Nottingham College Course Specification 2025-26

	Basic Course Information	
1	**Awarding Institution**	Nottingham Trent University
2	**Faculty/Campus**	Creative Arts / City
3	**Final Award**	Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Art and Design
	Course Title	BA (Hons) Art and Design
	Modes of Study	Full-time/Part time
4	**Normal Duration**	Full Time 1 years; 30 Weeks
		Part Time 2 years 60 weeks
5	**UCAS code**	Institution Code: N30
		Campus Code: C
		UCAS Course Code:
		BA (Hons) Art and Design

6 Overview and general educational aims of the course

The BA (Hons) Art & Design Course has been developed to meet the needs of students who have already gained a Foundation Degree, HND or other similar qualification and wish to continue their Higher Education studies to Degree level. The primary emphasis of the course is towards the development of a professional art and design practice with a cohesive and challenging critical and contextual underpinning.

The ethos of the course is a student-centred, broad-based explorative approach to the development of a personal art and design practice. The course aims to promote creativity and critical self-reflective practice in all aspects of learning as well as independent study and research. This is reflected in the shifting emphasis from group and studio/workshop teaching in semester one to individual tutorials in individual spaces in semester two.

The course promotes an enquiring, creative and challenging approach towards the making of individual work. Exploration and innovation are seen as essential to the development of creative ideas and content, which in turn promote reflective individual art and design practice. The course encourages the belief that artists and designers have the independent thoughts, feelings, reactions and attitudes needed to externalise and visualise within theoretical work and practical art and design practice.

The art and design fields are by nature interdisciplinary and inclusive, acknowledging borders and limits, but also recognising a need to explore and experiment with materials and processes. You will work in both interdisciplinary art and design groups and specialist subject-specific groups, which will encourage breadth and depth in individual art and design practice.

At the end of the course you will have acquired the professional knowledge and understanding, skills and attributes to equip you for employment in the art and design and creative industries and/or postgraduate study.

In the context of this degree course, design includes graphic design, whilst Fine Art refers to the multiple strands of practice and mediums that are included under that umbrella including 2D and 3D, installations, performance and digital art. A holistic approach will be given to art and design theory and critical analysis, with the appropriate specialist focus being offered for advanced studio practice with students selecting from the two specialist areas of Fine Art and Graphic Design.

Fine Art

You will continue to explore the core discipline of fine art through the further development of individual good practice identified on your FdA or HND course in Fine Art. You will work with the fine art process to demonstrate the developing creative, intellectual and technical skills necessary to practice within the art and design industry. The understanding of Contemporary issues affecting the art and design industry and awareness of historical aspects of fine art will underpin developing individual practice.

Through the use of specific technical and creative processes and knowledge and appropriate fine art applications you will demonstrate creative research, development and construction of professional fine art resolutions.

Through individually selected fine art competitions, live briefs or negotiated projects you will continue to develop your professional portfolio. An advanced major project in fine art will showcase your individual best practice to date in the culmination of a public end of year show.

Graphic Design

You will continue to explore the core discipline of graphic design through the further development of individual good practice identified on your FdA or HND course in Graphic Design. You will work with the design process to demonstrate the developing creative, intellectual and technical skills necessary to practice within the graphic design industry. The understanding of Contemporary issues affecting the graphic design industry and awareness of historical aspects of graphic design will underpin developing individual practice.

Through the use of specific technical graphic design knowledge and appropriate graphic design applications you will demonstrate creative design research, development and construction of professional graphic design resolutions.

Through individually selected graphic design competitions, live briefs or negotiated projects you will continue to develop your professional portfolio. An advanced major project in graphic design will showcase your individual best practice to date in the culmination of a public end of year show.

Specifically the course aims to:

- Ensure you graduate with creative independence, and through the development of your own distinctive vision and practice to contribute to the broad cultural and economic development of the creative industries.
- Equip you with appropriate research, analytical, critical and technical skills in order to articulate and make informed judgements about your own practice and

that of other practitioners.

- Provide you with insights into the ways in which art and design practice promotes versatility and independence within individual practice and vocational choices.
- Enable you to recognise and continue the evolving dialogue and negotiation between artist, designer, client, manufacturer, customer and/or recipient.
- Promote self-directed learning and opportunities for independent study and development, within an environment that acknowledges the rich diversity of varied background experiences.
- Help you fulfil your own unique potential when working as a pro-active autonomous practitioner or collaborative team worker.

7 **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The course outcomes have been developed with reference to the QAA Art and Design subject benchmark statement (Feb 2017) These outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and Understanding. By the end of the course you should be able to:

A1. Synthesise information from a variety of sources in a chosen field of art & design

A2. Understand the relevant regulations, legislation and professional ethics concerning art & design practice.

A3. Apply principles and techniques of art and design practice and problem solving employing convergent and divergent thinking

A4. Reflect upon creative and independent processes in workshop and studio practice.

A5. Apply reflective academic and professional research through coherent, evaluative and analytical process.

Skills, qualities and attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

B1. Apply contextual knowledge and professional techniques to art & design practice.

B2. Create innovative solutions to negotiated problems in art & design, using appropriate design knowledge and relevant software

B3. Analyse and apply contemporary management, marketing and business principles in the context of art & design practice.

B4. Apply clear, reflective and critical communication skills to verbal, written, and visual presentation

B5. Demonstrate critical independent and collaborative practice and communicate reasoned solutions.

B6. Demonstrate a professional range of transferable skills, including; communication skills, IT skills, interpersonal skills, critical engagement, diplomacy, negotiation and endurance

B7. Initiate and manage individual work, accepting responsibility in determining and achieving appropriate outcomes that demonstrate ongoing intellectual curiosity and open mindedness

8 **Teaching and Learning Methods**

A variety of teaching and learning methods are incorporated into the course in order to ensure the coverage of all the learning outcomes. Learning activities are planned to help you to achieve learning aims taking into account different learning styles. A wide range of delivery methods are used to encourage and further develop independent learning.

Delivery methods used by the course team during the course include:

Projects

Directed group or individual study on a project brief negotiated with tutors, external agencies or competitions. Projects are expressed in a written brief and are usually introduced during a briefing session by the tutor(s). The brief usually requires students to address a particular theme through research, critical analysis, creative development and resolution. Each module outcome or outcomes is intended to evidence a range of distinct skill sets and is assessed against differentiated criteria.

Projects are usually devised to promote a variety of individual responses. The project brief will state the aims, learning outcomes and assessment criteria of the module. A project or projects may be part of a module assessment requirement or may represent the entire requirement for a module.

Critique ('Crit')

A critique or 'crit' may be undertaken during and/or at the end of a project. You will be required to present your work to your peer group and explain your self-reflective thinking together with reasons and factors which shaped it. You are encouraged to actively participate in crits by way of debate and argument.

Peer Review

Peer reviews are undertaken throughout all modules under the guidance of module leaders. Peers provide formative feedback on work in progress in a variety of ways. The shared understanding gained from peer evaluation is informative and wide-ranging.

Research

This describes independent investigation and enquiry to support course, project, module or personal learning outcomes or goals. It will involve the exploration of primary or secondary sources of information, often using library/resource facilities at the college or elsewhere. It may also require that you contact external organisations and professionals.

Lectures

Individual lectures are used to underpin your activity in both theoretical and practical subjects. They provide a springboard for your further individual enquiry.

Seminars

Seminars are used as a student-centred means of identifying themes relevant to the

course.

Studio and Workshop Practice

This describes learning through practical work and the production of work in the studio environment or workshops. The work is often in support of a project or learning outcome. Studio and workshop practice may be timetabled or independent learning. Access to workshops is only available to you when staff are present.

Independent Learning (self-directed study)

Teaching is complemented by independent learning. An increasing emphasis is placed on independent learning as you progress through the programme. Independent learning may be based on project briefs or assignments to encourage individual creative development and independent lines of enquiry.

Tutorials

Individual and group tutorials provide you with academic guidance and counselling to help you achieve programme learning outcomes and individual goals. The tutorial is a forum in which you may evaluate your progress and attainment and plan ways in which you will subsequently develop your learning.

Exhibition of Work

An end-of-year exhibition of selected work is displayed at the end of the year to an audience and public. Exhibition/display develops a range of important creative and professional skills, for example, selection and curation of work and methods of presentation.

9 **Assessment methods**

The course uses a variety of assessment techniques to ensure that you can demonstrate the range of learning outcomes.

Subject knowledge and understanding is mainly tested through coursework. It is also present in individual reports, project proposals, reflective logs, blogs and written evaluations, seminars and the practice-led research report. These assessment techniques also evaluate a range of transferable skills.

Research is both a skill and an area of knowledge and understanding that is paramount to the production of all written material and all individual practical research and art and design work produced on the course. It underpins the majority of coursework and learning outcomes included on the course and is considered a key to your development of innovative and creative written and practical work.

Your skills, qualities and attributes are mainly tested through project coursework; this includes the production of sketchbooks/bodies of visual research, contextual files, technical research and practical work produced as a response to projects.

Work produced on independently sourced placements, work experience or internships may be assessed as part of the practical work produced for modules. This process would need to be planned and negotiated with the module leader and the course Leader in advance.

The final exhibition of your advanced studio work contributes to the assessment of a range of skills and knowledge

10 **Course structure and curriculum**

Level 6

Module Code	Module Title	Credit Points	Delivery
AAD601	Contemporary Issues in Art & Design	20	Semesters 1 (+ 2 for P/T)
AAD602	Specialist Studio Practice	40	Semester 1 (+2 for P/T)
AAD603	Practice Led Research	20	Semesters 1 & 2
AAD604	Advanced Studio Practice	40	Semester 2

There are four taught modules required for completion of the BA (Hons) Art and Design. You may elect to follow one of two specialisms for your Advanced Studio Practice Module: either Fine Art or Graphic Design and this specialism will be recorded in your final degree title. Students who do not complete sufficient work to gain the BA (Hons) qualification may qualify for a BA Art and Design Ordinary degree.

Specialist Studio Practice (40 credits)

This module enables you to further develop your individual art and design practice. Discoveries, interests, knowledge and skills acquired at HND/Foundation Degree level will be developed and progressed. It also aims to further develop critical awareness, analytical, creative and technical skills. The practical research within this module encourages the visualisation and articulation of information and ideas. The production of sketchbooks/bodies of visual research with supporting reflective contextual research and a critical log are important learning outcomes for this module. Primary research is fundamental to this module, along with personalised, reflective secondary research. Both encourage an individual, creative approach to further research and art and design practice. You will complete a self-authored art and design project for this module. The project includes research, critical self-reflection and analysis, development, resolution and evaluation.

Contemporary Issues within Art and Design (20 credits)

This module offers an introduction or further study of the wider contextual issues that

influence contemporary art and design within the context and framework of critical self-reflection of best practice.. Theoretical issues dealing with critical culture and cultural history that inform current thought and debate are studied and notions of moral and ethical practice are seen as an important consideration for contemporary art and design practice. Aspects of this module underpin and inform practical and theoretical study on most modules. An interdisciplinary approach to research and study are encouraged on this module which evaluates strengths of independent study skills as well as group work and an ability to deliver to a live audience. Students are offered the option to begin some background research on one of the module assignments over the summer to spread their workload if they so wish, but this is purely optional and there is sufficient time to fully complete that assignment following enrolment and the commencement of taught sessions.

Practice Led Research (20 credits)

This research module provides you with the opportunity to research further the wider contexts for your individual art & design practice. It offers the chance of building on past experiences, enhancing existing skills of planning and organisation and developing new skills of a practical, adaptable, methodological and self-reflective nature.

Practice led research will encourage you to reflect upon your own learning and achievement and plan for your own personal, educational and career development.

This independent study module is a key element of the course and allows you to work at your own pace to produce a practice led research report that reflects your individual art and design practice, your aspirations for the future and your developing professional practice.

Advanced Studio Practice (40 credits)

This module provides you with the opportunity to produce and display a body of individual, creative work in the form of the final major project (FMP). This project is self-authored and self-directed and preferably reflecting a direct professional link via a live brief or competition.. It should demonstrate a definitive personal statement about your chosen specialist practice selected from either Fine Art or Graphic Design practice. Critical evaluation is an important assessed area within the major project. The final major project culminates in a public and professional exhibition of work. The presentation, marketing and curation of the show will be directed by yourself and your fellow students.

Part Time Option:

If you choose to study the top-up BA (Hons) Art and Design Course via the part-time route, you will take the Specialist Studio Practice and Contemporary Issues in Art and Design modules during your first year, with the Practice-Led Research and Advanced Studio Practice modules during your second year of study.

11 Admission to the Course

Entry requirements

The course seeks to recruit students who are capable of benefiting from and successfully completing the modules on offer. It has been specifically designed for applicants who have completed QCF level 5 qualifications and wish to gain a graduate qualification.

The following criteria are the standard entry requirements for the course:

- Successful completion of a Foundation Degree or an HND in Fine Art, Graphic design or Design. HND students need a predominant merit or distinction grade profile.
- Written work completed on HND or Foundation degree courses must have achieved a level that satisfies a transition to the BA level.
- 240 CATS points are required as prior recognised learning in a subject area listed above.

Direct entry International students will require an IELTS score of at least 6.0, with no component less than 5.5, in addition to an overseas qualification that is equivalent in level to a UK Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma.

All prospective students are required to present a portfolio and if requested, relevant written work. Personal interviews can be negotiated. The interview process will enable you to demonstrate the required academic skills and personal characteristics necessary for entry to the course. Personal qualities include contemporary, contextual awareness, mature and professional attitudes, confidence, enthusiasm and good interpersonal skills.

12 Support for learning

Each module will have a Module Specification. This will identify the learning outcomes, the method of learning and teaching, the assessment structure and weighting and the learning resources that you might use. A module booklet containing the Module Specification, assessment details, Scheme of Work and learning resources that will support each module will be provided for each student.

. The Higher Education (HE) course handbook provides all the

essential information about the course and the support provided. The Course Leader and module leaders oversee all students enrolled on the course. In addition, a personal tutor will provide you with academic and pastoral guidance and support through the tutorial programme.

Within the College there is a dedicated team of staff to support academic research and study skills. There is also a confidential counselling service, careers guidance and student support services including financial/bursary advice. The Nottingham Trent University careers service is also accessible for students on this course.

The Learning Centre and other resources are continually updated to ensure they are fit for purpose.

13 Graduate destinations/employability

There are a wide range of career opportunities within the creative industries; these may be subject-specific or more creative related. Some graduates choose to venture into other sectors and are equally successful in gaining employment because of the transferable skills gained on the course. Other graduates continue in academia and go on to study for higher degrees or teacher training. Many graduates go on to set up their own small business ventures and many progress into employment via the industrial links, placements or internships that were part of their course of study.

14 Course standards and quality

You will be given detailed written feedback on all assessed work. You will also be given verbal feedback on skills tasks carried out.

A sample of assessed work is internally verified/second marked by another tutor.

An External Examiner approved by NTU monitors and assesses the standards and quality of the course. The External Examiner usually visits the course twice; once in the first semester and again at the Final Show. On both visits the External Examiner may seek feedback from you as a current student on the standards and quality of the course you are attending.

An NTU Verifier will also monitor and report on the standards and quality of the course on behalf of the awarding institution.

Both the University Verifier and External Examiner submit an annual report to NTU as awarding institution.

The External Examiner report is available for you to read.

The views of employers and professional bodies will be sought to maintain course currency, standards and quality via live briefs, work experience and their links to assessment.

The Course Leader continually monitors and reviews feedback from students. Feedback on all aspects of the course and all modules is requested from you. Continuous feedback in oral or written format is provided to you on all assessed work.

15 Assessment regulations

This course is subject to the College's HE Assessment Policy (located in your student handbook), a copy of which will be made available to you at induction.

16 Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):	Nottingham Trent University
Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements:	Art and Design 2017
Course recognised by:	
Date implemented:	September 2018