



Advice on preparation of art portfolio for admissions to Ulster University

Belfast School of Architecture

BA (Hons) Architecture

How to prepare a digital art portfolio?

Our course entry requirements normally require a grade B or higher in Art at GCSE and/or A Level (or equivalent). If you do not satisfy this requirement, we may ask you to submit a portfolio of 15-20 slides/images of your best work. The work should comprise selected pieces that show us your current range of artistic skills in a variety of media. We accept and encourage work that is not necessarily all finished to a final high quality but does illustrate an interest and willingness to experiment and gain confidence.

Your digital portfolio is a way of presenting to us the collection of visual imagery and projects that you have made/created. The most successful portfolios show us your range of skills from your processes of initial sketches and ideas, to research, experimentation, use of materials and techniques to your developed creative outcomes. We are very keen to see these sorts of approaches to show us your commitment to generate great work.

What should I include in the digital portfolio?

We suggest your digital portfolio should comprise of a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 images/slides of work. Select work that you are passionate and confident about and that demonstrates how you apply practical skills to explore different media and processes. We are interested in how you develop your ideas, concepts and your willingness to experiment and learn outside of your comfort zone. Let the work speak for itself and to be proud of your creative practice.

Examples of portfolio work may include:

- Freehand pencil, charcoal or pen sketches of objects or places, drawn from direct observation, but not copied from photographs,
- Freehand colour drawings/painting or sketches using watercolour, pastels or acrylics, drawn from direct observation or imagination, but not copied from photographs,
- (High quality photographs of) ceramics and sculptures, models, including joinery work,
- Creative photography
- Product design, printmaking, and textiles, including costume or fashion design.
- Figure or still life studies,
- Sketches of buildings and spaces in your own locality,
- Landscape studies.

Please note that engineering or technical drawings, tracings, CAD exercises, and Design and Technology reports will not wholly fulfil the requirements for the portfolio.

To create a strong portfolio, we suggest:

- Do not overcomplicate your portfolio; let the work speak for itself without "decoration" through overuse of text/titles, distracting graphic design, etc.
- Your portfolio should solely contain your best work, so be careful what you choose.
- Make sure that any reproductions -photographs of models or scans of large-scale paintings, for example- are extremely good quality. You will do yourself a disservice if the quality of reproduction of good work is poor.
- We are interested in your artistic process as well as final products, so when possible, we suggest including related sketches and preparatory work of your pieces.

What format should the digital portfolio be in?

We suggest that your digital portfolio be sent as accessible digital files such as scans or images of your work and sketchbooks. If you wish to include images from multiple angles or detailed areas of the same piece, please collate these within one image in your digital portfolio. Your digital portfolio should be presented as a PowerPoint PDF. Individual image size should be no greater than 200kb (ideally 1024x768 pixels) with a maximum resolution size of 72 dpi. If including links to videos or websites, please ensure these are active.

Please do take care to ensure that the overall layout and image quality of your portfolio can easily be opened and clearly viewed on screen.

How do I submit my digital portfolio?

You can upload your portfolio by using the link below:

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/faculties/arts-humanities-and-social-sciences/art/portfolio>