

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	FdA Creative Arts
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 5
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	240 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	2 years full-time
Intended Award	FdA Creative Arts
Named Exit Awards	CertHE Creative Arts
Entry Requirements ⁴	80 UCAS tariff points (or above) • BBC (A-Level) • DMM (BTEC) • Merit (T Level) • Pass in Access to HE Diploma GCSE English and Maths at grade C/4 or above. This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route)
Delivering Institution(s)	East Coast College (Great Yarmouth)
UCAS Code	W904

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Foundation Degree in Creative Arts course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This dynamic course is designed to meet the needs of the artistic and creative industries, and includes a range of practical skills, theoretical knowledge, key transferrable skills and attributes required to forge a successful career in this varied sector.

You will have opportunities to engage with and explore a range of different approaches to, and uses of creative artistic practices, and begin to develop a subject specialism that you find the most rewarding. You will be able to develop your practice in a range of contexts, approaches

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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and mediums, such as costume design, illustration, digital content, media make up, photography and community wellbeing.

You will engage with industry practice and have opportunities explore and interact with real world situations. You will develop your knowledge, skills and experiences through a range of activities that may typically include:

- Live briefs
- Commissions
- Enterprise activities and projects
- Exhibitions

Whilst this is a full-time course, typically this course generally only requires 1-2 days on campus attendance, supported by self-directed study. This means you can continue to work alongside your studies and balance other commitments.

If you choose to study further there are many BA Progression Route top-up course options available both locally and nationally. East Coast College will be offering progression routes in the arts (subject to validation). Career paths could range from teaching, arts technicians, community art work, curating in museums and galleries, as well as artists and designers.

Course Aims

In providing this course, the University and course team aim to:

1. Equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for success in current or future employment/self-employment in the arts
2. Provide a preparation for graduate level study in the arts
3. Appreciate the diversity in practice within the arts sector, alongside the generic and interdisciplinary elements
4. Develop knowledge in a range of ethical and sustainable issues that contextualise practice in the arts sector
5. Fostering independent, self-initiated study of learning and development of a range of identified practical techniques and approaches

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the Foundation Degree in Creative Artistic Practices course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

On successful completion of the course you will be able to:

1. Effective use of knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles underpinning the arts sector, and the way in which those principles have developed.
2. Ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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3. Ability to apply concepts and principles outside the context in an employment or enterprise setting.
4. Knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the arts relevant to Creative Arts.
5. The ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems sustainably in arts practice.
6. An understanding of the limits of their knowledge and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.
7. Use of a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis.
8. Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively.
9. Undertake further training, develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.
10. Qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment or enterprise requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- **Art and Design (2026)**

Course Structure

The Foundation Degree in Creative Arts comprises modules at levels 4 and 5.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Exploring Visual Art Forms	20	R
	Personal and Academic Development	20	M
	Historical and Contemporary Arts	20	R
	Collaborative practices	20	R
	Applied Practice	40	R
Level 5			
	Research Skills	20	R
	Exploring Your Practice	20	R
	Industry Communication	20	R
	Sustainable Creative Futures	20	R
	Showcasing and Exhibitions	40	R

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a Foundation Degree in Creative Arts. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a Diploma of higher Education on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at The Place Great Yarmouth, with students also able to access facilities at the main Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft campuses. Students studying full-time on FD Creative Artistic Practices are likely to have approximately 15 contact hours for level 4 and 12 contact hours for level 5 in a typical week. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, demonstration, workshop and practical activity. Students will normally be expected to undertake 26 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be coursework including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking the Foundation Degree in Creative Artistic Practices will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,000 per year
Full-time International/EU	£16,500 per year

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay additional costs for trips, amounting to a maximum of £1,000 payable at a later date.

Students are likely to incur other costs for equipment, materials, optional field trips and exhibitions amounting to approximately £150 per year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).