



# Portfolio advice

## Photography and Video BA (Hons)



### Why do we ask for a portfolio?

We look at portfolios as part of our selection process as some of our courses need specialist skills. Seeing your portfolio gives us an idea of your skills and helps us understand if you will enjoy studying with us and to make sure you are choosing the right course for you.

A good portfolio should contain quality work it's not about quantity. Be selective about what to include and avoid repetition, we would recommended 15 to 25 pieces. Ensure that your work is clearly laid out and easy to look through.

### What are we looking for?

- A passion for the subject, both photography and video. Which photographers or film makers inspire you and why?
- Innovative and creative thinking, and an inquisitive mind
- How you generate and develop your ideas
- Enthusiasm to work in a group and collaborate with others
- Your potential to learn and have ambitions for your own future, along with showing your creativity and imagination

### What should a portfolio contain?

#### Photographs and/or moving image work

- Your sketchbook(s) and portfolio need to demonstrate a good level of original photography and or moving image
- Show your ability through the themes and experimentation with visual creativity relevant to photography and video practice
- Include two or three short videos up to a maximum of two minutes. If your moving image work is longer than two minutes, please produce a show reel (like a movie trailer) of the work
- Include a clear indication of your role(s) in the video, for example camera operator, sound recordist, director, editor or production management

#### Sketchbooks

- Sketchbooks reveal how you utilise imagery and a concept to develop ideas through experimentation. They will show us how you approach a project, as well as evidence of the subject matter that inspires you
- You should include primary and secondary research source material, such as exhibition visits, study trips abroad, artists' inspiration and own interests
- Include visual references to artists and designers that show your interests in the wider issues of fine art practise
- Include treatments, scripts and storyboards or shot lists for video

**Note:** *Don't worry if you have not made a video. You can demonstrate your enthusiasm for video / the moving image during your interview and through research in your sketchbooks.*

### **Projects**

- We want to see how you develop an idea and how you research and respond to a project brief. Show evidence of a project in your portfolio that demonstrates creativity, a deep involvement in your work and your conclusion or final idea
- This could be any art or design project (either as part of your course or an independent project)
- Our course includes independent self-directed study. Your portfolio should reflect a desire to pursue this, it shows you can work independently without being driven by a brief or a deadline

### **Written work**

- Please bring an essay or a recent example of writing as evidence of your writing ability
- Although this is a practice-based degree, there are elements of written work required as part of the curriculum

### **Size and Format**

#### UK / EU applicants

- Usually on paper. Can be presented electronically e.g. on a tablet for video
- Can include physical objects / 3D forms e.g. products, sculpture

#### International applicants (living outside of the UK)

- Usually one PDF
- Moving images such as animation or video, please use .mp4, .MOV or .AVI format
- All work needs to be saved in one folder and labelled with your name, student reference number and the name of the course you have applied for
- Files need to be compressed or zipped and not exceed 1GB in size
- Submitted via <http://www.mailbigfile.com/dmuac> or posted, see address below

### **Submission**

#### UK / EU applicants

- Once you have applied, if you meet our minimum entry requirements, you will be invited to attend a face to face interview with one of our course tutors where you will present your portfolio

- You will be sent further advice of what to expect and how to prepare for your Interview Day

#### International applicants (living outside of the UK)

- Once you have applied, if you meet our minimum entry requirements you will be asked to submit your portfolio electronically
- We may wish to contact you through skype or telephone to discuss your portfolio, you will be sent further advice of what to expect and how to prepare

#### **Contact**

If you require further information about your portfolio submission, contact our faculty Admissions team who will be happy to support.

#### **Arts, Design and Humanities Admissions Team**

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