

Aims of the Exploratory Stage

This exploratory stage is where the student learns to understand the aims of the qualification and become familiar with its purpose and content.

- Students will be encouraged to research contemporary, historical and cultural contexts and precedents and to begin to relate their own emerging practices to others' work.
- The stage will introduce the students to the attitudes and processes that will enable them to foster their own creativity and engage in self-reliant learning.
- During this stage it is expected that the student will further develop the technological and practical skills already acquired.
- Students will also learn to recognise the intrinsic formal qualities of different media as essential elements in visual communication and to build relationships between theory and practice.
- The units in this stage focus on researching, recording and observing of information as well as extending and expanding the awareness of the importance of personal responses and the role of the unfamiliar.
- Drawing and other forms of visual investigation will be critical during this stage, particularly in researching and applying 2D and 3D basic visual systems and design methodologies.

Aims of the Confirmatory Stage

- This stage is characterised by the expectation that students can successfully manage their own learning and personal development and that this underpins their creative and critical judgement within the chosen pathway.
- Students will develop their creative and technical skills by extending their experience and understanding of a chosen specialist area in art, craft, design and communication to help them achieve their progression ambitions.
- This will involve researching and discussing in written and visual form their understanding and insight into those aspects of contemporary and historical practice which relate most closely to their own creative intentions and preferred contexts.

- During this stage, the student should automatically integrate research and ideas into their own practice with a strong sense of continuing exploration.
- Students will be expected to take full responsibility for the direction of their work and will be required to produce a final piece (or pieces) of work independently.
- The portfolio of work submitted for assessment should clearly demonstrate the personal direction and preoccupations of the student.
- This confirmatory study is to be a self-initiated Final Major Project (FMP) based on a Statement of Intent (SOI) which will bring together their art, craft, design and communication skills, knowledge and understanding to carry out this Final Major Project.
- Students are required to identify project objectives, clarify and agree the scope of the work.
- Students will demonstrate the management of time and resources to achieve a final outcome.
- A crucial aspect of this unit is the level of critical review and analysis that students engage with on a continuous basis throughout the confirmatory study.
- Students must also demonstrate an understanding of communicating to different audiences, eg peers, tutors and the audience viewing the final show.