



Art & Design: Photography or Fine Art Specialisms

The Art department forms part of the Create & Perform Faculty at Barr's Hill. We are committed to ensuring students receive top quality teaching and learning experiences. Students will be taught by passionate and experienced staff in our specialist rooms including 2 Art rooms, a photography studio and a photography dark room. Alongside the course there will be opportunities to take part in contemporary studies to support them with their future aspirations.

Entry Requirements

We require 5 GCSE's at grade 5 or above. Many students taking A-level Art have a GCSE in Art or Photography and enjoy the combination of practical, technical, creative, and contextual demands involved in such a practical, coursework-laden subject. Students without an Art GCSE should have some equivalent experience that reflects their creative and practical interests for example they should have evidence of developing skills, ideas and understanding relating to a specific theme in art and/or photography.

Topics covered

During this course you will have the opportunity to develop expertise in observation, critical analysis and experimentation. You will refine your art and design skills in your chosen specialism, taking advantage of the facilities we are able to offer. Support and guidance will be provided throughout the course and historically the average grade that student achieve on this course is grade A.

Skills you will develop on the course

All A-level Art courses introduce you to a wide range of media and processes. These will always include drawing, whatever specialism you choose, but can also include a range of other techniques and processes: painting, printmaking, collage, photography, digital work, mixed media, sculpture, film and performance. The area you spend most time on will depend on the direction and focus of your chosen specialism. You will develop an extensive range of creative practical work, with some supporting 'contextual skills'.

Assessment

We follow the AQA Art & Design specification. The 2-year course has 2 units:
1.) 50% portfolio consisting of a personal investigation of your own chosen theme,
2.) 50% externally set assignment.

Both units have 4 assessment objectives and are marked out of 24 per objective, 96 overall per unit.

Educational trips, visits and wider experiences

During the course you will have wider experiences that will enhance your knowledge and understanding. You will have the opportunity to take part in Life Drawing days at Bablake School, working with a life model and alongside other schools in the city.

An organised visit will take place to Birmingham to experience exhibitions in the Ikon Gallery, Digbeth Custard Factory and the German Christmas Market. Other potential visits will be to London to see the Art quarters of Shoreditch, Brixton and Camden Town.

What type of students will do well on this course?

Students who succeed on this course are interested in researching inspiration, have perseverance, good time management and independent working skills to realise your full creative potential.

For more information contact:

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Post-School Progression Opportunities

University	Entry requirements	Other similar courses offered
Coventry University Automotive and Transport Design (BA Hons)	BBC to include at least 1 Art subject	Foundation Art, Design & Media Practice (1 year) Architecture (BSc Hons) Product Design (BA Hons) Fine Art (BA Hons)
BCU Photography (BA Hons)	BBC/minimum of 112 UCAS points	Arts & Project Management (BA Hons with MA) Costume Design & Practice (BA Hons)
University of Northampton Games Art (BA Hons)	BCC at A-Level and a portfolio of own work	Games Design (BA Hons) Graphic Communication (BA Hons) Photography (BA Hons)

Career Opportunities

Forensic Artist



What would I do?

- Sketch composites of criminal suspects of unidentifiable persons
- Recreate skeletal, decomposed, or mutilated images using 2-D and 3-D computer imagery
- Create age progression sketches of suspects and missing persons
- Prepare diagrams, chart evidence boards and 3-D reconstructions of crime scenes for court hearings and other judicial proceedings
- Prepare reports, exhibits and displays for court proceedings
- Artistically enhance photographs

Salary: Starting: £23,500
UK average: £32,000
Routes in: Bachelor's degree

Architect



What would I do?

- creating detailed technical plans using computer-aided design software
- creating a plan, following building laws and safety regulations
- working towards budgets
- managing construction
- checking building work and progress

Salary: Starting: £23,000
UK average: £42,555
Routes in: Relevant Bachelor's degree

Photographer



What would I do?

- carry out research and preparation for a shoot
- work in different locations and circumstances to get the right image
- use an extensive range of technical equipment, including cameras, lenses, lighting and specialist software
- communicate with photographic subjects to put them at ease, encourage them and direct them
- liaise with other professionals, including graphic designers, writers, gallery managers, picture researchers, commissioning editors and art directors
- compile finished products for sale, such as albums and framed prints
- understand traditional film and digital photography and keep up to date with industry trends, developments and new techniques

Salary: Starting: £16,000
UK average: £42,000
Routes in: Relevant Bachelor's degree