

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Fine Art
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Fine Art
Named Exit Awards	BA Fine Art DipHE Fine Art CertHE Fine Art
Entry Requirements ⁴	112 UCAS tariff points or above; BBC (A-Level); DMM (BTEC) Applicants are expected to attend an interview and show a portfolio as part of the application process
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	W100

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Fine Art course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The fundamental aim of the BA (Hons) Fine Art course is to provide an educational experience which results in the development of you as an artist, capable of responding to changing professional practices and career opportunities. Here at University of Suffolk, we aim to prioritise the development of each individual student's creative, technical and intellectual skills. The course reflects the interface between the academic study of fine art and the establishment of a sustainable creative practice together with the wider contexts of employment within education, the creative and other industries.

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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The BA (Hons) Fine Art course regards fine art as a medium for self-development, confidence and competence. It combines the subject-specific skills with transferable skills in order to prepare graduates who are divergent thinkers, excellent practitioners, open to new opportunities, capable of meeting employment requirements and able to see the potential for artistic opportunity.

The BA (Hons) Fine Art course has a triangular structure, which prioritises the making of work, underpinned on the one hand by the study and development of practical, technical skills, and on the other by analytical, critical and contextual skills. All three concepts have specific processes and procedures that inform and support each other through an integrated and holistic approach to theory and practice. Knowledge and understanding is re-affirmed and re-created through these range of inter-relationships.

Course Aims

The defining principles and course aims reflect those outlined in the *QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design* (2019) which are national guidelines in Higher Education.

In providing this course, the University and course team aim to provide a balanced and rigorous practical and theoretical programme of study. The course aims:

1. To offer a programme of fine art study which focuses, in particular, on the development of creative problem solving and critical thinking through an emphasis on making and presenting work in a range of contexts.
2. To develop the students' practical, technical and discursive skills in order to facilitate risk-taking and experimentation in fine art practice.
3. To develop intellectual understanding, critical and analytical skills through consideration and understanding of key theories, philosophies and perspectives, that will inform and challenge the making and reception of work.
4. To study the diverse nature of fine art through a spectrum of media including, but not limited to, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, installation, and digital media.
5. To integrate and develop key transferable skills such as organisation, problem-solving, communication both explicitly and implicitly within the content of the programme.
6. To prepare the student to understand the broad vocational, economic, social and environmental contexts of their study and the range of professional opportunities available to them

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Fine Art 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 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

It is important to set out clearly what you can expect to gain from studying on this course. These expectations are presented in terms of *learning outcomes*, i.e. statements defining

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

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areas of knowledge, understanding and specific abilities and skills you will be able to demonstrate on completion of the course.

On successful completion of Level 6 you will be able to:

Research

- R1. Locate and discern a rigorous selection of relevant primary source material in relation to your own practice and/or research.
- R2. Produce and articulate fully developed research ideas, practices and theories in relation to your own work and/or that of others

Knowledge

- K1. Evidence a complex body of knowledge and understanding of advanced contextual, critical and practical frameworks that enable the realisation of innovative fine art practice.
- K2. Demonstrate thorough comprehension of the way concepts, theories and techniques have relevance to, and expand art practice.
- K3. Demonstrate knowledge needed for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances.

Making

- M1. Apply considered approaches to making work within selected media that facilitates an advanced fine arts practice.
- M2. Acquire and apply new competencies that advance the development of your practice.
- M3. Demonstrate a robust methodology of self-initiated investigation and experimentation across media, techniques, and processes as the basis of a sustainable art practice.
- M4. Demonstrate research and understanding in a structured and illustrated body of writing.

Analysis

- A1. Sustain an extended argument and analysis of focused subject that demonstrates conceptual and critical understanding.
- A2. Critically evaluate and debate your practice and its position within contemporary fine art contexts.

Presentation

- P1. Integrate theoretical and practical knowledge into work that is exhibited, presented, and shared within physical and virtual formats.
- P2. Demonstrate skill and knowledge in confidently exhibiting and presenting outcomes, processes, and ideas across diverse media and methods to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- P3. Present written work that meets the expectations of advanced academic conventions.

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P4: Exercise qualities and transferable skills necessary for independence and autonomy leading to self-employment or employment within and beyond the creative industries.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark:

- Art and Design (2019)

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Fine Art comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

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			
	Introduction to Contemporary Art Practice	30	R
	Developing Contemporary Art Practice	30	R
	Concepts, Sites and Critical Dialogues	30	R
	Modes of Display and Documentation	30	R
Level 5			
	Establishing your Practice	30	R
	Exhibition Practice	30	R
	Art in a Professional Context	30	R
	Advancing Research and Practice	30	R
Level 6			
	Advanced Experimental Practice and Research	30	R
	Dissertation and Advanced Practice	30	M
	Sustaining your Practice	30	R
	Degree Exhibition	30	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Fine Art. Students who leave the course early without completing a Dissertation, may be eligible for a BA Fine Art on successful completion of all other mandatory modules at levels 4, 5 and 6 or for a DipHE Fine Art on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Fine Art on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

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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Course Delivery

The course is delivered at University of Suffolk Ipswich Campus. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Fine Art are likely to have approximately 12-15 tutor structured learning hours per week for Level 4, 7-10 tutor structured learning hours per week for Level 5 and 5-7 tutor structured learning hours per week for Level 6. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lecture, seminar, tutorial and practical activity. Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 25-30 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 approximately 100% 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 BA (Hons) Fine Art will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,790 per year
Part-time UK	£2,447.4 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£16,440 per year
Part-time EU/International	£4,110 per 30 credit module

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

Students are likely to incur other costs for equipment, materials, optional field trips and exhibition visits as outlined below.

- Students should expect to pay around £150 in each year for visits to London etc. that contribute to assessed work;
- Periodically the Fine Art course runs a study visit to a non-UK destination. The costs of these vary, but would typically be around £300 plus personal spending money;
- Students have some coursework materials paid for in the first year. However, the nature of the course demands a wide variety of outcomes and use of materials. These are difficult to quantify, but students could incur costs of up to about £250 per year for basic materials;
- In the second year of the course the professional practice module expects students to engage with an individual or organisation outside the university. Depending on where this is it could increase costs for a student;

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- In the final year of the course students are required to put on a major exhibition. This will incur extra costs, but these are difficult to estimate, as it will depend to a great extent what the nature, scale and scope of the individuals practice.

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](#).