

# Portfolio guidance

## BA (Hons) Fine Art

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Your portfolio is one of the most important parts of your application. It is your opportunity to show us your work, and it is our opportunity to find out more about you. We realise that you may not have presented your work at interview before, so here is some help in preparing your portfolio.

### What do you want to see in my portfolio?

Your portfolio is a chance to show us your work and tell us about yourself, so make sure it demonstrates a lively, inventive approach to the development of course projects and personally-directed work.

Sketchbooks are an important means of showing the development and range of your ideas. A sketchbook should be filled with ideas, even if they are not all fully-developed. Where appropriate, sketchbooks can show the development of ideas from initial notes and sketches to finished pieces. You should also include evidence of exhibitions visited and your thoughts about them. We are interested in your understanding of contemporary art and artists in the context of the wider art world.

The work in your portfolio should be carefully selected. Try to order your work so that ideas flow from one piece to the next as this will show us your critical ability. A portfolio should demonstrate independent thinking and the ability to explore personal interests, even when responding to set briefs. A range of work and approaches is important, as it shows a lively and experimental approach.

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### How many pieces should I include?

There is no set number of pieces, but a well-edited selection of your work can often tell a more coherent story than trying to include everything. We will need to see evidence of course projects and self-directed art work. Your work should have been produced within the last twelve months, although earlier work can be included if it is particularly relevant to your interests and development.

### How should I present my portfolio?

We do not expect you to spend a lot of money on expensive mounts, although clear, logical and professional presentation of your work is essential. If you are unable to bring three dimensional objects, it is a good idea to include photographs of your work. Film should be saved as a Quicktime file, and other work in PDF or JPEG format.

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### Information for Mature students

We understand that mature students may not have work that is structured in the same way as A Level or Foundation students. We are, however, still interested in seeing self-directed work, including sketchbooks and finished pieces.

We also understand that some applicants may have to include work that is over a year old. Life experience and any courses that you may have taken over the last few years will be relevant, but make sure that you include as much recent work as possible in your portfolio.

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### Information for International Students

We do not expect international students who are not already studying in the UK to come to an interview. On some occasions a member of staff may be visiting your country and an interview may be arranged. As a general rule, international students are invited to send in a portfolio of work by e-mail or by post for consideration.

Please note that we will not be able to make a decision on your application before we have seen your portfolio, so international students should send it to us as soon as possible after applying.

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### Top Tips

- Interviews can seem daunting, especially if you have not been to one before, so make sure to arrive in good time so as to avoid any extra pressure.
- Do your research! Learn as much about the course as possible before your interview. Read our prospectus, come to an Open Afternoon and visit our website.
- Come prepared with a couple of questions about the School or the programme. It shows that you are interested, and is also a good opportunity for you to relax.
- Tailor your portfolio to the programme. Investigate the Fine Art programme thoroughly before making your selection for your portfolio. Remember that the contents of courses with the same name at the other universities can be very different.
- If you have any special requirements, please inform Admissions well in advance of your interview.