

INTRODUCTION TO

FOUNDATION

COURSES

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 you the opportunity to try more options in the Arts than those that were available to you at school.
- **AND IT'S FREE!!** If you do it straight after Yr13

Which Foundation Course do I study?

The first thing to consider is which type of Foundation Diploma to apply for, as they focus on different subject areas.

1. 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).
2. There is a Media Foundation 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.
3. There is also a Fashion Diploma pathway for those of you who wish to study something Fashion related at Degree Level.

This is an example of the courses offered at Ravensbourne:

If you need guidance on your interview and portfolio please click [here](#).

Pre-Foundation Diploma in Art and Design



Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (Design and Media)



Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (Fashion and Textiles)



Foundation Diploma in Art and Design Media Production



Access to Higher Education Diploma Art and Design



Access to Higher Education Diploma (Digital Media)



There are two modes of study:

- The **diagnostic mode** allows you to spend time within each of the 5 curriculum areas before specialisation. This mode is best suited to students who are not get certain of a particular subject.
- The **specialist mode** is for students who are confident of their future direction. This mode allows you to apply directly to one of the 5 curriculum areas.

The 5 curriculum areas are:

- 3-Dimensional Design and Architecture
- Fashion and Textiles
- Fine Art
- Graphic and Communication Design
- Performance Design and Practice

Each curriculum area is sub-divided into pathways. Please see curriculum area pages for further information about the curriculum areas and their pathway options.

Whichever mode you choose, over the first 10 weeks (Part 1 of the course) you will rotate through a series of projects that will ask you to experiment with a range of materials and processes that support ideas development within art and design. After this initial period of investigation and experimentation you will be guided, through tutorials and assessment, to the specialist pathway that best suits your interests and abilities.

Course outline

The Foundation Diploma in Art and Design is designed to enable you to learn through discovery and exploration by engaging with projects, lectures and study visits. The foundation course is essentially a transitional experience in art, design and communication, preparing you for a place in higher education or for employment.

The wide range of specialist options reflects the progression opportunities available at degree level within the college and the university. The foundation course's pathways allow you to build a subject-specific portfolio in readiness for degree course applications.

Part 1 - Learning Skills and Content

Through studio and workshop projects you'll be introduced to a range of materials and methods of working. You'll learn how to research and develop your ideas and how to evaluate and reflect on your progress.

Part 2 - Development and Progression

The Foundation Diploma in Art and Design is designed to help you build a portfolio and to prepare you for interview to enter higher education and subsequent employment. Building on skills from Part 1 you'll integrate your research, ideas and methods of working to produce a body of work that allows you to analyse your interests and ambitions and to investigate directions to pursue.

Part 3 - Project Proposal and Realisation

The focus of Part 3 is on further development of your individuality and independence as you propose and realise your final major project integrating planning, research, ideas, methods, evaluation and reflection. Your project is displayed in the foundation exhibition - open to the public, family and friends.

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).

Suggested Universities/ Art Colleges

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