

General Enquiries

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Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Practice: Art, Design and Communication

Location	Altrincham Campus
Course Type	College 16-18
Department	Art & Design
Start Date	Monday 1st September 2025
Course Code	AFP-AR3D-1200

Course Overview

Our UAL approved course is aimed at artists, designers and photographers of the future, who want to develop their creative skills and experiment with a range of techniques to make them a better creative. You will learn how to research, plan, produce and reflect on your work. As well as developing other key skills to support your progression. You will chose between the specialisms of Art & Design, Graphic Design and Illustrations or Photography.

Course Requirements

4 GCSE's at Grade 4 or above (including maths and/or English Language).

What You Will Learn

The course across all pathways uses the same core principles of development, experimentation, application and reflection. Throughout the two years learners are encouraged through taught sessions, independent study and personal investigation to explore their creative skill and apply themselves to a range of assignments to hone their abilities.

The photography pathway is structured to give a comprehensive understanding of Photography. This will include using both film and digital cameras and associated equipment. Learners will learn how to use a black and white darkroom to develop and print their own work, as well as how to use sophisticated image manipulation techniques on Apple Mac computers, using industry standard software. Working in our comprehensive photography studio learners are encouraged to develop their understanding of light and apply these skills across a range of areas. Assignments will provide opportunities to explore studio photography, location photography and experimental image making. There is also an emphasis on idea development, professional practice and learning about the history of photography and art and design.

The Art & Design pathway is structured to give learners a comprehensive understanding of most aspects of Art & Design. This will include working within the areas of 2D, 3D, fibre arts, and digital design. Assignments will provide opportunities to explore traditional techniques as well as develop a critical understand of the subject. From their learners will begin to explore their own understanding of Art and Design and begin to realise how they may wish to specialise within the area.

The Graphic Design and Illustration pathway is structured to give learners a comprehensive understanding of Graphic design and Illustration. This will include exploration of traditional art and design as well digital design. Learners are then encouraged to apply these skills to develop an understanding of the wider context of Graphic design and illustration. Exploring and experimenting with skills in the areas of branding, typography, illustration, magazine and poster design. Assignments will allow learners to specialise in a range of areas within the subject.

Assessment

Units 1, 2,4 and 5 will be internally assessed and internally moderated against the assessment criteria for those units.

Units 3 and 6 will be internally assessed, internally and externally moderated against the assessment and grading criteria for those units.

Progression

The Diploma in Art and Design offers an accredited and certificated 'jumping off point' at the end of year one, should students choose not to progress onto our Extended Diploma qualification.

If you choose to continue onto the second year of study, you will complete the full Extended Diploma qualification, which is equivalent to 3 full A levels.

Career Options

Artist, Studio Manager, Animator, Illustrator, Camera Operator

Mandatory Units

Unit 1 The Creative Process

Unit 2 Developing Creative Practice

Unit 3 Responding to a set brief

Unit 4 Researching a Specialist Industry Practice

Unit 5 Specialist Technical Skills Development

Unit 6 Specialist Creative Outcome

Contact Details

For further information please contact T: 0161 886 7070 or E: info@trafford.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.