Group universities and all have many years experience of advising students. We can help you decide on the best course to take, and assist you with all aspects of your application, from developing your portfolio, writing your personal statement and preparing for interviews. Please contact us for further details on +44 1622 813870 or email info@educationadvisers.co.uk

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CREATING AN IMPRESSIVE PORTFOLIO

The importance of your portfolio

Whatever Art and Design course you are interested in applying for, a strong portfolio is the most essential part of your application. Your portfolio is a chance to demonstrate your artistic skills and talent, and an opportunity to show admissions tutors what makes you tick, what inspires you, and how you develop your ideas creatively.

You need to include things such as sketches, notes, photographs and anything else that shows how you respond creatively and how your work has evolved.

TOP TEN PORTFOLIO TIPS

- 1. Ensure your portfolio demonstrates good technical skills. Admissions tutors will want to see these. Life Drawing classes are excellent for developing your drawing skills.**
- 2. Include some observational drawings. This is essential.**
- 3. Be selective about what to include. You should choose your best work, but make sure that it is recent.**
- 4. Add information about your work**
- 5. Make sure that your portfolio is clearly organised and that work is labelled with approximate dates.**
- 6. Presentation is important! Your portfolio must be neatly presented, not just a collection of work stuffed in a plastic folder!**
- 7. Large pieces of work or 3D pieces should be photographed and included in your portfolio.**
- 8. Photographs must be of high quality. Ideally photograph work in natural light and for 3D pieces use a 3-point light system.**
- 9. For a digital portfolio make sure that all work is saved in a high quality format so that it can be zoomed in on without pixilation.**
- 10. Aim to create a narrative in your portfolio which charts your creative development.**

Preparing for an Interview for an Art and Design Course

There is no doubt that an interview can be quite a daunting and nerve-wracking prospect for anyone applying to Art School or University. However, with the right preparation (and the right attitude!) your interview should be an interesting and hopefully rewarding experience. You should see your interview as an opportunity to talk about your work to someone you will be genuinely interested in you as an artist. You will probably be asked to bring along your paper portfolio and discuss your work so make sure you have plenty to say about it!

As well as your own work, you should be prepared to talk about artists whose work you find interesting. You should make the most of every opportunity to go to Art Galleries and Exhibitions, and get into the habit of jotting down ideas about what you see. It is also a good idea to have a sketch book to hand so that you can record your thoughts and observations visually.

Next steps

Hopefully you now have a lot of information about how to study Art and Design in the UK. If you need any help or advice please call us on +44 1622 813870. We will be very happy to assist you with the next stage of your creative journey!



Co-educational, sixth-form, independent boarding school

Superb Art Department encompassing a range of disciplines, including Art and Design, Fine Art, Textiles, Photography and Sculpture.

- **Age 16-19**
- **One of the top co-educational boarding schools in the UK**
- **Outstanding A-Level Results**

At Hurtwood we are passionate about creative expression, and this is reflected in our superb facilities, inspirational teaching and outstanding results. We offer A-Levels in Art and Design, Photography and Textiles, as well as full range of other subjects which can be taken in any combination.



please contact the Admissions Office
01483 279000

info@hurtwood.net
www.hurtwoodhouse.com 279000

We believe that all students can, through careful guidance and demonstrations, be taught a broad range of Art and Design techniques including the basic skills of drawing, painting and observation. We have high expectations of our students and they achieve exceptional results. Over the past five years 180 of the 186 students entered for the A Level Art and Design examination have been awarded A*/A.

The Hurtwood approach is that there is no secret formula or special talent needed to learn the skills and techniques of drawing.

Our students develop their own personal style and technique through an exciting teaching program that emphasises individual experimentation and risk taking.

Hurtwood students regularly gain places at the most sought-after Art Schools.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL



We support every student individually and tailor their programme to the career pathway they wish to take.

Our students are working across the world – London, New York, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Bangkok for some of the best design companies in the world and many have successfully launched their own labels.

For further information

CSVPA

Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts

Bridge House, Bridge Street, Cambridge

Providing pathways in Art & Design, Drama and Music, Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts provides a unique and highly personalised environment in which to learn. Offering some of the best facilities in a dedicated art and performing arts school and more one-on-one teaching time, our students are better prepared for their professional career or further studies.

ART & DESIGN PROGRAMMES

(Art & Design Extended Diploma and Foundation Diploma accredited by University of the Arts London Awarding Body, BA Fashion Design, BA Graphics and Illustration, Art and Design Pre-Master's awarded by Kingston University)

DRAMA & MUSIC PROGRAMMES

(Performing Arts Pre-Foundation accredited by University of the Arts London Awarding Body, Drama Foundation in association with RADA, Music Foundation)

SUMMER PROGRAMMES

(Portfolio Preparation, Art & Design, Drama – Classical Acting or Musical Theatre)

Over the last 30 years we have increased our portfolio to include Degrees and a Master's preparation programme, established links with leading institutions, including University of the Arts London Awarding Body, Kingston University and Britain's most famous theatre school, The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and helped students progress onto some of the most prestigious Art & Design schools, music Conservatoires and world-renowned drama schools.

- **Guaranteed 5 days week teaching**
- **Studio based lectures every day**
- **Max class size of 15**
- **All students have their own design space**
- **Studios open 7 days a week**
- **Guaranteed iMac for Graphics and Illustration**
- **Mannequins for Fashion Design**
- **Lectures and time with industry professionals**
- **English support for essay and dissertation writing**
- **Guaranteed participation in end of year exhibition or fashion show**
- **Guaranteed graduate show in London**
- **Free printing up to A3 colour**

Please contact Admissions on +44 (0) 1223 345698

admissions@csvpa.com

www.csvpa.com

RECOMMENDED COLLEGE

DLD COLLEGE LONDON 100 Marylebone Lane, London W1U 2QB

Co-educational, independent college offering A Level, GCSE and BTEC Programmes



DLD is an independent sixth form college situated in Marylebone in the heart of London. There are 350 students at the college, 300 of whom are preparing for A Levels and the remaining 50 are studying for their GCSEs. As part of the Alpha Plus Group, DLD College aims to maintain a 'gold standard' of educational quality. Classes are small, enabling students and teachers to focus upon the most effective ways of learning. The College offers superb, modern teaching and resources in one of London's safest and most accessible areas, 5 minutes from Regent's Park, the Wallace Collection and the Wigmore Hall. DLD offers a range of subjects including Art and Design, Media studies, and Photography.

- **Superb, Central London location**
- **Outstanding facilities for Art and Design and Photography**
- **Accommodation options available**
- **DLD students progress to top Foundation Diploma courses**

At DLD we never lose sight of the fact that helping our students to achieve their potential means making certain that they achieve the best possible academic qualifications.



Artistic skill underpins every creative practice. Our approach is to support the development of practical skills whilst encouraging expression and personal creativity. During the first part of the academic year you will explore a variety of materials, processes and techniques, whilst simultaneously building on your contextual knowledge. These new skills will act as a foundation for the second part of the academic year, which consists of an exam unit, where you will draw upon previous learning experiences to devise your own project. Throughout this creative journey you will be guided by experienced and supportive staff members who will draw on a variety of teaching methods in order to help you achieve your potential.

For further information

Please contact the Admissions Office on **(0)20 7935 8411**
<http://www.dldcollege.co.uk/>
dld@dld.org

RECOMMENDED COLLEGE

ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

Star Hill, Rochester, Kent ME1 1XF

“It would be hard to find better provision for an artist.”
The Good Schools Guide 2013

A co-educational day & boarding school for students aged 11 to sixth form.

Rochester Independent College's sixth form is a stepping stone between school and art college or university, combining academic rigour with a creative buzz.

The Visual Arts department is dynamic with an excellent track record of results not only at A level but also at placing students at the top art schools in the UK including UCL's Slade School and Central Saint Martins.



Students can specialise in the following areas: **Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography, Fashion & Textiles, Sculpture & Ceramics.**

Visual Arts courses can be combined with 35 different A levels including Art History, Theatre Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies and Music Technology. Students aiming for Architecture at university can combine Visual Art courses with Maths and Physics.

At the heart of a designated conservation area, Rochester Independent College is housed in restored properties enhanced by modern design features. New this year is Underhill Hall, a home for RIC Drama with seating for 100 people and a brand new suite of Art studios. All boarding is on site, in mostly single rooms, some with en-suite facilities.

Students enjoy an art college atmosphere where they are welcomed at all times during the working week, not just during lesson times. There are spacious studios with individual working zones for fine art students and an open area for graphics, textiles, ceramics and photography students. All those who teach within the department are active, practicing artists, designers and photographers. The well-known artist, poet and musician Billy Childish is a visiting lecturer. Regular exhibitions of student work are organised at local galleries and arts venues.

For further information

Please contact The Admissions Office **01634 828115**
admissions@rochester-college.org
www.rochester-college.org

Education Advisers Ltd

Contact us for a no-obligation
initial consultation

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Email: info@educationadvisers.co.uk

Websites: www.educationadvisers.co.uk

www.best-schools.co.uk

www.bestsummerschools.co.uk

www.sixth-form.com

www.bestprepschools.co.uk

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