

BA (HONS) FINE ART (WITH INTEGRATED FOUNDATION YEAR)

Institute of Education, Arts and Society

Academic Level:	Level 6	Credits:	480
UCAS Code:	W100		
Awarding Body:	University of Cumbria		
Delivery Site:	Brampton Road		
Programme Length:	Standard registration period (full time) - 4 years		
Mode of Delivery:	Face-to-face		
Pattern of Delivery:	Full time		
	Total weeks of study:	24	
	Delivery pattern:	2 x 15-week semesters comprised of 12 teaching weeks, 2x assessment weeks and 1x Enhancement Week	
	Standard semester dates:	Yes	
Programme Webpage:	BA (Hons) Fine Art with Foundation Year - University of Cumbria		

Entry Criteria

The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the [Applicant Information](#) pages of the University website for more information. For [RPL](#), please refer to the University website. Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage.

PROGRAMME AIMS AND OUTCOMES

Programme Aims

This programme aims to provide a supportive transitional route into higher education.

By the end of this foundation year you will be able to:

1. Apply the academic skills essential for successful participation in undergraduate academic study
2. Demonstrate the ability to solve problems and study independently
3. Develop creative confidence and technical skills through practical exploration and expression
4. Develop critical reflection and self-directed learning skills to support informed creative decision-making.

By the end of the L4-6 programme you will be able to:

5. Function as a creative individual with the capacity for independent judgement, initiative, innovation, flexibility, ambition and with a responsible awareness of the social, cultural and ethical contributions of your work
6. Apply confident, imaginative and creative approaches to problem solving through enquiry, research, understanding, and the use of critical judgement
7. Make appropriate use of developing technologies and develop your digital capabilities to communicate effectively as a socially responsible global citizen
8. Work across disciplines, collaboratively and to be open to new ideas, responsive to change and evolve in relation to the developments in fine art practice
9. Develop appropriate self-reflective approaches to practice, production, research, analysis and presentation
10. Develop the skills, knowledge and personal/professional confidence that will enable you to identify, generate and access opportunities in the art world, creative industries or in continuing education
11. Apply, through increased opportunities for student-centred learning, qualities of personal initiative, self-motivation, reflection, management and self-discipline.

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 120 credits of study (FdCert) you will be able to demonstrate:

FK1. Understanding of basic creative processes, research methods, and safe technical practice

FK2. Recognition of how ideas connect to cultural and professional contexts

FK3. Structured approaches to research, idea generation, experimentation and iterative development.

After 240 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

K1. Knowledge of the range of Fine Art media, methods and approaches to practice

K2. An awareness of the relationship between theory and practice, as it relates to your practice

K3. An understanding of how art practice is mutable and translatable, and the ways in which it relates to broader society.

After 360 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

K4. An assured command of Fine Art media and the way they may be utilised towards a defined aim

K5. Knowledge and understanding of conceptual, historical and theoretical contexts, and how these may be applied to inform your practice and viewer engagement

K6. An understanding of the challenges of presentation and exhibition as a practitioner, individually and within a group setting.

After 480 credits of study (BA Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:

K7. The confidence, self-awareness and expertise to allow for independent production of a substantial, reflective and critically conscious body of work

K8. A critical synthesis and the application of a theoretical and contextual understanding appropriate to a mature and articulate practice

K9. The capacity to apply principles of professional practice including self-promotion, transferable skills, career planning and working with others towards a common goal.

Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 120 credits of study (FdCert) you will be able to demonstrate:

FS1. Academic, personal, and professional skills needed to succeed in higher education

FS2. Effective problem-based learning (PBL) skills to work collaboratively and solve simple creative challenges

FS3. Basic discipline-specific techniques and competencies safely and appropriately in creative practice.

After 240 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

S1. Competence in the selection and application of a range of media, towards achieving prescribed goal/s

S2. Effective research, evaluative and reflective skills in relation to your own work and Fine Art assessment procedures

S3. The ability to articulate the concerns of your art practice, verbally, visually and in written form.

After 360 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

S4. The ability to identify and understand the approaches of artists, to interpret, apply and test methodologies as a means of developing your practice

S5. The acquisition, development and use of specialist languages, appropriate to your research territory and practice

S6. How your practice is situated in a contemporary Fine Art context.

After 480 credits of study (BA Hons) you will be able to demonstrate:

S7. A sophisticated understanding of Fine Art practice, its making, installation, curation and the artist/artwork/audience relationship

S8. The ability to apply theory to making, by means of synthesis of critical, analytical and practical ideas

S9. The effectiveness of your practice in a contemporary Fine Art context by the ability to mobilise subject-specific, cognitive and transferable skills and problem-solving strategies to a range of appropriate professional and entrepreneurial contexts.

PROGRAMME FEATURES

Programme Overview

The Fine Art Programme at the University of Cumbria Institute of Education, Arts & Society is an artist-taught, socially purposive course whose aim is to create artists capable of reenergising and enriching our communities. Through a theory-in-practice method the programme provides a comprehensive practical training in 2D/3D hand skills, digital skills and the ability to relate art-making to its social, cultural, economic and political contexts.

Who We Are

Our distinctive programme offers a practice-led, student-centred approach to the study of Fine Art. Firstly, our focus is on the student's acquisition of the fundamental skills of drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, installation, lens-based media and digital technologies. This provides a basis from which students can fabricate artworks whilst developing their critical, contextual and research skills. Grounded in an understanding of the self as a historical subject, the programme is based on knowing oneself as a product of one's particular moment in time.

As such, our curriculum enables you to become an expert practitioner and critical thinker. Informed by the clear integration of practice and method, the course provides you with the skills, knowledge and cultural capital relevant to a range of professional contexts.

Vibrant Curriculum

Underpinned by a sensitive exploration of our lived histories, the practical elements of the course are supported by a curriculum comprising historical, critical, theoretical and professional practice modules. As such, the programme enables you to explore a range of perspectives, received wisdoms and common values in order to create cultural artefacts and narratives relevant to today's society. This socially engaged approach is supported by a comprehensive range of tutor-led workshops, group tutorials, discussions, one-to-one conversations and lectures, along with detailed and timely feedback at assessment. In addition, the course provides you with key business and entrepreneurial skills and an understanding of the creative economy. In short, the course will provide you with the practical and critical skills necessary to be a confident independent practitioner.

Integrated Foundation Year (IFY)

The integrated foundation year provides the opportunity for you to settle into university life and gain the confidence and skills to succeed in your chosen arts and creative practice degree through participating in a supportive academic, personal, and professional development programme.

The foundation year modules provide a strong grounding in academic and study skills, preparing you for progression to higher levels of study (Levels 4–6). This route offers a unique opportunity to develop problem-solving, creative, practical, and investigative skills that underpin the interdisciplinary approach to the study of art, design and media, while nurturing your career aspirations.

On the Arts IFY, you will study six modules that explore academic skills and the theoretical and practical concepts underpinning creative disciplines. Two of these modules will be academic and

professional skills aligned to your programme of study and the demands of the creative industries, and the following:

- Introducing Creative Research Practice introduces the role of research in creative development, helping you connect ideas to cultural and professional contexts.
- Ideas, Images and Objects develops observation and experimentation skills, encouraging process-led exploration across media.
- Innovation Lab focuses on teamwork and collaborative problem-solving through short, mixed-discipline projects.
- Creative Playbook synthesises research, making, and reflection into a polished artefact, supporting your transition to Level 4.

You will learn how to use specialist equipment and develop techniques for safe and effective practice in studios and digital labs. Through practical application, you will gain awareness of issues such as sustainability, ethics, and audience engagement. Cross-cultural awareness is encouraged through collaborative modules and shared projects with students from other pathways.

Throughout the foundation year, you will develop professional skills such as communication, teamwork, self-management, and organisation. You will make links with the careers team to discuss your skill development and to help you reflect on how these link to your employability and graduate skills. You will also work on your digital skills profile, using university resources such as LinkedIn Learning to enhance your digital literacy and employability.

Year 1: Foundations and Exploration:

2D and 3D Modules: You will begin your journey by delving into the fundamental principles of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art-making techniques. Through hands-on exploration of various mediums and processes, you will develop a strong foundation in artistic practice.

Critical Contexts: This module introduces you to key theoretical frameworks and critical debates in contemporary art, providing context and insight into the broader cultural, social, and historical factors that shape artistic expression.

Collaborative Practice: You will engage in collaborative projects that foster teamwork, communication, and interdisciplinary collaboration. By working alongside your peers, you will gain valuable insights into diverse artistic perspectives and approaches.

Year 2: Specialisation and Expansion:

XD (Time-Based Media) Module: Year two expands your horizons by introducing you to cross-disciplinary approaches, particularly in time-based media. Through exploration of video, performance, installation, and other time-based mediums, you will experiment with new forms of artistic expression.

Historical and Contextual Studies: This module provides you with a comprehensive understanding of the historical, cultural, and theoretical frameworks that inform artistic practice. Through lectures, seminars, and independent study, you will explore key movements, artists, and critical debates in art history, contextualising your own artistic practice within broader cultural and historical contexts.

Critical Debates: This module delves deeper into critical theory and contemporary debates within the art world, challenging you to think critically and analytically about art's role in society and culture.

Transcription: You will learn to translate and interpret ideas, images, and concepts across different mediums and formats, honing their skills in visual communication and artistic interpretation.

Year 3: Professionalisation and Specialisation:

Professional Practice: Year three focuses on preparing you for the professional art world, with an emphasis on portfolio development, exhibition planning, and self-promotion. You will learn practical skills and strategies for navigating the art world and establishing yourselves as professional artists.

Independent Practice: This module allows you to pursue your own artistic projects and interests under the guidance of the programme team, fostering autonomy, creativity, and self-direction in your artistic practice.

Independent Research Paper: In your final year, you will undertake an independent research project culminating in a dissertation. This allows you to explore a topic of personal interest in depth, demonstrating your ability to conduct rigorous research and engage critically with theoretical concepts.

Unique Selling Points (USPs):

Practising Artist Faculty: All staff members are practicing artists educated to MA or PhD level, bringing a wealth of professional experience and expertise to the program.

Close Relationships with Arts Organizations: The program has close relationships with regional arts organizations and national and international arts institutes, providing students with opportunities for networking, collaboration, and exposure to diverse artistic perspectives.

Enriched Student Experience: The program welcomes students from national and international arts institutes at Level 5 and 6, enriching the student experience through cultural exchange, collaboration, and exposure to diverse artistic practices and traditions.

Specialist Art Studios, Workshops and Resource Areas

Our dedicated studios and workshops enable you to be ambitious and innovative in your practice.

Our open access workshops and resource areas are staffed by highly skilled technicians so you can master a full range of art disciplines and develop an ambitious and adaptable art practice.

- Our Sculpture Workshop provides the opportunity to fabricate works in wood, metal and plastics using a range of machinery and technical processes.
- Our Print Studio supports a range of specialist techniques such as mono and relief printing, collagraph, photoetching, screen printing, lithography, aquatint, and traditional etching.
- Our bespoke Life Room is dedicated to mastering the fundamentals of figure-drawing.
- Our Photographic department provides professional standard cameras and comprehensive processing facilities for both digital and analogue approaches.
- Our MacLab provides access to Macs and related current, industry standard software such as Adobe Suite.
- Our Audio and Visual Workshop enables students to create moving image works and access recording studios and post-production facilities.

- Our Ceramic Studio enables students to cast, throw, glaze and fire ceramic objects.
- We also offer easy access to additional equipment and facilities, such as 3D Printers, laser cutting, vacuum forming and drone-mounted cameras.

Small Class Sizes & Mixed Studios

Small class sizes form the core of our programme and ensures tutorial support is tailored to the needs of each individual student. These tutorials provide opportunities for formal and informal technical demonstrations and critical guidance; and our mixed studios, in which students from all three-year groups work alongside one another, facilitate open discussions within a close-knit and supportive community.

The Creative Industries Inform your learning

The Fine Art Programme considers it essential to maintain an awareness of contemporary developments within the broader subject area, and to this end, in addition to our expert artist-lecturers, the course invites a wide-range of guest lecturers, including contemporary artists, arts professionals and local arts organisations.

Overall, the BA (Hons) Fine Art course at University of Cumbria offers a dynamic and enriching educational experience that prepares students to thrive as contemporary artists in a rapidly evolving global art landscape.

Key features of the programme

- **Integrated Foundation Year (IFY):** A supportive entry route designed to build confidence, academic skills, and creative practice for progression to Level 4.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Opportunities to explore multiple creative pathways including Animation & Visual Effects, Film & TV, Games Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography and Wildlife Media.
- **Process-Led Learning:** Emphasis on research, experimentation, and iterative development rather than focusing solely on final artefacts.
- **Authentic Assessment:** Portfolio-based tasks, showcases, and collaborative projects aligned with industry expectations.
- **Professional Skills Development:** Communication, teamwork, planning, and reflective practice embedded throughout the programme.
- **Access to Specialist Facilities:** Studios, digital labs, print workshops, and industry-standard software from the start of your studies.
- **Digital and Employability Focus:** Integration of digital skills, LinkedIn Learning, and career development activities to prepare for graduate employment.

Learning and Teaching

Teaching

The University of Cumbria Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LTA) strategy underpins the development of this programme. As a student, you will join an inclusive learning community that values diversity and creativity. Teaching, assessment, and support are designed to provide

equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy as a creative practitioner.

You will learn in a collegiate, facilitative, and dynamic environment, combining studio-based practice, digital learning, and collaborative projects. Our aim is to create a stimulating and innovative community of learning—whether encountered on campus, online, or through live briefs and external engagement. Facilitated by expert practitioners, you will experience well-equipped studios, digital labs, and flexible learning spaces that reflect professional practice.

Here's what you can expect from our comprehensive learning, teaching, and assessment strategy:

Introduction to Fine Art

We begin with a thorough overview of art history and contemporary practices. You'll explore key art movements, influential artists, and significant works. This foundational knowledge will help you, and your fellow students, to contextualise your own artistic practice within a broader historical and cultural framework.

Studio Practice

A key part of your learning will be hands-on studio practice in various mediums such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital art. This practical approach allows you to develop essential technical skills and express your creativity, providing a solid foundation in fine art practices.

Critical and Contextual Studies

You'll engage in critical and contextual studies, learning to analyse and critique artworks while understanding the cultural, social, and theoretical contexts of art production. This will hone your analytical and research skills, which are crucial for academic success.

Research Skills

Our programme places a strong emphasis on research skills. You'll learn how to find and evaluate academic sources, write scholarly papers, and cite sources correctly.

Personal Development

Throughout the programme, you'll participate in workshops focused on time management, project planning, presentation skills, and self-promotion. These activities are designed to support your overall personal and professional growth.

Support Services

You'll have access to a range of support services, including academic advisors, financial advice, disability support, study support, and counselling. These services are here to help you navigate any challenges you might face during your transition to higher education.

Diversity and Inclusion

Our inclusive curriculum reflects a variety of artistic perspectives and cultural backgrounds. This creates a welcoming environment for all students, regardless of nationality or background.

Progressive Development of Research Skills

- Early Stages (L3&4): You'll start by learning foundational research methods, such as using library databases and academic journals.

- Middle Stages (L5): As you progress, you'll engage in more advanced research practices, including critical analysis of art theory and historical contexts relevant to your practice.
- Later Stages (L5 & L6): You'll take dedicated modules focused on historical and contextual analysis, research methodologies, and essay writing. The Critical Debates module will emphasise researching and presenting coherent arguments.

Independent Research and Final Project

Independent Practical Research

You'll undertake practical research projects, developing your ability to formulate research questions, gather information, and critically evaluate sources.

Dissertation/Final Project

By the time you reach your final project, you'll be equipped with comprehensive research skills, enabling you to conduct in-depth and meaningful investigations within your chosen artistic field.

We look forward to supporting you on your journey through the BA (Hons) Fine Art programme and helping you develop as an artist and scholar.

Foundation Year Approach

We want to motivate you in your foundation year through varied teaching and learning approaches that support different student needs and help you integrate into university life. Modules combine practical workshops, critiques, seminars, and guided independent study, encouraging you to explore ideas, experiment with media, and reflect on your process.

Vocational and creative practice opportunities form an essential part of the programme, enabling you to make meaningful links between theoretical concepts and practical application. During the integrated foundation year, you will work alongside students from a range of creative pathways, allowing for a richer, interdisciplinary learning experience. You will collaborate in groups to solve design problems, research case studies, and deliver creative outputs.

Each module is led by a module leader with overarching responsibility, but delivery is team-taught, ensuring you benefit from subject specialists and experience diverse teaching styles. This approach mirrors the collaborative nature of the creative industries and prepares you for progression to Level 4.

Overview of Learning and Teaching Methods

At Level 3, you typically have around 12 scheduled learning hours per week, including:

- 6 hours of practical workshops and seminars
- 6 hours of lectures and group critiques
- 13 hours of guided independent study
- 2–4 scheduled personal tutoring meetings across the academic year

At Level 4 you typically have around 12 scheduled learning hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 4 hours of lectures
- 2 hours of seminars
- 6 hours of practical workshops
- 0.25 hour(s) of personal tutoring

At Level 5 you typically have around 9 scheduled learning hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 3 hours of lectures
- 2 hours of seminars
- 4 hours of practical workshops
- 0.25 hour(s) of personal tutoring

At Level 6 you typically have around 9 scheduled learning hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 2 hours of lectures
- 3 hours of supervised studio time
- 4 hours of practical workshops
- 0.25 hour(s) of personal tutoring

Independent Learning

When not attending scheduled sessions, you will engage in self-directed study, including research, experimentation, and portfolio development. Independent learning is supported by digital platforms such as Blackboard, LinkedIn Learning, collaborative tools like Padlet, and curated reading lists via OneList.

Digital Capabilities

Digital literacy is embedded throughout the programme. You will use industry-standard software (e.g., Adobe Creative Suite, 3D modelling tools), develop online portfolios, and access LinkedIn Learning and MOOCs to enhance your skills.

Teaching Staff

All staff are active practitioners and researchers with expertise across creative disciplines, including film and television, graphic design, illustration, photography, games design, wildlife media, and fine art. They bring professional experience from the creative industries and maintain current knowledge through ongoing practice and scholarship.

Assessment

Formative assessments

At the mid-point of each module, we will evaluate your work via interim studio review, group crit, oral presentation and drafts of critical writing.

- **Integrated Foundation Year:** Proposal pitches, critiques, technical checks, peer review and self-assessment.
- **Levels 4–6:** Draft submissions, portfolio reviews, group critiques, and project progress presentations.

Summative Assessment

Summative assessment is where your grades are awarded. We design a variety of assessment methods. Examples of how we assess follow:

Integrated Foundation Year: Portfolio, presentation, project work, written work

Year 1:

2D and 3D Modules: Assessment may include portfolio submissions showcasing your artwork, reflective journals documenting the creative process, and critiques where you will present and discuss your work with peers and lecturers.

Critical Contexts: Assessment may involve essays or presentations exploring key concepts and theories in art history and critical theory, as well as participation in seminar discussions.

Collaborative Practice: Assessment may include group projects or presentations, individual reflections on collaboration experiences, and peer evaluations.

Year 2:

XD (Time-Based Media) Module: Assessment may include the creation of time-based artworks such as videos or performances, written reflections on experimental processes, and presentations showcasing conceptual development.

Historical and Contextual Studies: Assessment may involve critical analysis and presentation of key movements or artists within a chosen time frame, and a critical essay exploring key concepts and theories within contemporary fine art.

Critical Debates: Assessment may involve portfolio of research and planning to inform debate participation or critical analyses of contemporary art debates, as well as participation in group discussions and debates.

Transcription: Assessment may include the creation of artworks inspired by existing works or concepts, along with written reflections on the process of translation and interpretation.

Year 3:

Professional Practice: Assessment may include the development of a professional portfolio showcasing your artwork, written reflections on career goals and strategies, and presentations on exhibition planning or self-promotion.

Independent Practice: Assessment may involve the creation of a body of independent artwork, accompanied by artist statements or project proposals, as well as peer critiques and self-assessments and presentations on exhibition planning.

Independent Research Paper (Dissertation): Assessment may include the submission of a research paper exploring a specific topic in depth, along with a literature review, methodology section, and critical analysis of findings.

Overall, assessment methods across the BA (Hons) Fine Art program are designed to evaluate your artistic skills, critical thinking abilities, theoretical knowledge, and professional readiness, while also providing opportunities for self-reflection, peer feedback, and creative expression.

Feedback

Following the submission of summative assessments, you will receive feedback and provisional marks within 20 working days, in line with the University of Cumbria Assessment Feedback Policy. This ensures timely guidance to help you reflect and act on feedback before your next assessment.

Graduate Prospects

As a graduate of Fine Art from the University of Cumbria Institute of Education, Arts and Society, you will hold a holistic view, not only of the functions of art and its potential to affect change in the world, but also of your own interests in relation to your own artistic practice. As a consequence, as a successful graduate you will have gained skills far beyond those more conventionally associated with an art programme, including crucial communication, analytical and critical skills, conceptual learning and lateral thinking skills. A degree in Fine Art becomes a passport to enter an extensive range of careers throughout the creative industries.

Transferable Skills

Our Fine Art Programme provides you with the opportunity to gain a broad range of transferable skills and an entrepreneurial perspective that suits you to a wide range of career options, enabling you to make the most of opportunities as they arise - and to create others. These transferable skills include:

- Working independently/Working with others
- Verbal and written communication
- Time management
- Presentational skills
- Editing and production skills
- Self-evaluation
- Technical, research, critical and analytical skills
- Problem solving

Progression Routes

Upon successfully completing the BA (Hons) Fine Art program, you will possess the skills needed to pursue an MA and subsequently a PhD.

Recent graduates from our Fine Art Programme have undertaken postgraduate programmes at UK institutions such as Goldsmiths College, London; Central St Martin's School of Art, London; University of Northumbria, Newcastle University, Hull University, Winchester School of Art (Barcelona), Glasgow School of Art, Royal College of Art London and University of Cumbria Institute of Education, Arts and Society. Other recent graduates have followed PGCE programmes at the University of Cumbria and nationally.

Examples of Fine Art Graduate Achievements

Many fine art graduates are self-employed artists and creative practitioners who have cut their teeth as artist-organisers and curators here in Carlisle, with the support of the course. Recent artist-run spaces, studios & collectives originating with our students include The Pharmacy, The Fisher Street Collective, Gallery Number 3 and The Galley (all Carlisle). Many graduates continue to have considerable success within the art world as exhibitors and national prize winners e.g. at Glasgow International, Venice Biennale, BP National Portrait Awards, Berlin Film Festival, Liverpool Biennale, LUX Scotland and Title Art Prize. Other occupations taken up graduates include Exhibitions Organiser for the United Nations, Geneva, Gallery Administration at Tate Britain, London and The Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh, Curator for the Chinese Art Centre, Manchester; intern at Aperture in New York City, British Council cultural links with China, writer for Glasgow School of Art Exhibitions Department and Garden Designer for the World Peace Temple, Manjushri. Our

graduates have been Artists in Residence at Christ Hospital School, at Base Camp, Everest, at Grizedale Arts and with UZ Arts, Sura Medura, Sri Lanka.

Your Employability Skills

By studying Fine Art, you will not only be gaining extensive theoretical knowledge of your chosen topic of study, but you will also be developing a range of relevant skills which you can use to gain work during and after your study. Completion of our programme will contribute to your professional development, career planning and progression. These skills include:

- A broad range of practical, analytic, academic, and communication skills to enable the articulation of identifiable concerns within the production and study of art.
- A development of an awareness of practical methods, their interaction and potential across a range of specialist resources, and the safe, ethical & confident handling of technical processes.
- A critical approach to the production of and debate within contemporary fine art practices, models of approach, objects and contexts.
- analytical and critical skills for the study and practice of fine art activities as a basis for undergraduate, and post-graduate research.
- theoretical underpinning of Fine Art practice as a cultural, intellectual, and scholarly activity.
- A professional approach to safe working practices
- an ethical framework for practice
- the ability to work independently and to confidently and critically question received wisdom
- a resilient and thoughtful approach to working with others, as a leader and a contributor, with a socially aware outlook and integrity of approach.

Independent and innovative working practices, underpinned by effective self-management skills.

MODULES

Level 3			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
FYUN3014	Introducing Creative Research Practice	20	Compulsory
FYUN3015	Seeing, Thinking, Making Meaning	20	Compulsory
FYUN3016	Ideas, Images and Objects	20	Compulsory
FYUN3017	Innovation Lab	20	Compulsory
FYUN3018	Creative Industries Toolkit	20	Compulsory
FYUN3019	Creative Playbook	20	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive a FdCert Fine Art			

Year 1			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
FINE4100	2D	40	Compulsory
FINE4200	3D	40	Compulsory
UCIA4030	Cultural Contexts	20	Compulsory
UCIA4020	Collaborative Practice	20	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 240 credits would receive a CertHE in Fine Art (with Integrated Foundation Year)			

Year 2			
Code	Title	Credits	Status
FINE5150	XD	40	Compulsory
FINE5160	Historical and Contextual Studies	20	Compulsory
FINE5170	Transcription	40	Compulsory
FINE5180	Critical Debates	20	Compulsory
Students exiting at this point with 360 credits would receive a DipHE in Fine Art (with Integrated Foundation Year)			

Year 3			
Code	Title	Credits	Status

FINE6090	Independent Practice 1	40	Compulsory
ARTD6000	Independent Research Paper	20	Compulsory
FINE6100	Independent Practice 2	40	Compulsory
FINE6080	Professional Practice	20	Compulsory
<p>Students exiting at this point with 420 credits would receive a BA Fine Art degree (with Integrated Foundation Year)</p> <p>Students exiting at this point with 480 credits would receive a BA (Hons) Fine Art degree (with Integrated Foundation Year)</p>			

Additional Module Information

A failed student will not be permitted to re-register on the same programme.

Students must successfully complete 100 credits at Level 3 before progressing to Level 4.

This programme uses a 40-credit module structure in all years, this allows for larger / sustained assessments with a greater emphasis on creative development and on modelling process and outcomes on industry practice.

Larger modules of 40 credits are recognised, by the QAA, to be typical in Arts programmes, and embrace the pedagogic approach to encourage work on significant bodies of work reflective of industry.

Key to Module Statuses

Compulsory modules	Must be taken although it may possible to compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).
--------------------	---

Timetables

Timetables are normally available in August each year. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled learning can take place on any day of the week.

Our Timetabling team work hard to ensure that timetables are available to students as far in advance as possible, however there may be occasional exceptions such as in the case of teaching which falls outside of the usual academic calendar. The UoC academic calendar runs from August to July, so timetabling information for programmes which include teaching sessions in August may not be published until closer to the August delivery.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Support

We provide responsive student support that promotes student success. Our approach to student support is designed to support achievement and progression, champion inclusivity and accessibility, prepare you for opportunities beyond study, and promote independence and resilience, enabling you to achieve your potential.

As a student of the University of Cumbria, you will be taught by academics and expert practitioners who facilitate learning through structured inquiry. You will be provided with access to high quality academic resources through physical and digital libraries and will be supported to develop skills that enable you to become a critical, reflective, discerning and independent learner and researcher.

Induction

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you will have access to a University of Cumbria on-line provision, currently known as 'Head Start'. This feature provides guidance and exercises for you to enable you to prepare for academic study. Furthermore, you will have access to staff details to ask any questions in advance of commencing the programme.

An undergraduate induction is timetabled for the week before the programme delivery starts and will be your first week on the programme. You will undertake a series of activities designed to form cohesion amongst your peer group, to familiarise you with the University and introduce you to a range of support services who are there to help you settle into university life and help you progress through your studies. You will be shown how to use our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which is called 'Blackboard' and how to submit assessments using 'Turn it In'. You will attend centrally organised sessions, Student Life and Help is at Hand.

During the induction week you are allocated a Personal Tutor (PT), as are all students at the University, but in addition foundation year students will receive dedicated supported from the Student Learning Developer.

Transitioning to Level 4: Progressing students will not be required to attend all induction activities at Level 4, but will be invited to activities that will enable them to meet and feel fully integrated with their new cohort such as introduction to programme structure, modules and team building activities. In addition, the students will be invited by the programme leader to mentor and support new students in other activities such as campus tours and general tips and guidance on being a UoC student.

Personal Tutor

You will also be allocated a Personal Tutor at the start of your programme. Your Personal Tutor will be proactively involved in the delivery of your programme and will have contact with you throughout your time at the University. They will support your learning and development, including through tutorials, progress reviews and other support as outlined in the Personal Tutoring Policy. You will meet with your Personal Tutor on a minimum of four occasions per academic year at Level 3 and 4 (and twice yearly at Levels 5 and 6). These meetings are in addition to any discussions you may initiate which are without limit. The scheduled meetings will include the opportunity to

examine your marks and feedback across modules to identify practice which can be encouraged across modules and recognising where further support may be beneficial.

Student Learning Developers (IFY)

During the first year of your programme (Foundation Year) you will have access to support from dedicated Student Learning Developers (IFY support). These advisors will provide you with individual academic and pastoral support alongside the academic team to ensure you reach your full potential whilst you are on this programme. In particular, they will help you to adjust adjustment to university study, assist you in the navigation of the academic environment, policies, expectations and signposting to a wide range of services. They also work with you and your personal tutor to help you to develop your own strategies for effective study and provide additional one-to-one and group support in academic writing and study skills.

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- [Careers and Employability](#)
- [Chaplaincy](#) for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Digital Skills](#)
- [Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty \(SpLD\)](#)
- [International Student Support](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Money Advice Service](#)
- [Safeguarding](#)
- [Skills@Cumbria](#)
- [Sports and Fitness Facilities](#)
- [University Student Accommodation](#)

As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me.

You can email at any time on studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk.

Course Costs

Tuition Fees

Course fees can be found here [BA \(Hons\) Fine Art with Foundation Year - University of Cumbria](#)

The following course-related costs are included in the fees:

- Use of equipment, technical resources and course trips.

Additional Costs

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- Additional course-related costs include materials, books and additional field trips amounting to approximately £200 per year.

Exceptions to the Academic Regulations

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes.

External and Internal Benchmarks

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Fine Art (2019).

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/>

<http://www.arts.wales/>

<https://visualartists.ie/>

<http://www.creativescotland.com/>

<https://www.a-n.co.uk/news/>

<https://www.artquest.org.uk/>

<https://www.artsprofessional.co.uk/>

The programme is also informed by the following internal reference points:

- Business Plan for the Institute of Education, Arts and Society
- [The Academic Strategy - Transforming lives and livelihoods](#)
- cumbria.ac.uk/media/towards-2030.pdf
- [Learning, Teaching and Assessment Plan](#)
- [Academic Regulations](#)

Disclaimer

This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage: [BA \(Hons\) Fine Art with Foundation Year - University of Cumbria](#)

Date of Programme Specification Production	Oct24
Date Programme Specification was last updated	March 2026