

Frequently Asked Questions

A Level Contemporary Fine Art

Question: What are some of the key topics I would cover?

Answer: Fine Art is sub-divided into the following four disciplines which can become specialist pathways or students can move between specialisms: ● painting and drawing (traditional, non-traditional and digital) ● printmaking ● sculpture (including installation work) ● lens-based image making (including animation, film & video).

Our approach is centered around an introductory period of the formal elements in the first term; giving students the opportunity to engage in a range of media and processes at a more advanced and refined level. This knowledge enables our students to make informed decisions about areas they would like to pursue through self-directed coursework projects through the first and second year. Students are supported and encouraged as independent learners, developing an artistic and personal professionalism towards their studies and possible future careers in the arts. The A level course also gives students the opportunity to see the world of the Arts as a vibrant part of their own community through projects as diverse as local murals, charity Christmas cards and posters for local societies.

Question: How many other subjects can I choose alongside this one?

Answer: Those students with a serious interest in the subject, may also take a specialist A Level in either Graphic Communication, Textile Design or Photography alongside this course. This considerably strengthens their portfolio of work for entry straight to degree. This diverse subject compliments most programs across the college.

Question: What is the learning style like within this subject?

Answer: This course requires students to take a dynamic personal approach to project work through the development of a variety of skills. These include investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, as well as aesthetic understanding and critical judgement. Each piece of work builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills gained from the last; this helps students' work to progress naturally in complexity, maturity and individuality.

Students are guided through the course by a range of learning experiences:

- one to one tutorials to review progress and set individual targets.
- group presentations to discuss homework, research and approaches.
- studio based skills sessions.
- personal research and study.
- gallery visits, lectures and video presentations.

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Question: How will I be assessed?

Answer: The course is 60% coursework and 40% examination. The coursework is over a year, broken into smaller projects and students choose both the topic and media they want to learn or refine during the coursework. At this point students are taught individually according to the media they choose to work in. Your work is assessed across 4 Assessment Objectives which cover both the development of ideas, experimenting with materials, developing your recording skills across traditional and non-traditional processes and final outcomes. Each area is rewarded equally to recognise the full creative process, most of which is documented in a series of challenging sketchbooks.

Question: What support can I access if I am struggling?

Answer: We have a Personal Study studio where students can use all the facilities in the department; including PCs, Photoshop, colour printer to continue with their classwork, personal study, homework or portfolio preparation during their free periods or lunchtimes. We run workshops for those students needing additional support at different periods of the week and bookable 1-1 help with the Head of Art. We are usually open 1 evening/week after college until 6pm.

Question: Are there any subject specific entry requirements?

Answer: Yes, please refer to the prospectus [here](#) for general and subject specific entry requirements. We require Grade 4 or above in GCSE Art & Design or the BTEC equivalent. Students without this requirement can complete a portfolio for application; a series of simple tasks designed to look at potential suitability for this course. A decision on the portfolio will be made at the enrolment interview in the September of entry by the Head of Art.

Question: Are there normally any trips that I can go on?

Answer: Trips can vary during the year from local exhibitions in Brighton, Pallant House in Chichester to London exhibitions at Tate Modern, Saatchi Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and the Royal Academy. We also frequently visit the degree shows from National universities at Brick Lane or specialist talks, Taster Days at Universities throughout the South.

Question: What do students who have studied this area normally do after Collyer's?

Answer: The course also has an integral careers program with lectures from prominent University Arts courses, Careers Days, Portfolio preparation days and talks from ex-students currently working in the Art & Design Industries. Fine Art is ideal for students who enjoy the subject as well as those who intend to make a career within the Arts; with future careers as diverse as Fine Art, Architecture, Museum curatorship, Art Direction, Art Therapy, Advertising, Animation, Games realization and Illustration.

Typically, we send 70% of our A Level cohort to specialist Arts Degrees and Foundation courses at Universities including Central St Martins, London College of Fashion, Goldsmiths, Bath Spa, Falmouth, Leeds, Glasgow and Edinburgh.



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