

BA (Hons) Fine Art

Interview Guidance



Interviews are conducted by a member of staff from your chosen course, and discussions will focus on a portfolio or digital presentation of work, a sample of writing, and sketchbooks, which reflect your connection to your chosen field of creative practice.

The quality of the work you present in your portfolio and the way in which you discuss ideas and approaches to your work are important factors in a decision to offer a place as is an assessment of your suitability for the course. The intention of the interview is to get to know a little about you and your work and motivations. You will not be asked to talk about particularly obscure artists or theories or be confronted with trick questions. The process will be relatively informal and not intimidating. You should come across as informed about your subject area, excited by the potential of your studies and ambitious to make great work.

Wherever possible the interview will be conducted at the University but in circumstances where this is not practical a digital submission and an online interview may be arranged.

Here is some more information about the material you are required to bring with you:

Portfolio

A typical portfolio or digital presentation might include examples of work using a variety of different media and approaches, drawings and paintings, installation work, life drawing if you have been lucky enough to do it, photographic work, (photographs of) 3-D work, and experimental pieces. We would also like to see video and sound work.



Your portfolio/presentation should be thoughtfully organised and straightforward to look through. Group related work together, not necessarily in the order that it was made. Work from other creative disciplines might also be shown, for instance, if you have been undertaking a foundation course in art and design.

Digital portfolios should aim to present work in a similar way to that mentioned above. They can be submitted in the form of a PowerPoint, PDF files (pages linked), or a link to

an online portfolio, such as a website or blog. You should email a link to your website or online portfolio, to admissions@bucks.ac.uk.

A digital portfolio should contain no more than 30 images in total although individual 'pages' might have more than one image – for example, a set of sketchbook pages or photographs. It should include a piece of written work. It is sometimes a good idea to include very brief written explanations.

If possible, bring a laptop with work you might want to show easily accessible in one folder. The interviewer should also have access to a laptop to view work that is brought on memory sticks or hard drives etc.

Sketchbooks

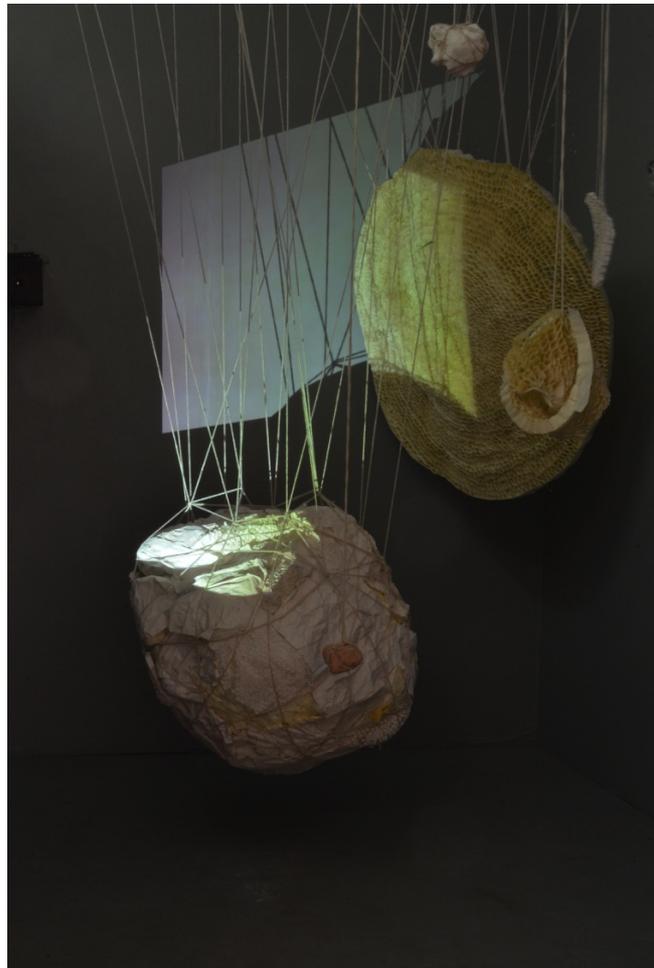
Do not think you should just include 'finished' work - quite often the 'journey' of a project represented by designs, tests and so on is more interesting than where it ends up. This work can tell us more about the way you think and progress your ideas than finished pieces. Sketchbooks should include evidence of the visual exploration and evolution of project themes. You should also have evidence of the research and analysis of the work of contemporary practitioners as well as visits to galleries and other cultural places and events.

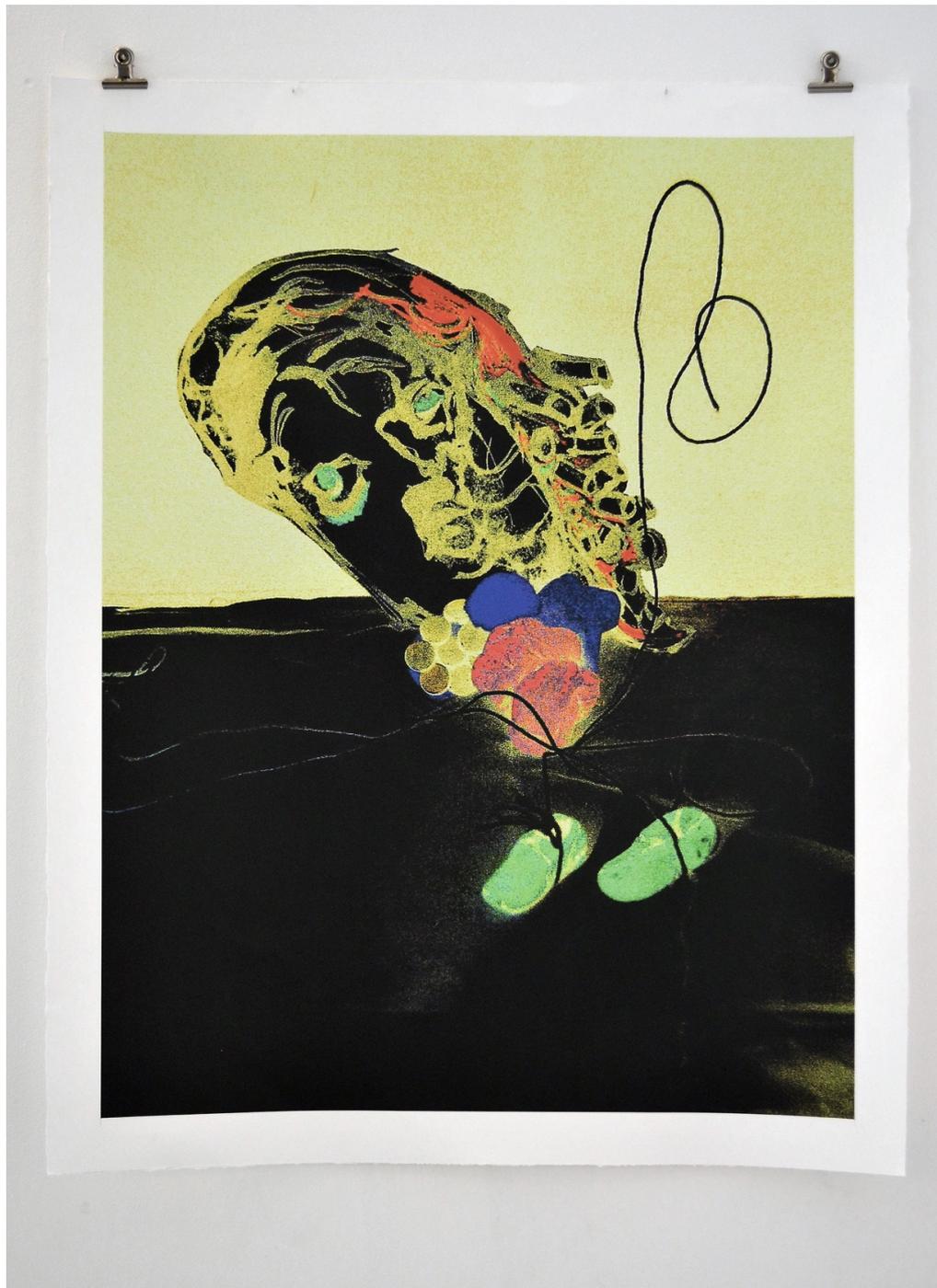
Sample of Writing

This could be an essay or a report, which offers an insight to your research and formal writing skills. You may want to choose a piece of text that represents your interests.

Preparation

Once you have put together your portfolio you can prepare for your interview by looking through it and thinking about how you would answer questions about your creative strengths and weaknesses, the choices and decisions you have made in the evolution of projects, what factors have inspired your work, the way your skills are developing and might evolve in the future, your long-term ambitions and so on. The interviewer might ask about why you have chosen particular themes, the processes you have undertaken in researching and developing projects how successful you feel your solutions are and what you might change if you could do the project again.





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