

Applying for a Foundation Diploma in Art & Design

What is a Foundation Diploma?

This is a one year course which has two main purposes:

1. It enables you to try a wide range of Art based subjects to give you a clearer picture of the subject you could choose to study for a Degree course. These subjects include: Fine Art, Sculpture, Interior Design, Product Design, Graphic Design, Photography, Textile and Fashion Design, Theatre Design, Film and Animation. Although all Universities vary their subject choices and they will differ from University to University.
2. It will prepare you with a strong portfolio of work which is appropriate for the Degree course you will be applying for, as well as preparing you with some of the foundation skills you will need.

Why do I need to do this course before completing a Degree?

- Students very rarely get straight onto a Degree course in an Art based subject. This course prepares you with a portfolio of work appropriate and relevant to the Degree course subject of your choice.
- It can also be a good 'back-up' plan if you are unsure if an Art based course is right for you. It is only for a year, but it will give the opportunity to try more options in the Arts than those that were available to you at school.

The first thing to consider is which type of Foundation Diploma to apply for, as they focus on different subject areas. The main conventional Foundation Diploma is one in 'Art & Design' where you will study a wide range of subjects based around Art & Design, e.g. Fine Art, Graphic Design, Product Design, Textiles, Photography and Fashion (among others). The other main subject is a Media Diploma which focuses on specialisms such as Broadcasting, Media Production, Sound and Lighting, Photography and Film-making. The Media Foundation Diploma is for students who are not typically 'Arty' and wish to follow a Photography/ Media based path.

How do I apply for a Foundation Diploma?

With this type of course you apply directly to the University, not through UCAS. Go onto the University website and search for the course, then download an application form. This will also include a section for you to write a subject specific personal statement (details on how to write this are mentioned below). The deadline for applications is between January – March, but it is worth applying as soon as possible, as students will be interviewed almost straight away (first come, first served).

What to write in a Personal Statement....

Follow the guidelines below which give you advice on what to include:

Paragraph	Item to include	Prompts/ examples of things to include
First paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is your fascination in Art and what are your future ambitions?• Do you have a particular interest/ inspirational artist?• Why do you wish to study a Foundation Diploma in Art & Design?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is there something/ someone that prompted your interest in Art?- What do you hope to do in the future? If you are unsure, then explain how a Foundation course would help in giving you direction

Second paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a particular specialism/ style in Art? • Do you like working with a specific media/ technique? • How have you developed your skills in Art throughout your A-Level Fine Art course? • Are there any projects you are working on outside school which are helping you to develop as an artist? (projects you have set yourself/ sketchbook journals/ visual diaries of your life or holiday experience)...consider why this is important. • Are there any particular topics you are currently studying which hold a real interest for you? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there any types of experimental media you have used - Consider ICT skills in Photoshop, the use of technology in your work - Which methods do you use for recording e.g. sketchbooks, design sheets, journals, large scale paper etc. - List/ mention one or more of the topics you have covered in you're A-Levels and explain how and what you investigated.
Third paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which A-Levels are you studying and what skills have you learnt that could help you with an Art course? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Think of general skills or topics you have covered, which have benefited your understanding in Art & Design
Fourth paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have you done outside/ in school to support your Art education and broaden your awareness of Art? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gallery visits (how do these benefit your knowledge/ learning?) - Workshops you have found and attended - Open Days/ P16 Evenings you have helped with in the Art Dept (what did you do?) - Talks/ support you have given younger students - Life drawing courses - Work experience you have undertaken (design/ Art/ creativity based)
Fifth paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What other skills and experiences have you had which could support a Foundation course? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visits to other countries and unusual experiences (amazing landscapes/ cultures/ architecture you have seen) - Voluntary work - Work experience (time management/ organisation skills)
Sixth paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This should be a summary of the reasons why you would be the ideal candidate for a Foundation Diploma: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What can you bring to the University (make sure you mention their name) - What do you hope you will gain from completing the course?
TOP TIPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not use the word 'passionate', as everyone tends to use it...consider other words - Use a thesaurus to give you a broader vocabulary - Show you intense interest and desire to study Art by using language that shows your determination - SELL YOURSELF...don't just make vague comments that everyone might use! - Make sure you change the name of the University you are applying to on each application 		

Where should I apply?

Below is a list of Universities which run Art based subjects, including Foundation Diploma courses and Degree courses:

University of the Arts London:

Central Saint Martins

Chelsea College of Art

London College of Communications

London College of Fashion

Camberwell College of Art

Wimbledon College of Art

N.B. It must be noted that you can only apply to ONE of the Colleges above, so choose wisely!

University for the Creative Arts:

Rochester

Canterbury

Epsom

Farnham

Ravensbourne College of Art (not the school! Website is www.rave.ac.uk)

Croydon School of Art

Kingston University

University of Southampton – Winchester School of Art

Falmouth University - Falmouth School of Art

Brighton University (Photography)

Goldsmiths, University of London

Glasgow School of Art

Slade School of Fine Art (Degree only, and incredibly competitive to get into)