

NCUK

**International
Art & Design
Foundation**

NCUK
UNIVERSITY PATHWAYS



International Art & Design Foundation

**Programme and Module Overview
2025–26**

International Art & Design Foundation

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Art & Design
Foundation

Unlock creativity. Shape futures.

Overview

The International Art & Design Foundation is a pre-university programme designed for international students. It bridges the gap between secondary education and undergraduate study, equipping students with the skills, knowledge and industry-ready portfolio needed to progress to a creative arts-related degree at an NCUK University Partner.

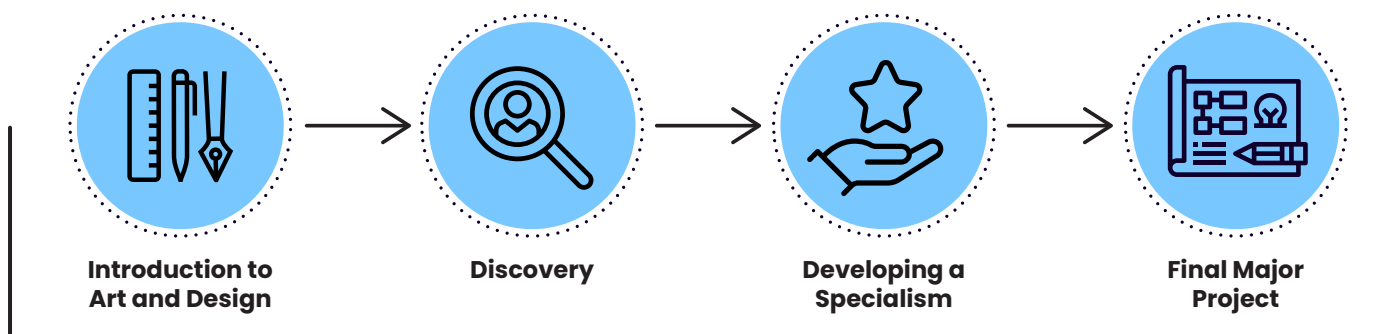
Entry requirements

Students entering the programme are expected to have a recognised upper-secondary school qualification equivalent to GCSEs, AS Levels, or the first year of A-levels, depending on the national education system. They must have an English language proficiency equivalent to IELTS 5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5. Additionally, they must have basic digital literacy skills, including the ability to navigate a file system, use standard productivity software, and engage with online learning platforms as well as a demonstrable interest in a creativity-related subject(s). This can be assessed by submitting one or more of the following pieces of evidence:

- Short creative portfolio (5-10 pieces) or a visual journal
- Written or video statement explaining the interest in art/design

Programme structure

Students study four subject-specific modules alongside the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) for Art & Design module:



English for Academic Purposes (EAP) for Art & Design

Duration:

The standard programme duration is one academic year.

Standard delivery example:

- **Teaching hours:** 21 hours per week (teaching hours vary per module)
- **Total:** 630 hours of guided learning + 670 hours of independent study (1,300 learning hours)
- **Duration:** 30 weeks (divided into two 15-week semesters)



Modules

- **Introduction to Art & Design (5 credits):** Introduces key principles of visual communication, research techniques, and studio-based practices, building a strong foundation for creative exploration.
- **Discovery (20 credits):** Covers a range of creative disciplines, developing core skills in materials, techniques, and critical thinking to help students identify their strengths.
- **Developing a Specialism (35 credits):** Focuses on a chosen creative discipline, refining artistic processes and building a professional-standard portfolio to showcase individual strengths.
- **Final Major Project (35 credits):** Enables students to design and deliver an independent project to professional standards, showcasing creativity and preparing for university-level study.
- **English for Academic Purposes (EAP) for Art & Design (35 credits):** Strengthen academic communication abilities, with dedicated support tailored to art and design disciplines.

Assessment, grading & certification

The assessment breakdown consists of 100% coursework, with students required to pass both 'Introduction to Art & Design' and 'Discovery' and receive no less than a pass for the Developing a Specialism and Final Major Project modules.

Introduction to Art and Design & Discovery Modules	
Mark	Outcome
50-100	Pass
0-49	Fail

Developing a Specialism & Final Major Project Modules	
Mark	Outcome
80-100	Distinction
60-79	Merit
40-59	Pass
0-39	Fail

Students are also required to receive a minimum of 60% (EAP C / IELTS 6.0) overall in their EAP assessments

EAP		EAP Equivalency
Percentage	Grade	IELTS
90–100%	A*	7.5
80–89%+	A	7
70–79%+	B	6.5
60–69%+	C	6
50–59%+	D	5.5
40–49%+	E	5
<39%	U	4.5

Progression

Students who complete the programme successfully are certified for progression to the first-year of appropriate undergraduate degree courses at NCUK's university partners.

NCUK International Art & Design Foundation



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UWE Bristol University of the West of England



DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER



University of Salford MANCHESTER



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY



Sheffield Hallam University

Learn more

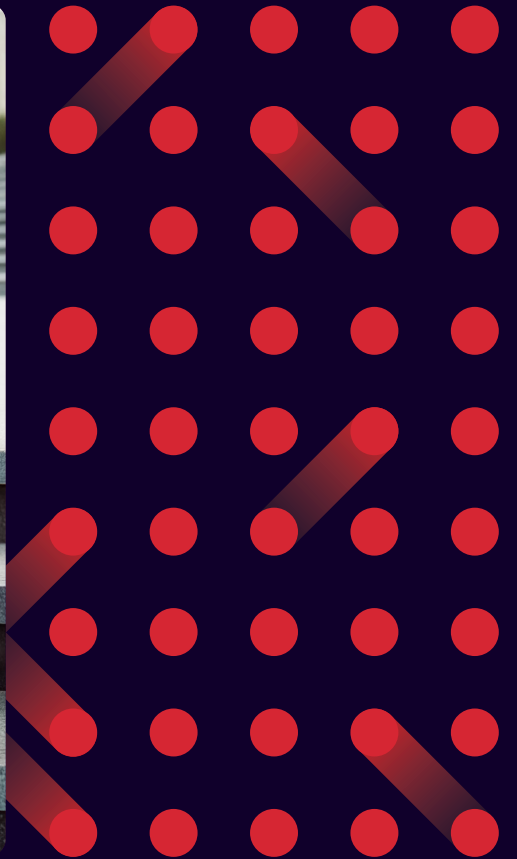


NCUK University Partners

As this is a new programme for 25/26, university progression routes are being added regularly, please check our website for the latest options.

Learn more





www.ncuk.ac.uk | www.ncuk.cn

