

Frequently Asked Questions

A Level Graphic Communication.

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

Answer: This is a specialist A Level where students will explore advertising, illustration, packaging, typography and multimedia. They will investigate design problems, determine relevant sources of information, research and propose solutions recognising the constraints of moral, social, cultural, environmental and legal issues. It should be noted that this is an Art based approach to graphic design, where students will develop fluent Adobe skills as an integral part of this course; using Photoshop and Illustrator. Students are supported and encouraged as independent learners, developing an artistic and personal professionalism towards their studies and possible future careers in design.

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 Contemporary Fine Art, Textiles Design or Photography alongside this course. This considerably strengthens their portfolio of work for entry straight to degree. Design Technology and Media are also popular alongside this career orientated course.

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

Answer: The subject 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, slide and video presentations.

Question: How will I be assessed?

Answer: Component 1: (60% of total qualification) Coursework consisting of the development of specialist Graphic Design skills, self-initiated coursework consisting of preparation work, exploratory work and final pieces This unit includes a 1000 word essay on a related artist/designer or theme.

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Then your exam starts Feb 1st of the second year, **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment:** (40% of total qualification). Preparation period; full sketchbook and a 15-hour examination.

The coursework starts with a trip to inspire the design process. 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 graphic portfolio-style sketchbook.

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, Wacom tablets, 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 for this specialist class.

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

Answer: Trips can vary during the year from local photographic research in Brighton to London exhibitions at the V&A and The Design Museum. We also frequently visit the Graphics degree shows from National universities at New Designers at The Islington Design Centre.

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

Answer: This course also features an integral careers program, which can include work placement opportunities and live briefs within these subject specific areas. We are uniquely placed within this industry with ex-students holding positions within prominent organisations, for example Burberry, Conde Nast and several with their own creative companies.

Typically, we send 70% of our A Level Graphics cohort to specialist Arts Degrees and Foundation courses at Universities including Central St Martins, Bournemouth, Bath Spa, Falmouth, UAL London College of Communication, Ravensbourne.