

BA Fine Art: Digital Portfolio

Thank you for your application to the BA Hons Fine Art course in Ulster University. We seek applicants who are creative, enthusiastic, skilled, hardworking and open to new ideas. Our students are widely varied in their backgrounds, ages, interests, practices and personalities.

Please submit a Digital Portfolio to show us your artwork, interests and research.

Digital Portfolio in PDF format

Layout your portfolio in Powerpoint or Word.

Before saving as PDF, **check your file size**. To reduce file size go to: File – Reduce file size – Picture quality - Select best for email. Save as a PDF.

Title it 'Portfolio+YourName' (e.g. *Portfolio+JaneSmith*)

In your portfolio you might include:

Images

- 20-30 images
- Scan or photograph examples of sketchbooks and experimentation as well as documentation of more resolved pieces such as paintings, sculptures, objects, mixed media work, installations or performances.
- Include observational drawing. You may also show photography, digital imagery, imaginative drawing, quick sketches and drawing from life, different techniques and media, diagrams and problem solving drawings
- If you have videos, animations, short films, websites or online projects, include these by documenting and describing them and/or by including links to websites / youtube
- Photographs of work should be in focus without distracting backgrounds. Daylight is often the best lighting. Include the dimensions and media under the photograph. Tips on sketchbook photography: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKgWlzvm3Hs>

Short statement (under 1 A4 page)

- Tell us about your work: the images, objects and other artworks you have made, the media and materials you have used, the ideas and subject matter you have explored and why you want to study Fine Art.
- We would like to hear about artists or artworks that interest you and galleries and exhibitions you have visited. These could be 'virtual' visits to gallery and museum websites. You can tell us about art books, catalogues or films about art you have looked at.
- Also tell us about your wider interests, which may not seem directly related to art, e.g. film, games, books, sports, music, places. We'd like to know what things in the world or experiences inspire and fascinate you.

Research

- 3-8 pages showing visual and other research. We are interested in seeing how you gather and make connections between images and ideas. You may already have materials like this or you might like to respond to the following guidelines for a creative research exercise.

Optional research exercise:

"Examine for a moment an ordinary mind on an ordinary day" Virginia Woolf

Do this exercise over a week or so. In between directly working on it, keep your mind alert to noticing handy bits of 'research' you come across in day to day life (this might be something you see and sketch quickly, an idea you note down, an image found online, something you can photograph)..

Follow these instructions:

1. Sit still for a moment and let your mind wander. **Select a word** for an object/thing – it is best if it is something simple e.g. bread, table.. Once you have chosen your word – commit to it! This exercise isn't about choosing a 'clever' word: it is about what you do with it. Be creative and open in your research

2. Gather **visual research** in response to your word. This should be a combination of drawn, photographed and found visual research and should include images of other artist's art works related to your word. Make some of your drawings directly from objects/things. (For example if you chose 'table', you might go round your house and draw every table – or table-like object. Or you might go to a café and draw a number of tables you can see). Make some of your drawings from other imagery you have found. 10-20 images

3. Gather **textual and contextual research** in response to your word. Textual research can include a definition, quotations from books or online sources or poems or songs, something overheard, something from a conversation. Contextual research includes information related to your word from popular culture, history, personal/family anecdotes, folklore, mythology, the news, political associations and any other meanings and connotations. Textual and contextual research will overlap... don't worry if you aren't sure which is which! 10-20 pieces of research.

4. **Organise your research** into a number of pages (3-8) You can also do this on paper if you have all your research in a physical format (and then scan or photograph it). Don't start organising until you have gathered plenty of research.

Mix together the textual and visual research. Make connections. Put things together that connect in obvious and obscure ways. Put things together that contrast. Repeat any piece of research that connects to more than one thing. This is a creative mind mapping of the research you have gathered.

As you are doing this let your mind wander. Trust your intuition!

Add additional comments or thoughts or images that occur to you.

You can make drawings of ideas that occur to you during this process. You might sketch ideas for artworks.

Use collage to visually connect two or more things.

You can also gather and add other visual, textual or contextual references, or leave things out.

5. Add a **list of all the sources and resources** you used. This might look like this:

Instagram

Tate online

BBC news

Objects in my room

Visit to café

The park

Oxford Dictionary

'Beloved' by Toni Morrison

'Death of a Naturalist' by Seamus Heaney

Conversation with friend

Overheard on bus

Include the 3-8 pages in your digital portfolio.

If you have questions, please contact Admissions Tutor Dr Cherie Driver.

Regards,

Dr Cherie Driver (Admissions Tutor) c.driver@ulster.ac.uk

Shirley MacWilliam (Joint Course Director) s.macwilliam@ulster.ac.uk

Dr Louise Wallace (Joint Course Director) l.wallace@ulster.ac.uk