



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY  
EST. 1891

# ART AND DESIGN COURSES INTERVIEW GUIDE



## Preparing for your interview

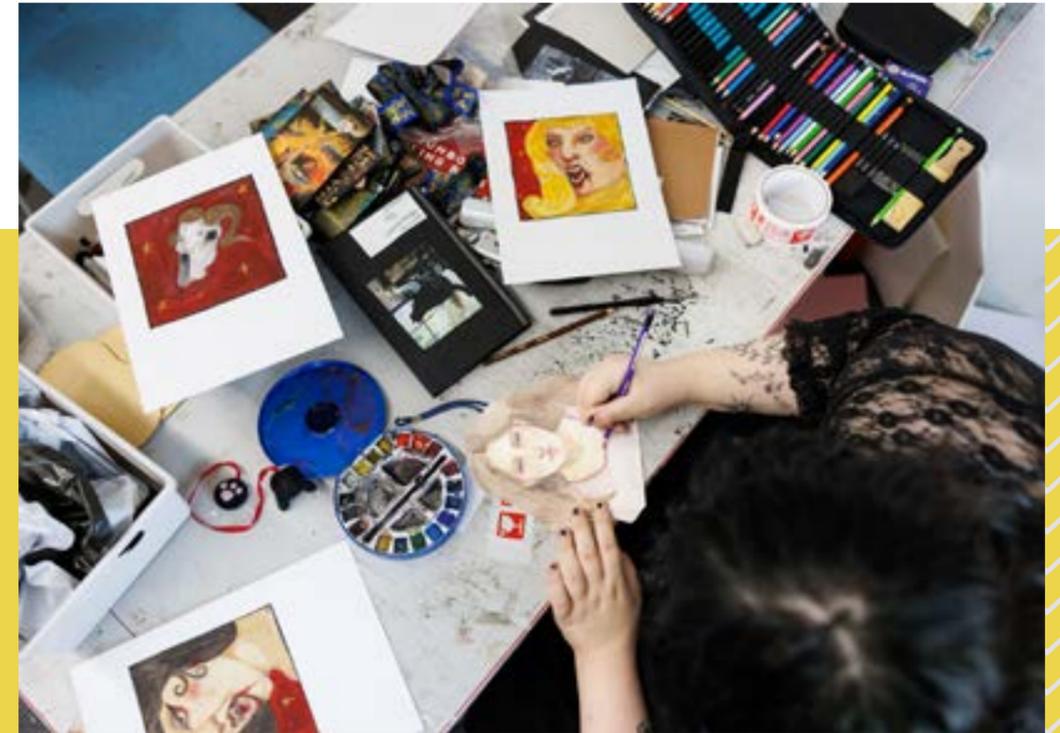
If you are invited to an interview for one of our art and design courses, please read carefully the following information and instructions, which are intended to help you with your interview.



## Portfolio

Your portfolio should demonstrate your creativity and experimental approach to art and design. We advise you to plan the sequence of your work; be clear and logical in the way the work is presented.

Your portfolio should include approximately 15-25 pages of work that you consider best shows your diversity and creativity. The portfolio should contain work produced at a variety of stages (e.g. work in progress and some finished pieces), as we are interested in seeing your thought process and how you develop your projects from initial concept to final outcome.



You should include work created in the last 18 months and, if relevant, some part of a current project, even if this is work in progress or at an early stage of development. You can include finished design projects, typography, illustrations, photography, drawings, storyboards, short films or animations etc.

If you have created 3D pieces of work, photographs of these can also be included. We are equally interested in seeing self-initiated projects as well as those set as part of a course of study.

**Please ensure your portfolio and sketchbooks are clearly marked with your name.**

## Sketchbooks, research and supporting material

Sketchbooks and supporting materials are essential. They will allow the interviewer to get a glimpse into how you think creatively and discover how you have developed your ideas. We don't expect these to be neat, tidy or organised. We also don't expect these to contain finished ideas.

We also like to see documentation of trips, visits and activities outside your main studies, which may have inspired you.

## An example of written work

You may want to support your portfolio with examples of some written work. This can be an essay or a contextual report, which will give us some insight into how you write formally and your familiarity with key texts. It may not be necessary however it is advantageous.



## Digital portfolios

Whilst showing work digitally is an option please ensure work is formatted correctly for easy viewing on a Mac computer. We would suggest a PDF file, or a link to an online platform where your work can be accessed in one document. Please ensure your portfolio or sketchbooks are clearly marked with your name.



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 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.

## Mature students

We recognise that mature students may not have created a body of work that is structured in the same way as other applicants. We would still expect to see self-directed work, including sketchbooks and finished pieces. If you have created work on various courses or at different times edit what you have and mount the work as advised.



## No course related work?

We accept students from a range of art and design backgrounds. We do not expect applicants to have experienced every aspect of their chosen course. It is more important at this stage to demonstrate an understanding and awareness of the course in your sketchbooks and portfolio.

We are interested in seeing your thought processes and how you develop your projects. Make sure to include as much drawing, mixed-media work and photography/videography as possible. Be sure to also show and discuss your awareness of your chosen subject.

## Interview process

We know that an interview can be a daunting experience. We make allowances for nerves and we endeavour to make the process as enjoyable as possible.

The interview will be relatively informal and will include a course overview, as well as an interview with academic staff. Your interview will include a review of your portfolio, discussion of your aspirations and your interest in our course.

If you have any questions or would like more information on interviews, please contact our Admissions team on [Admissions@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:Admissions@bucks.ac.uk) or call 01494 522 141.

