

Art and Design Foundation Diploma Level 3/4

The School of Art & Design – West Suffolk College

Course Title: UAL Art & Design Diploma – Foundation Studies

Course Level: 3/4

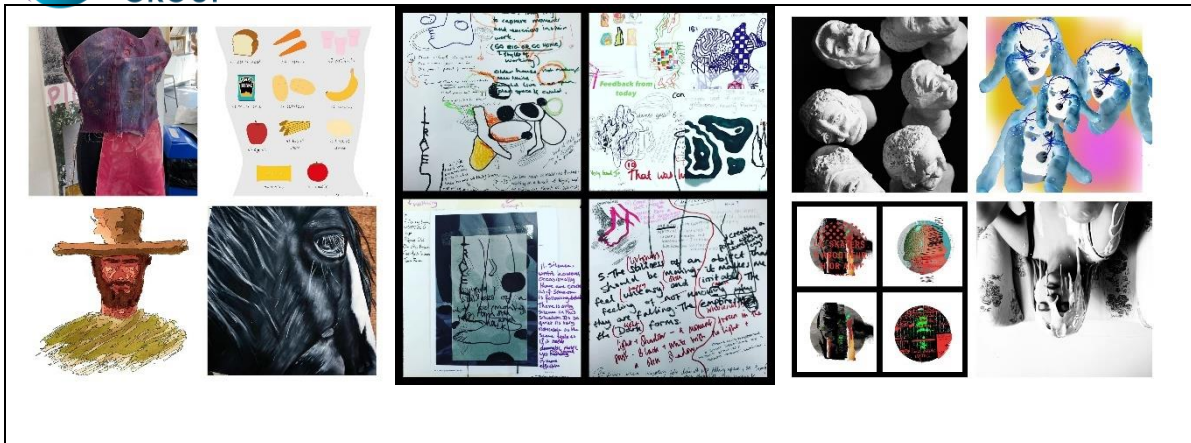
SECTION 1: A brief welcome paragraph

Foundation offers a vast and explorative range of workshops and projects aimed to improve and develop innovative artwork and high-level creative thinking. All disciplines are explored – from illustration and graphic design to sculpture and textiles, all underpinned with a rigorous and both traditional and experimental approach to all forms of drawing. Skills in all these areas are taught in a progressive and fast-paced way – with also time put in place to reflect and consider artistic approaches that work for individual minds. On Foundation we aim to develop exciting, skilled, and highly innovative *artists* ready for both university and employment pathways. We consider art to be a way of life, a visual journey, and a way to question, reflect and comment on the world we live in.



SECTION 2: Preparing to start your course. Initial kit list (more tbc).

- **External hard drive** – (anything over 500gb) and **Memory stick(s)** – aka USB – anything over 32gb. Get more than one for the year. Ideal to store and back up work.
- **Portfolio** – (black leather or canvas; A2 is an ideal size) + at least 10 sleeves (more may be needed as the course progresses).
- **Sketchbook(s)** – any size, but A5, A4 and A3 are ideal. Note: you will need many sketchbooks over the course – one a month is the minimum (= 10 if you include the summer work sketchbook). You can buy *or* make them. The summer work sketchbook should be A5.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A BLANK A3 SKETCHBOOK READY TO START WORKING INTO ON DAY 1 OF FAD.**
- **All general art materials** - fine-liner pens, graphite, charcoal, photography paper, scissors, Posca pens, brushes, paints, inks, glue, variety of pencils etc.



SECTION 3: Course Highlights from previous years

- Foundation students have attended 3 APEX events featuring inspirational talks from 30 leading international artists, makers and designers and industry professionals.
- International trips in past years have been to USA (New York, Washington DC, Philadelphia), South Korea, Vietnam, Berlin, Barcelona, Venice and Rome; and regular trips to galleries and artist studio visits.
- Foundation have visited/worked with such artists as Lawrence Edwards, Julia Soboleva, Alice Andrea Ewing and many more – including a lecture by renowned graphic designer David Carson. They have worked with Waterstones, Heretic Tattoos, Stephen Walters Silk Factory, Suffolk Libraries, Bloc Arts, St. Edmundsbury Cathedral and more.
- 100% of students progress to university or employment each year. Each year students attain places at prestigious universities such as Glasgow School of Art, Goldsmiths, Central St. Martins, Edinburgh, Camberwell, Chelsea, Falmouth, Brighton, Westminster, Norwich, Nottingham Trent, Kingston and Leeds.
- Foundation students achieved a record number of Distinction level grades and were above the national average over the last 4 years.
- Each year we set a range of high-level and open project briefs where work can be tailored to suit your chosen disciplines and develop work to lead to your Final Major Project. Titles (i.e. Structures, Rituals, Myths & Tales, Mapping etc.) allow students to work on a wide range of ideas in an extensive way through progressive development work to achieve high-end final pieces.

SECTION 4: Summer Work Tasks

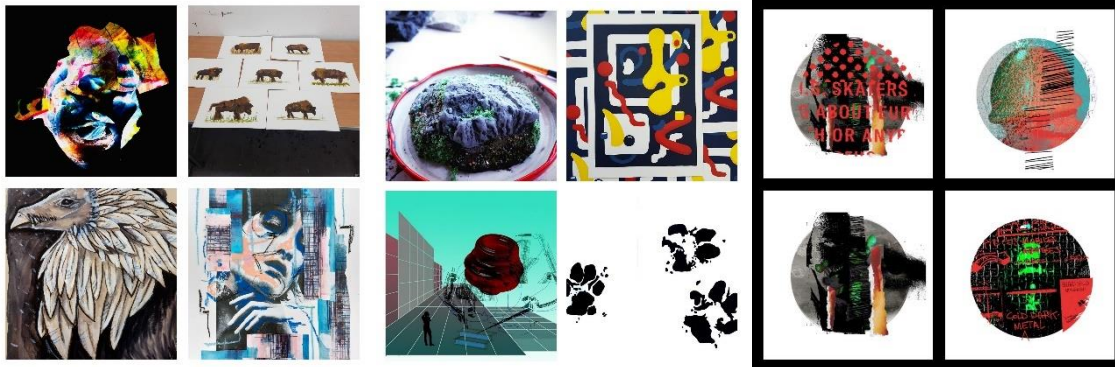
Google Classroom: we use Google Classroom for briefs, communication, uploading work and hand-ins, amongst other things. It has been used during Lockdown and has been successful for learning and teaching. I will be setting up a 2024-2025 classroom area for you to join soon, so there's nothing to do now until I send you info later regarding signing up for it. It'll be a mandatory part of the course for obvious reasons, and it's an efficient mode of communication. All project briefs, handouts and other key documents etc. will go on there. (This is for info only at this point.)

We also use **Google Slides** (and Google Sites) as a standard for digital presentation and storage of work. More will be imparted to you on this asap.

Kit list: have a look at the kit list – it's attached in the course handout in this email. You can get things as and when it's doable for you. But you will need a portfolio by half term at the latest.

Also, you'll need the general art materials and sketchbooks as and when too – but I'll send more info re this later on.

Summer work: here is the work I want you to do in preparation for the course. The work you do for this shows your commitment, ideas and ability, and will contribute to grades at the first interim assessment point (around half term – tbc). See below the summer work tasks based on the themes of **STRUCTURES, MAPPING, SURFACE, MESSAGES** and **COLLECTION (you can choose 1 theme, 2 themes, or combine all of them – it's up to you)**. Interpret these broad themes in any way you like. I'm interested in seeing your skills and idea generation and the individual approaches you all choose to your work.



1. **Fill a 20-30-page A5 sketchbook full of observational and/or abstract drawing work.** This can be anything you like, and in any media. It can be traditional or experimental or digital drawing (if using a digital sketchbook – it's up to you), or a mix of everything; make it work for you. I really want to see how you approach a sketchbook – drawing and sketchbooks are the, excuse the pun, foundations of all artwork. But whether you go outside in the world to draw things that inspire you, or stay in the house, use the sketchbook as a way to explore your summer months through visual recording and mark-making.

2. **Take 30 photographs of things that influence or inspire you – whether outside/external or inside/internal. Explore the world around you.** This could be nature, urban/suburban environments, landscapes, seascapes, patterns, lines, humans, buildings, rock formations, people, places, abstracted views of rooms, roads, textures, grids, etc. Be bold and creative and think in a constructive visual way. Think about how these could be used on the course (digitally enhanced/manipulated, printed to be used for further project work, how they'd look in a portfolio etc.)

3. **Set up an art Instagram account.** We use Instagram a lot to show and promote work, so it's essential that you set up an art account. It's easy and takes a minute or two to do. You may already have an art account for your artwork. So either set one up or use an existing one. But it *has* to be an **art-only** account, not your personal one. Please follow the FAD Instagram account - **@fadwsc** – and tag us, and the hashtag **#FADWSC24**. You need to put your full name and 'Foundation Art & Design Student' somewhere on there too, so we know who you are. This brings me on to number 4...

4. **Upload images of your summer work.** Select 10 min. sketchbook pages and 10 min. photos you create for the above summer tasks and upload them to your art Instagram account using the above hashtag and tagging **@fadwsc**, so I and the FAD staff team can see the work!

5. **Get a rough 500-word draft of a personal statement about you and your work – this can be**

done as bullet-points, notes etc. It is only a rough draft to get us going when the time to think about university comes. To be typed on a Word document. This will be preparation for if/when you go through the UCAS process and apply to university the following year. These can be bullet points about things to do with your work and how you approach art, why you want to do Higher Education, artists and designers you admire, art work you look at, galleries/exhibitions you've been to, and what you want from a university course.

6. Research into any possible universities for your future pathway after Foundation. Look at www.Ucas.com and individual websites for universities you like the look of and gather some information on their courses. Keep a record of the information (on the same Word doc that you write your 500-word personal statement draft, above) for use later on the course, when it comes to making decisions for your next stage of study.

PLEASE BRING IN - ON YOUR FIRST DAY - THREE PRINTED OUT A4 COPIES OF ANY WORK YOU'VE DONE OVER SUMMER - EITHER DRAWING, PHOTOGRAPH, PAINTING. CHOOSE THREE DIFFERENT PIECES OF WORK. COLOUR OR BLACK & WHITE. We will need them for the creative task that we will be doing on the day.



Deadline Date:
Wednesday August 28th 2024

How do students submit their completed work:
bring on the first day and have it uploaded on Instagram – as detailed above.

SECTION 5: Useful sites

Foundation on Instagram: **@fadwsc**

PINTEREST INSPIRATION AND RESEARCH LINKS:

https://www.pinterest.com/cb_craig75/towersstructures/

https://uk.pinterest.com/cb_craig75/structure-drawn/

https://uk.pinterest.com/cb_craig75/structure-made/

https://uk.pinterest.com/cb_craig75/structure-photographed/

https://www.pinterest.co.uk/cb_craig75/drawn/

https://www.pinterest.co.uk/cb_craig75/mapped/

Previous years' exhibitions online:

The WSC VEXED end-of-year show 2021:

<https://sites.google.com/wsc.ac.uk/vexed21/vexed-2021/foundation-level-34?authuser=0>

The online brochure for our WSC Apex Creative talks 20+ international artists and creatives gave lectures to our students during 2019-2020:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/63524982/lch-talks-creative-journeys>