

## Course Information

**Award:**

BA (Hons) Fine Art

**UCAS Code:** W100**Location:**

Southend Campus  
South Essex College of Further and Higher Education  
Luker Road,  
Southend-on-Sea  
Essex  
SS11ND

**Awarding body:**

UAL (University of the Arts London).

Students who complete the course successfully will receive a degree from UAL. The agreement between South Essex College and UAL is reviewed every four years for developmental purposes and was originally validated in in 2015.

**Professional body accreditation:**

None

**Duration:**

3 Years (full time)

**Academic year:**

Full-time course: October 2019/2022

**Part-time study:**

No

**Work placements:**

The course does not include a dedicated work placement unit however, for unit FA 203 you will be required to develop and propose an artwork for a site or venue outside of the college. This will require you to submit and present a professionally produced and costed proposal and negotiate a timetable for installation of an artwork with a representative of a 'host site'. This will prepare you for the process of applying for residencies, exhibitions and commissions post degree.

**Timetables:**

Timetables are normally available one month before registration, though we endeavour to let you know an outline as soon as possible. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure that timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled teaching can take place on any day of the week. Typically, year groups are expected to attend lessons for 13 hours a week spread over two and a half days. We expect students to build on this learning through Independent Study for at least a similar period. For this time we usually have space available within the campus or at the Forum in Southend.

### **Entry Requirements:**

**Award:** BA (Hons) Fine Art

**UCAS Code:** W100

### **Entry requirements 2019-20:**

You will need a minimum of 64 UCAS points from one or more of the following:

- At least two A-levels
- BTEC/UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma/Diploma/Subsidiary Diploma/Certificate [RQF]
- BTEC National Award/Certificate/Diploma [NQF]
- Access to Higher Education Diploma (minimum 15 credits at merit or above)
- International Baccalaureate
- AQA Baccalaureate
- Progression Diploma
- Advanced Diploma

You will also need GCSE English at grade C (old specification) or Grade 4 (new specification) or above OR a Level 2 equivalent such as functional skills qualification.

To find out how many points your qualifications are awarded, [view the UCAS Tariff tables](#).

You will also be required to undertake a portfolio-based interview. Portfolios should include examples of recent project work and may reference a variety of media.

### **Exceptional Entry:**

Applications from mature students who do not possess the entry requirements as listed above, but who possess related professional experience or professional qualifications are welcome to apply. You will need to demonstrate by interview, exceptional entry portfolio (this is likely to include evidence of paid or unpaid work experience) and/or written assessment that you are suitable for the course. In the first instance we suggest you contact [HEAdmissions@southessex.ac.uk](mailto:HEAdmissions@southessex.ac.uk) to discuss your application.

### **International applicants:**

If English is not your first language you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum score of 5.5 in each component (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking), or an equivalent English Language qualification.

### **Additional requirements:**

(Credit transfer and accreditation of prior learning or experience)

If you have achieved a qualification such as a foundation degree or HND, or have gained credit another higher education institution, you may be able to enter the course at level 5 or level 6. Other qualifications and relevant work experience may also count for academic credit. Further information is available at in the Higher Education Admissions Policy for students studying on the University of Arts London Degree.

## **Course Overview BA (Hons) Fine Art:**

The BA (Hons) in Fine Art has been designed to introduce you to a variety of creative disciplines such as painting, drawing, video, sculpture and photography but also to address the blurring of traditional boundaries between these disciplines. This introduction serves as the basis for your development as artists, makers and as creative thinkers engaged in the cultural life of contemporary society. The programme aims to offer a learning experience in which the interdependence of practical and theoretical development underpins the acquisition of knowledge and learning.

### **Year 1 (Level 4)**

The first year is designed to allow you to engage with the culture of higher education and to equip you with the practical and conceptual skills and the awareness to develop your own creative identity. You will be encouraged to develop experimental, reflective and enquiring approaches to your work. You will also be introduced to the relevant cultural and historical contexts between theory and practice.

### **Year 2 (Level 5)**

You will gain a greater flexibility in choosing the direction of your own work in studio practice and will be looking to develop a successful personal working methodology in preparation for your final year major project and your dissertation. You will also look at and consider areas and materials of increasing complexity. Site-specific artwork will challenge your perceptions of artistic production and you will be encouraged to examine the many ways in which an artist can engage with the wider public. In addition, you will research and actively work towards pursuing a career in your chosen field through the development of an effective portfolio of work. Finally, you will also produce a strategic professional development plan which could involve participation in work experience.

### **Year 3 (Level 6)**

Your final year is dedicated to two major tasks: the production of your dissertation and the development of studio work for your final major project. The final year degree show is designed to provide you with a platform to demonstrate your own qualities as a professional artist or curator.

A copy of the rules and regulations governing the course is available  
<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/higher-education-policies>

## **Unit Information:**

### Unit map

This unit map provides a list of the units that make up your course.

Each unit is worth a specified number of credits: all are compulsory, enabling you to cover key subject knowledge while developing your own interests.

You must take units worth a total of 120 credits at each level of the course.

Our teaching is informed by research, and units change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline. You can always find the most up-to-date information about your units and who is teaching them through our VLE, [Canvas](#) and in the Course Handbook.

The units available on the course are as follows:

### **Year 1 for full-time students (Level 4)**

#### **FA 101 Introduction to Fine Art (30 credits)**

This unit will focus on a process driven approach to the development of Fine Art outcomes. Initially, the unit will be structured to accommodate a series of formal introductions to the specialist areas within Fine Art from a practical perspective. This will build on prior learning and knowledge and ensure that you are equally equipped with the skills that you will require for the duration of the programme and your future as a Fine Artist. The emphasis will then focus on experiential learning, whereby a series of experimental activities will be devised to challenge you to extend your investigations to produce outcomes combining a range of traditional and non-traditional materials, techniques and processes. An important part of the module will be research into the work of other practitioners, giving you the opportunity to evaluate how other Fine Artists achieve their results from a technical perspective.

#### **FA 102 Historical and Contextual Studies 1 (15 credits)**

This unit offers a broad introduction to contemporary cultural studies, and its link into more traditional art and design history. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive review of the subject but to introduce you to sufficient themes and discourses within this area of study for you to explore areas of personal interest which fall outside of the indicative unit content.

#### **FA 103 Historical and Contextual Studies 2 (15 credits)**

This unit offers a broad introduction to contemporary cultural studies, and its link into more traditional art and design history. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive review of the subject but to introduce students to sufficient themes and discourses within this area of study for them to explore areas of personal interest which fall outside of the indicative module content.

#### **FA 104 Thematic, Technical and Conceptual Development (30 credits)**

This unit is designed to introduce key fine art processes and methodologies. Through a programme of lectures, seminars, technical and ideational workshops themes will be explored which are of particular relevance in both recent and historical artistic practices. By studying the wide issues within these themes, this unit will equip the student with the skills to create a personal response to the subject matter. Practical investigation will be backed by theoretical research. The unit will be assessed through an exhibition of outcomes and supporting material (sketchbooks and research material).

#### **FA 105 Introduction to Studio Practice (30 credits)**

Building on ideas that have emerged during term one, this unit requires the development of an individual art practice. The initial requirement is to write a project proposal that identifies the area of concern or interest that it is intended to explore. This will indicate artists, materials and reference sources likely to be relevant. The wider contexts of the emerging practice will be interrogated through the investigation of critical and theoretical discourses that relate to the projects. Group critiques led by tutors and often involving groups from other levels of the programme will be at the core of learning in this unit. It is expected that work developed independently in dedicated studio areas will be presented for review at regular intervals. Individual tutorials will be held fortnightly to discuss developing work.

## **Year 2 for full-time students (Level 5)**

### **FA 201 Professional Practice (30 credits)**

This unit is designed to focus on the development of a student's personal, transferable, specialist and employability skills to meet the demands of professional practices in the contemporary art world. The unit aims to encourage learners to identify potential progression routes and support them in preparing for entry into their chosen profession through the preparation and delivery of a formal presentation, involvement in a guest speaker programme, the production of a CV, artists statement and digital portfolio that will be presented via a blog or website.

### **FA 202 Studio Practice (30 credits)**

The aim of the unit is to enable learners to focus on defining a personal identity within their work. Learners will reflect on the work produced in level 1 units and select areas of interest for further exploration. They will be asked to analyse the suitability of the practices, such as painting and photography, explored in the year 1 units to their own studio practice and to identify critical discourses and contemporary practices that reflect their interests. Learners will be encouraged to engage in meaningful dialogue with these discourses and practices through their studio practice in order to develop a challenging body of work. In this unit learners are encouraged to work independently and to make and present work for critique with tutors and peers. A tutorial timetable detailing the dates and times of group and individual tutorials will structure the timing of feedback. These will often be attended by years one and three on the programme.

### **FA 203 Site Specific Artwork (30 credits)**

This unit will introduce learners to the issues and debates that inform site – specificity. Lectures, seminars and gallery visits will explore notions of Site in relation to a range of contemporary and historical practices. Learners will be encouraged to investigate the relationship between their own developing artistic ideas and practices and the context in which these are produced and/or exhibited. In the first part of the unit learners will visit a variety of potential locations for site specific artworks. Working either in groups or as individuals they will then design and prepare proposals that show full awareness of technical and aesthetic concerns and that are produced to a professional standard for presentation to the organisation that will host the artwork. The proposal will form the basis of consultations with the subject tutor to discuss how the site specific artworks will be realised in the second part of the module. Work will be carried out in the studio and on location when necessary

### **FA 204 Research Methodologies (5 credits)**

The purpose of this unit is to assist students in developing appropriate research and critical methodologies to support their creative development and dissertation project. To this end, students will be required to assess the traditions, theories and ideologies which shape both contemporary culture and which determine and inform their own studio practices. Students will be required to engage with a range of critical and analytical methods, to consider their underlying assumptions and to assess their limitations.

### **FA 205 Cultural Contexts and Dissertation Proposal (15 credits)**

The purpose of this unit is to assist students in developing appropriate research, statistical and critical methodologies to support their dissertation, and construct an appropriate proposal for their dissertation. Students will be required to engage with a range of critical and analytical methods; to consider their underlying assumptions and to assess their limitations.

### **Year 3 for full-time students (Level 6)**

#### **FA 301 Dissertation (30 credits)**

This unit allows for the opportunity to develop a critical awareness, in-depth research, and to form a sustainable argument for an area of investigation. Students will negotiate with a supervisor a line of enquiry that is relevant to their chosen field of study and undertake an avenue of research that could, but is not limited to, Fine Art.

#### **FA 302 Research and Formative Development (30 credits)**

The aim of this unit is to identify a subject of personal significance and a working process that has the potential for sustained investigation. Learners will review and examine work produced in year two of the programme and address their choice of media and working process through discussion and exploration of alternative practices and media. By establishing a critical statement of intent, learners will form an intellectual and creative foundation for their final major project. The context of the unit will be defined by the learner; through consultation and on-going communication with tutors.

#### **FA 303 Subject Realisation (45 credits)**

The aim of this unit is to allow learners the creative space to physically engage in producing their definitive statement as undergraduate Fine Artists, and marks a point of arrival in the continuing journey towards a recognizable fine art identity. Learners will be given the opportunity to locate their practice in relation to that of other contemporary artists. As part of the assessment (15%) a concise written document will outline developing themes and concerns, relating these to the use of particular processes and materials and to wider art historical, contemporary and cultural contexts. Learners will focus on identifying, defining and developing their individualism and personal identity within their work. The structure of the unit will provide a way of showing competence, skill and ability within the chosen area, be it a single, dual or multi-disciplinary pathway. Learners will be expected to attain standards within this unit on a level comparable to those at commencement of a professional Fine Art career. This unit will focus on the studio practice identified by students and agreed with a supervisor in unit FA 302.

#### **FA 304 Professional Practice (15 credits)**

This is the culminating unit of the Fine Art degree. It allows learners to develop and assimilate an awareness of their studio practice with the inevitable displaying and viewing of their work. Practical issues such as scale, quantity, lighting, funding, promotion, framing, hanging and displaying techniques will be considered. The relationship between the work, the space and the viewer will be assessed and evaluated.

Learners will establish the exhibition space, prepare and install their work for exhibition, explain and evaluate the exhibited work and make an effective contribution to the management of the exhibition process. In the final show, students are expected to attain standards comparable to those at commencement of a fine art career.

#### **Teaching and Learning:**

##### **Teaching**

The learning outcomes in year one facilitate the discovery of key theories and principles, in acquiring basic practical skills, and in developing a knowledge framework with a limited amount of independence. In year two the learning outcomes are geared towards industry requirements, in developing professional skills, and in synthesizing knowledge with independence. In year three, there

is an emphasis on self-direction, working in teams, and in problem solving. These are inherent within the unit learning outcomes. Units are delivered through a variety of methods of teaching and learning. These include practical workshops and demonstrations, group and individual projects, peer group presentations, lectures, seminars and tutorials. All courses emphasise active participation and experiential learning, in combination with the development of research, analytical and critical skills.

### **Independent learning:**

When not attending lectures, seminars and workshops or other timetabled sessions you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. Typically, this will involve reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library, preparing coursework assignments and presentations. A range of excellent facilities, including the library, the Learning Resource Centre and the Forum, supports your independent learning.

### **Overall workload:**

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours of around 13 hours per week, including assessment activity plus group critiques as well as a similar amount of independent learning, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 8 hours. (120 credits per year).

The following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

### **Level 4: 50% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities**

**Teaching, learning and assessment: 390 hours**

**Independent learning: 390 hours**

### **Level 5: 50% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities**

**Teaching, learning and assessment: 390 hours**

**Independent learning: 390 hours**

### **Level 6: 45% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities**

**Teaching, learning and assessment: 330 hours**

**Independent learning: 450 hours**

### **Assessment & Feedback:**

#### **Assessment:**

Coursework is assessed in a range of different ways in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles and aptitudes including portfolio and sketchbook submissions, exhibitions, group presentations, written essays and research folders.

Percentage of the course assessed by coursework

#### **Year 1\***

**100% coursework: 80% Studio based with a written element 20%**

#### **Year 2**

**100% coursework: 75% Studio based with a written element 25%**

#### **Year 4**

**100% coursework: 75% Studio based with a written element 25%**

## **Feedback**

You will receive formative feedback as part of your one-to-one sessions with your unit teachers. You will also receive summative feedback on all formal assessments undertaken by coursework. Feedback is intended to help you learn and you are encouraged to discuss it with your unit leader tutor. Feedback can be given in a range of different ways in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles and aptitudes including group critiques, recorded verbal feedback and written feedback.

We aim to provide you with feedback within 20 working days of hand-in (for all formal studio based coursework assessment). For the third year Dissertation Unit you will receive feedback and grades at the same time as your Final Creative Output Unit.

## **Academic support:**

Our Academic Support Team provides help in the following areas:

- Study skills (including reading, note-taking and presentation skills);
- Written English (including punctuation and grammatical accuracy);
- Academic writing (including how to reference);
- Research skills (in conjunction with the library);
- Critical thinking and understanding arguments;
- Revision, assessment and examination skills (including time management).

Our Disability Advice and Support Service helps students with additional needs resulting from disabilities such as sensory impairment or learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

## **Teaching staff:**

You will be taught by an experienced teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the units on the course. The team includes senior academics, professional practitioners with industry experience, co-ordinators and technical officers. Our teaching is informed by the research and consultancy we undertake, and all of our lecturers have a teaching qualification.

## **Course Costs:**

Course Name: BA (Hons) Fine Art

Duration: 3 years (full-time)

Fees

For the academic year 2019-20 the tuition fees for this course are £8000

## **UK/EU Overseas**

Full-time

Part-time N/A

(Full-time route only)

The following course-related costs are included in the fees:

- As this course may incur more than the normal printing costs, the College currently gives BA Fine Art students double the yearly amount of free printing at time of writing this is £120.00;
- Third Year students will be offered the opportunity to show their end of year work at events such as Free Range, the cost of the venue and transportation of the work will be covered by the College but you may incur additional costs depending on the work you produce.



The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- 3 educational visits per year (typically to London galleries and museums);
- Art materials such as sketchbooks, stretcher frames, canvas and paints;
- Specialist art materials needed for individual projects for example, timber, plaster or clay.

### **Accommodation and living costs not included in the fees**

This information can be obtained from our Accommodation Services home page

<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/accommodation>

### **Sources of financial support**

If you receive funding from Student Finance you may be eligible to apply for additional benefits.

Details can be obtained from our Student Services home page

<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/fees-and-funding>