

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Visual 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
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Visual Art
Named Exit Awards	CertHE Visual Art DipHE Visual Art
Entry Requirements ⁴	Minimum of 112 UCAS tariff points or above (BBC at A Level, 30 credits at M and 15 credits at D for Access and DDM at BTEC Level 3) All applicants are expected to hold Maths and English GCSE at grade C/4 or above. Applicants without these may be considered based upon their overall application. An interview and evidence of professional experience for mature students and/or those with non-traditional qualifications will be required. Mature students will be considered on an individual basis, and do not necessarily have to meet the standard entry requirements. Those who would benefit from the programme but are seeking a career change may be required to complete a relevant L3 Foundation in Art & Design programme. All applicants will be required to submit a portfolio review to assess their suitability for the course
Delivering Institution(s)	East Coast College (Lowestoft)

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](#).

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UCAS Code	W102
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This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Visual Art course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The Visual Art degree is a broad-based Visual Art course that aims to equip students with the technical, reflective, and entrepreneurial skills to develop their creative voice and progress into economically sustainable creative careers. With its interdisciplinary content, this programme could open career opportunities as practising artists, community artists, illustrators, exhibition/event's organisers, arts administrators, lecturers, art consultants, gallery managers, researchers, curators, designers, and teachers. Importantly, it aims to develop graduates who are creative problem solvers and who can positively contribute to the cultural regeneration of the local area.

Course Aims

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

1. Support students in the conception, production, promotion, and dissemination of their artwork
2. Develop technical and creative skills in order to explore and express ideas through the creation of art.
3. Prepare students for professional life in the creative field by offering a programme of study that recognises the overlapping and changing nature of many art disciplines.
4. Develop understanding of different audiences in the creation and dissemination of art work.
5. Develop opportunities for students to exhibit, engage and respond to audiences.
6. Introduce students to contextual and ethical issues surrounding the creation of contemporary art.
7. Develop students critical and analytical skills through written assignments and presentations.
8. Develop professional skills including collaboration, self-promotion, entrepreneurship, community building.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Visual Arts 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.

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

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

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Level 6

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

1. Demonstrate the application of a range of advanced visual art skills and theories to different bodies of work.
2. Demonstrate advanced understanding of critical process in planning a major visual art work.
3. Independently and responsibly initiate, develop, and realise original creative responses, demonstrating autonomy and critical awareness relevant to own Visual Art practice.
4. Effectively employ a range of relevant and specific media, techniques, and processes to communicate intent, concepts and engage with audiences.
5. Demonstrate an ability to question, reflect and engage in critique and debate surrounding concepts and theories. Showing awareness of developments relevant to Visual Art practices.
6. Reflect on your responses to problems.
7. Undertake critical assessment of a body of work demonstrating a detailed grasp of concepts and ideas.
8. Exhibit work using appropriate and professional methods, demonstrating awareness of self-promotion strategies, entrepreneurship and target audiences.
9. Further enhance employability and transferrable skills in a range of contexts.
10. Apply professional and independent working method to produce self-directed work to a high level, managing time and resources through project management skills.
11. Communicate concepts and theoretical arguments to specialist and non-specialist audiences, through a diverse range of forms.

Course Design

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

- *QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design (2019)*

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Visual 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 Materials & Processes	40	M
	Introduction to Studio Practice	20	M
	Professional Practice - Engaging with an Audience	40	M

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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	Contextual Studies - Visual Analysis	20	M
Level 5			
	Intermediate Studio Practice	40	M
	Contextual Studies - Critical Perspectives	20	M
	Professional Practice - Industry Contexts	20	M
	Extended Studio Practice	40	M
Level 6			
	Professional Practice – Career Progression	20	M
	Dissertation	40	M
	Final Major Project	60	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Visual Art. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Visual Art on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Visual Art on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at East Coast College (Lowestoft). Students studying full-time on BA(Hons) Visual Art are likely to have approximately 10-11 contact hours for level 4, 9 contact hours for level 5 and 6-9 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activity. Students will normally be expected to undertake 30-35 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 100% coursework (including portfolios, exhibitions, essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective reports 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) Visual Art will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,790 per year
Full-time EU/International	£15,900 per year

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

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Students will be required to pay additional costs for optional trips, including day trips and international residential stays at Level 4, 5, and 6. The approximate total cost of these trips will be £350 per year. Students are likely to incur other costs for equipment and material such as sketchbooks, paint, canvas etc. amounting to approximately £150 per year.

Any students undertaking voluntary work will need to provide an enhanced DBS certificate and the associated costs. Students will be required to pay for their DBS check and a small ID check and processing fee; additional fees may be incurred upon a student returning from a period of intercalation. The cost of DBS checks can be found on the DBS page of the [University of Suffolk website](#).

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](#).