

Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

Awarded by West Dean College of Arts and Conservation

This West Dean College Foundation Diploma in Art and Design is awarded in recognition of the successful completion of the introductory weekend course, eight Short Courses, personal project, tutorials, submission of a portfolio of work and a final 2,000 word essay. The Foundation Diploma in Art & Design aims to offer a structure which enables the development of student creativity and skills within the broad field of art and crafts.

The introductory course - Exploring approaches to Creative Journeys, focuses on building and developing skills in drawing and exploration that students are encouraged to develop throughout the course. Skills are further developed by attending eight further Short Courses chosen to suit each student's individual pathway. The tenth course is delivered online (self-study plus real-time tutorials) in which students apply their skills and knowledge to research and develop a personal creative response to a set brief.

Students are supported in their development through feedback from tutors on their courses, and during two individual tutorials which take place on Drawing Days. Students are expected to record and reflect on their progress in their sketchbooks and/or reflective journal, and undertake historical, cultural and contextual research on artists' work relevant to their own practice, culminating in a 2000 word essay.

During the course there will be opportunities to give short presentations on your work and participate in both organising and presenting work in an exhibition.

A cohesive portfolio of work produced throughout the course is presented with sketchbooks on completion of all ten courses.

FDAD programme structure

Introduction	Introduction course
Skills Development	Eight Short Courses, feedback from Tutors
Contextual and Critical Studies	Sketchbook/Reflective Journal, Tutorials, Essay
Individual Project	Sketchbook, Portfolio, Tenth Short Course, Exhibition

UNIT AIMS

Introduction

Introduce you to the skills and knowledge fundamental to developing a creative practice. Introduce the links to be made between the creative process and the realisation of ideas. Identify the importance of supporting this development with critical enquiry and exploration of materials and processes.

Skills Development

Provide stimulating and supportive learning environment for students to develop their creative and material practices.

Provide facilities, workshops and expertise whilst attending Short Courses relating to the individual students approach and intentions.

Encourage and support an experimental and creative approach to studio work.

Contextual and Critical Studies

Provide an introduction to the historical and theoretical frameworks informing contemporary art and craft practice.

Enable students to begin to articulate an informed and critical understanding of their own practice within the context of contemporary visual art and craft culture.

Individual project

Provide support for personal and professional development including development and application of transferable skills such as self-management, communication and collaboration.

Provide support for students in putting together a cohesive portfolio of work

Assist students in the generation of effective sketchbooks and journals.

Support students in mounting a collaborative group exhibition.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Introductory course - Exploring Approaches to Creative Journeys

This two day course is mandatory and is programmed three times a year - January, May and September.

It gives you the tools and the space to begin to develop a personal language relevant to students of any creative discipline. Key to this exploration is drawing. Drawing takes many forms: to play, explore, analyse, generate, illustrate, doodle, record, think; all drawing communicates in a personal and visual manner and you will experience some of the versatility of this core activity. Your tutors will introduce a series of exercises engaging with conventional and unconventional materials in a variety of scale and in response to a range of stimuli both inside and outside the studio. You will be encouraged to question assumptions, take risks and playfully explore throughout the weekend.

The course supports FDAD students as you begin to develop a reflective journal which will act as a thread linking the individual experiences of the selected short courses and help you to discern the significance of each learning experience as part of a greater journey. You will explore formal considerations such as composition, line, medium, colour, tools, support, format, scale, tonal values, and form. Colour theory will be introduced and engaged with as a subject for exploration and play. Materials and method and the way they can affect meaning will be discussed. Drawing in two dimensions will move into three dimensional forms.

2. Eight short courses

These courses are chosen by you and are a minimum of two days in length, at least one course is five days or longer. Course subjects must include each of the following: Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and 3D. Courses that would be suitable for your interests, ability and development are discussed at your initial interview and at your tutorials. On completion of each course taken the tutor teaching the course and you, the student, will write a brief report which can then inform future tutorials.

3. Project Brief course

This course is delivered online through a mix of self-study and live online tutorials. There are two group tutorials and one 30 minute individual tutorial. The time needed to complete this course is 25-30 hours over six weeks. Working to a set brief students develop visual and contextual research skills to identify a personal response to a subject.

4. Drawing/Tutorial days

These are monthly with up to five allocated times for tutorials on each day. Tutorial sessions offer the opportunity for review, advice and discussion. These are full days with a private tutorial of 45 minutes. The first should be planned after attending three courses and the second after attending eight courses when guidance will also be given on the essay and submission of your portfolio.

All students can also attend any drawing days at a cost of £60 on campus, or £40 if online. The focus of these days is to support contextual and critical studies, through the introduction to historical and contemporary artists, art themes, and diverse approaches to drawing, media and techniques, within a less formal framework than that of a short course. One tutor will lead the teaching, the other will provide tutorials to students who have booked them, as well as support the plenary sessions. Students can buy extra private tutorials throughout the duration of your course at a cost of £78. These are arranged with the Programme Coordinator, and do not include the drawing day.

5. Portfolio

When you have completed all ten courses you submit a small portfolio of your work. This should include:

selection of work from all courses attended (up to A1 size)

work from drawing days

research and development sketchbooks (min 3, max 10).

Students can also include work undertaken outside the College

6. Essay

The final essay must be submitted following the successful completion of the requisite ten Short Courses. The essay must be completed within two months after completing all ten courses.

The final essay of 2,000 to 2,500 (maximum) words will consist of a reflective account that demonstrates the link between the student's overall experience gained from the Short Courses and their intended future pathway. It should also include evidence of historical and cultural research relevant to the candidates own practice.

Detailed specifications relating to the presentation of this written work may be obtained from the Programme Tutor.

7. Exhibitions/presentations

You will be encouraged to give informal presentations on aspects of your work during drawing/tutorial days that you attend. Every July to coincide with the College Graduation Day, all completing FDAD students exhibit their work in the Foyer exhibition space and students are asked to organise this exhibition as a group. You will be supported by the FDAD teaching team in this process.

8. Completion

The Foundation Diploma in Art & Design will be presented to successful candidates at the following College Graduation Ceremony held in July.

The Foundation Diploma, while not nationally validated, the learning outcomes are aligned to Level 3 study, and provides students with the necessary preparation and portfolio to make a strong application for higher level study on the [DACC](#) (Diploma in Art and Contemporary Craft) or degree level study in Art and Design.

APPLYING FOR A PLACE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The following qualifications will be considered for entry to the Foundation Diploma in Art and Design:

- A qualification equivalent to A level Art, or a National Diploma or City & Guilds in an arts subject (e.g. Textiles).
- Portfolio of work carried out on Short Courses at West Dean or another College, at Adult Education classes or through self-direction. This could include sketchbooks, development work and finished work.

Students must complete the Application Form (filling in three courses they may choose to go on) and then attend an informal interview with the Programme Tutor. Please send completed application forms to FDADadmin@westdean.ac.uk

The choice of all courses should be agreed with the Programme Tutor before being booked either online, by phone or post.

FEES

Once accepted onto the Diploma, students pay a one-off £670 Diploma Fee. This fee covers the introductory weekend course, the two tutorial with drawing days and the tenth course.

The average cost of completing the FDAD over two years (excluding materials and/or model charges) is £3020 (six weekend courses and two five day courses). Accommodation for a weekend, including dinner and breakfast, is available from £136.

Thanks to the support of an individual donor, a FDAD bursary is available for a student aged between 18 and 30.

For further queries on the Foundation Diploma in Art & Design, or bursary, please contact: Admissions@westdean.ac.uk

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

