

Interview and portfolio guidelines and processes *for applicants wanting to study Art & Design*

At the University of Greenwich a portfolio is required for all Art & Design applicants invited for interview. A broad range of skills, care and talent should be evident within the portfolio. The interview should be seen as your opportunity to discuss the portfolio drawing out the skills, care and talent on view.

What is a portfolio?

"What is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?"

Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, Chapter 1

A portfolio is a body of work that conveys your sensibilities in terms of creativity, imagination, skills, ideas and intelligence in some form of order. It could be argued that it is the thought process made visible. The portfolio may be communicated through sketches, drawings, photography, animation, craft, 3D work and text. Generally a portfolio would include the evolution of a piece of work and its resolution of sorts, it may contain completed work and work in progress. There is no one kind of portfolio and it comes in no fixed size but what is most important is that it is the opportunity to show your energy, enthusiasm, interests and considered thoughts.

Portfolio recommendation

Your Art & Design portfolio must evidence some of the following:

- ☐ **Visual work:** Compositional skills that include forms, shapes, light and use of colour with good understanding of scale type and space.
- ☐ **Creative Thinking:** Creative ideas, conceptual thinking and experimentation
- ☐ **Research and evaluation:** Through the work, resources and sketchbooks
- ☐ **Interdisciplinary exploration:** Quality of testing materials, mediums, media, prints.
- ☐ **Discipline awareness:** Understanding & application subject knowledge and context of contemporary art and design practices.

Some things you may consider including in your portfolio.

1. Drawings without the aid of a machine.

It is important that you show sketches and other drawings. The hand and eye are quick intelligent editing systems. Make sure you include hand drawn and/or painted work.

2. Do I need to know how to use design software?

We do not expect students coming into the first year to have specific software skills but it is useful to have some experience of Photoshop, illustrator or similar applications.

3. Photography.

We would like to see your ability to take photos demonstrating your creative eye, framing and composition skills.

4. Making

Consider including made or sculptural objects such as 3D models, metalwork, woodwork, books, magazines, textiles or even clothing.

5. Design Technology and/or 3D design.

It is important that your portfolio does not just consist of this kind of work. Your aptitude for freehand and observational drawings is an important component to your studies.

6. Disciplinary Skills

This will depend on the specific programme you are applying for: work that shows some potential for developing your chosen area, even if this is purely in sketch or conceptual form.

7. Do I need to have studied art &/or design at school or college?

This is not necessary; you may have gained your skills and experience from other sources such as workshops, self-motivated study at libraries and museums backed up with practicing art and design skills. Your portfolio is an opportunity to show that you have developed these skills independently.

Student selection - what do we look for?

All applications will be considered by the academic staff and offers will be made using the following information:

- We will look at your qualifications (or predicted grades)
- We will review your academic and personal reference
- We will review your portfolio and your interview

Interview tips

If you are invited for an interview you can prepare yourself beforehand by thinking of possible questions that you may have for the academic staff.

Also revisit your UCAS personal statement, so you are prepared in case the interview panel members ask you questions in relation to your statement.

Consider what your portfolio says about you and your practice.

The interview will be relatively informal and will take place at the University of Greenwich's new building in 10/11 Stockwell Street.

Please arrive at least 20 minutes prior to your interview time.