

Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium

# Fine Art Practice

- Foundation Degree



## Foundation Degree

### What is a Foundation Degree?

Foundation Degrees are university level degree courses that offer an exciting work-based alternative to the traditional university route. They are:

- A stand-alone recognised qualification.
- Equivalent to studying the first two years of an honours degree programme.
- Highly valued by employers.

### How does this work?

Foundation Degrees in Hertfordshire are accessible through your local college, as part of the Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium\*. On graduation you will be awarded a University of Hertfordshire validated degree, and depending on your chosen course you even get letters after your name... FdA, FdSc.

### Benefits to studying a Foundation Degree

- **real-life projects** which enable you to gain valuable work experience whilst allowing you to apply your skills and knowledge.
- **support** that's available throughout your course from tutors and advisors in College and mentors in your place of work.
- **affordable** because you can choose from one of four colleges to study at you will never be far from home, saving you money on living costs.
- **funding** through student tuition fee loans will cover the cost of your programme – so there's nothing to pay up front.

### Who can study a Foundation Degree?

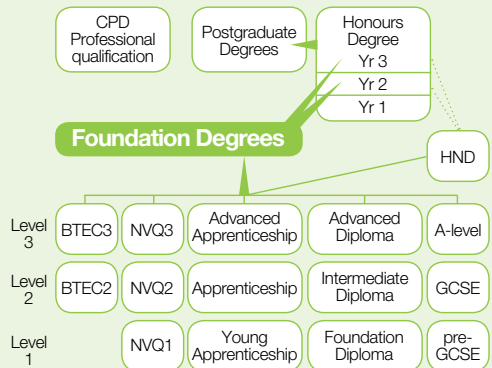
Foundation Degrees are suitable for all kinds of candidates including:

- Those with Level 3 qualifications (eg A Levels, Advanced Apprenticeships, BTECs, Access to Higher Education or City & Guilds).
- Those looking for a change in career.
- Those already employed but wanting to gain a Higher Education qualification either to progress their career or other aspirations.

### What can I do with my Foundation Degree?

That really is up to you! Your degree will ensure that you are well equipped to start your career path and research shows that those with a Higher Education qualification earn 25% more than those without! However, if you have a taste for learning you can 'top-up' your Foundation Degree to a BA or BSc honours degree.

### How do Foundation Degrees fit with other qualifications?



### Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium\*

The Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium is a partnership between the University of Hertfordshire, Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College and West Herts College.

The consortium provides innovative, high quality courses that support vocational higher education. Students get the best of both worlds – the benefits and support of studying at college, and access to University facilities including the libraries (LRCs), athletic and student unions all social activities, careers support and much, much more.



The table shows the structure of the Foundation Degree in Fine Art Practice – illustrated as a full-time programme.

Year One	Semester A	Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills (30 credits)	Historical and Contemporary Context (15 credits)	Creative Problem Solving (30 credits)
	Semester B		Creative Languages (15 credits)	Creative Vocational Practice: Fine Art Practice (30 credits)
Year Two	Semester A	Work Based Learning: Professional Practice (30 credits)	Contextual Studies (15 credits)	Portfolio Development Fine Art Practice (30 credits)
	Semester B		Cultural and Ethical Debate (15 credits)	Final Major Project: Fine Art Practice (30 credits)



This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to develop experimental, creative and technical skills to a professional level. It encourages you to be creative, research driven and provides the skills for the production of art and the professional and key skills essential for employment in a creative industry.

### Year 1 modules – Semester A

#### Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills

This module will help you to focus on planning your career and developing employability and professional skills. You will take a closer look at the creative and culture sector to identify a route that best suits and reflects your strengths and preferences whilst preparing you for progression by looking at job-hunting techniques, networking and self-promotion. You will articulate your skills and knowledge to create an action plan for progression using appropriate writing skills.

#### Historical and Contemporary Context

This module will develop your creative, cultural and critical understanding of Fine Art Practice and the creative work it can produce. You will be introduced to several historical and contemporary periods or movements and examine and identify the ways in which the time, place and conditions of their production influenced and shaped creativity and practice. This will enable you to develop your research abilities, critical faculties and academic skills so that you can investigate, analyse and present your case effectively.

#### Creative Problem Solving

This module has been designed to prepare you for further study and the workplace. You will gain an understanding of the key production processes and professional practices relevant to Fine Art Practice and the cultural and creative industries, in addition to learning methods of conceptualising creativity and authorship.

#### Entry requirements

120 points, including one GCE A2, a BTEC National Diploma/Certificate or equivalent. Plus GCSE grade C or above in English language and grade D or above in Maths or equivalent. You will normally be asked to attend an interview with a portfolio of your work.

Mature students with GCSE grade C or above English language and grade D or above in Maths or equivalent, but lacking traditional level 3 qualifications will be considered on the basis of relevant experience and an appropriate portfolio of work.

If English is not your first language, you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 or 80 IBT or equivalent.

#### How to apply

Applications are to be made through UCAS – [www.UCAS.com](http://www.UCAS.com). Institutional Code: Herts H36.

#### How will I be assessed?

This programme is assessed by coursework only, in the form of practical and written assignments. Coursework may be based on both individual work and group work.

#### What will I learn?

This Higher Education qualification develops your fine art and practical skills to standards that will impress the design industry that you will deal with in the future. The modules focus on employability and entrepreneurship skills throughout. They will also prepare you for a career in the fine art related industries and studio practice.

#### Where will I study?

The Foundation Degree in Fine Art Practice is offered at Hertford Regional College. For more information visit [www.hrc.ac.uk](http://www.hrc.ac.uk) and also see previous student work at [www.hrcfda.com](http://www.hrcfda.com)

#### Progression routes

Students who successfully pass the Foundation Degree in Fine Art Practice have the opportunity to top-up to a range of honours degree programmes, including Fine Art, Contemporary Applied Arts, Photography, Illustration, Games Design or they may enter straight into employment.



### Year 1 modules – Semester B

#### Creative Languages

This module is all about creativity in action. You will investigate several well-known practitioners in the field of Fine Art Practice, concentrating on their expressive languages and comparing them with each other. You will relate them to your own ideas and produce a body of your own work ready to be incorporated into project work in other modules.

#### Creative Vocational Practice: Fine Art Practice

This practical module focuses on building a range of professional creative skills encouraging students to act independently to pursue their own practice within a specific discipline, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, performance and textiles. Students are also encouraged to work more strategically to gain skills in many different areas and to define their work across a more diverse set of material practices. Live or simulated briefs of the kind you are likely to encounter in a professional Fine Art Practice environment will be used to develop your skills and provide you with an understanding of the requirements of fulfilling vocational briefs. These will include audience and/ or client needs, understanding expectations and time management.

“ Developing many different skills on the fine art course I was able to experiment freely, which enabled me to explore personal interests at a deeper level and discover new processes and aspects to my creativity. ”

*Ksenia Seiz, 2012 Foundation Degree  
Fine Art Practice*



## Year 2 modules – Semester A

### Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

In this module you will work with an employer/client on a project that meets their needs whilst allowing you to express and develop your professional skills and understanding. The project will be negotiated and maybe carried out on the employer's premises but this will be dependent on the type of project agreed.

### Contextual Studies

This module provides an introduction to contemporary critical perspectives in the theory and practice of the creative arts to provide a frame of reference for Fine Art Practice. Through the examination of creative practices within a variety of historical, socio-political, aesthetic and institutional contexts you will learn the basis for critical examination in practice.

### Portfolio Development: Fine Art Practice

The course is centred on the concept of practice as research, bringing together all aspects of art knowledge, skills and critical understanding to the investigation of materials, using experimental approaches to processes and to the construction of new responses to the making of art. Students are encouraged to discover the fundamental connection between theory and practice, linking relationships between materials and representations to create new insights. Portfolios will consist of a range of personal work which respond to personal and/or employer/client needs.

## Year 2 modules – Semester B

### Cultural and Ethical Debate

This module will cover theme based explorations of the influences that shape creative messages in a range of contexts. You will develop awareness of how social and cultural constructs are formed, evolve, and are challenged and used to influence future developments considering issues such as: consumption globalization, sustainability, race, gender diversity and the role of stereotypes.

### Final Major Project: Fine Art Practice

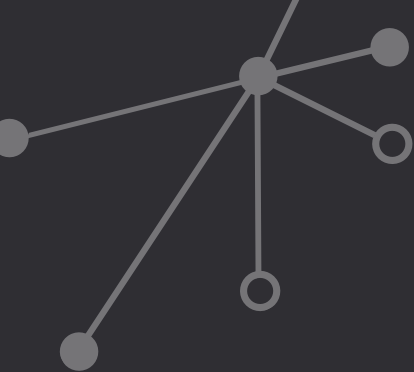
This module provides the opportunity for you to put all your experience and learning together in one final project that confirms you as a creative professional in Fine Art Practice. Through an agreed brief you will articulate a complete creative process from identification of need to realisation and presentation. You will investigate and employ a variety of platforms to promote both your final piece of work and yourself as an employable professional.





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## For further information

### **Hertford Regional College**

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[info@hrc.ac.uk](mailto:info@hrc.ac.uk)

[www.hrc.ac.uk](http://www.hrc.ac.uk)

### **University of Hertfordshire**

Admission Service

tel +44 (0)1707 284800

[ask@herts.ac.uk](mailto:ask@herts.ac.uk)

[go.herts.ac.uk](http://go.herts.ac.uk)

