

Course Code – 6MFG00101

Course Title – Graphic Design: National Certificate BTEC

Level 3

Qualification BTEC National Certificate in Graphic Design

Course Leader: Gillian Fielden

What the course involves:

On the course you will tackle 6 major projects derived from BTEC units. These will involve Typography, Word and Image, Design for Advertising, Graphic Image Making and Narrative Image Making. You will also take part in 1 or 2 day workshops based on the projects or linked to core units which include: Visual Communication, Ideas and Concepts, Materials, Techniques and Processes, Drawing and Design History.

You will also complete a personal Final Major Project which will allow you to develop design skills in an area of Graphic Design you wish to explore further.

In total you will be accredited for 12 Units of work on successful completion of the course.

You will be encouraged to produce work for competitions or additional projects. For example past students have completed projects for the college including Christmas cards, a calendar and signage. Students have also completed numerous logo designs, redeveloped magazine layouts and produced brochures and leaflets for the college.

At the end of each project you will present your work to the group and you will be assessed on the work at the end of each term. You will also be assigned a tutor and have tutorials at least once a term giving you an opportunity to discuss your work and progress on the course.

As well as individual work the course encourages you to take part in group work aimed at reflecting real design practice.

You will also visit relevant exhibitions during the course and will be encouraged to make visits to galleries independently.

An end of year show is held in the college and you will have the opportunity of showing your work to the public and potential employers.

The course runs 3 days a week, 10 am to 4 pm. However, as it is fairly intensive, to complete projects successfully you will be expected to work outside these hours.

The course is taught on Apple Macintosh computers using software that includes Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign and QuarkXpress.

Most projects involve using both hand and computer based work and instruction will be given based on the area of study. However, if you are a complete novice, it may be worth enrolling on a beginner's course in these software packages.

All the design rooms are well served for computers. There is open access in the skills centre daily and in a designated classroom one evening a week. It is not essential for you to own your own computer, Mac or PC, but it may prove a useful asset to invest in.

You will be able to print work up to A3 in Learning Resources and the department has a good quality A4 colour printer available. There are also numerous printing resources around the area at commercial prices.

Materials: apply for learner support fund (£15 materials fee)

The college encourages applicants with physical disabilities and there is lift access available to the classroom.

Where it leads to:

Completion of this course would naturally lead you to the Higher National Certificate in Graphic Design at Level 4. To complement your studies it may be worthwhile enrolling on the Photoshop, Illustrator and /or Quark classes run in the college.

What background and qualifications do you need to join?

To be accepted on the course you will need to attend an interview with a portfolio of work. This can include sketchbooks, photographs, drawings or CAD work.

If you do not have formal GCSE qualifications but have relevant work experience it is still possible to join the course and this can be negotiated at interview.

Course duration and Hours:

You will be expected to attend: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10 am to 4pm. The course runs for 37 weeks with three terms lasting approximately 12 weeks each. Please note the course runs with no half terms.

Location: Wornington Road

FEES: £889 (£99) £4200 non EU

How to apply:

You must be interviewed before acceptance onto this course. Please complete an application form online and we will contact you. You may also apply by post or in person and we will contact you to arrange an interview time.

Please bring work to your interview, which you feel supports your application to the course. This may include sketchbooks, drawings, photographs, graphic design and computer aided design work. Work done on computer should ideally be presented as printed hard copy, however we shall make every effort to view work stored on CD if time and resources allow.