



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

PORTFOLIO FAQs

Where can get advice on what I should include in my portfolio?

Each programme is looking for different things in a portfolio and each Head of Programme provides specific advice on portfolio requirements in our online application system. To access this advice, we recommend creating an account in our application portal and completing [stage 1 of the application form](#) (your details and education). You'll then be sent a link to login to Pebblepad - our digital portfolio platform.

How many pieces of work should I include?

Each programme has different requirements and instructions. You can access these in Part 2 of the application. Please ensure that your portfolio is concise. Build a PDF for example instead of uploading numerous assets to each area. Make your portfolio easy and enjoyable for staff to view. Think about how it looks to someone who does not know you or your work.

Do I need to fill all the slots?

No you do not have to fill all the slots but it makes sense to take advantage of the opportunity to present a full portfolio of work demonstrating your different experiences and capabilities. Use the captioning to clearly date the work and the intentions behind it's production.

Should I submit undergraduate work / do I need to have an undergraduate degree in a relevant subject/discipline?

Do submit appropriate undergraduate work. However we do expect to see recent work, especially if you graduated some years ago. This could be work produced through employment but we would like to see personal work produced through your own lines of enquiry that evidence your interests as an artist or designer.

Please see [individual programme requirements for the undergraduate subjects that are acceptable to apply from.](#)

Do I need experience of relevant technical skills needed for the programme?

Yes you do need to evidence that you have the appropriate skills to undertake the programme. You will be expected to further your skills throughout your MA study and there are opportunities to learn additional skills to build on the foundation that you already have.

Can I receive feedback if my application is unsuccessful?

Owing to the number of applications we receive we are not able to offer feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Can I apply to more than one programme?

Yes, but you would need to submit a separate portfolio for each programme to which you apply. It is only possible to apply for any single programme once within an admissions year.

What happens if I realise that I have applied to the wrong programme?

We are not able to transfer applications once they are submitted. Applicants must ensure they have selected the correct programme(s) before submitting their application.

Do you offer any portfolio preparation courses?

For the first time this year, our Short Courses team is offering an online Art & Design Portfolio Development short course, starting on 13 May, 2021. This course will help you develop a distinctive progression portfolio tailored to your continuing educational and professional journey in art and design. This online course is ideal for any applicant intending to progress in higher education or in a career within an art or design discipline. [Click here to find out more and book a place.](#)

[Watch our Portfolio Advice and Q&A video from January 2021.](#)