

What is the course about?

This innovative visual arts course will enable you to develop your practical skills and theoretical underpinning across a range of visual arts disciplines. This will include non-traditional exploration such as digital, film, audio, sound, and installation, plus more traditional approaches to visual arts such as drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles and sculpture. Projects will embrace industry specific vocational scenarios, enabling you to develop the skills, knowledge, and experiences required to progress onto further study and employment. We have strong links with a wide variety of creative arts industries and employers including Culture Warrington, Warrington Museum and Art Gallery and Warrington Market. We use our extensive links to enhance our programmes, through employer-led briefs, guest speakers and live external exhibition opportunities. The programme can be studied full time over one year (attending college two days per week) or part time over two years (attending college one day per week).

Why should I choose the course?

This course is delivered by highly specialised staff who have a wealth of industrial and teaching experience. The projects you will undertake will equip you with the skills and knowledge required to progress into industry. There will be a wealth of opportunity to develop your artistic practice in a highly supportive learning environment. We deliver a breadth of live projects, including creating artwork to sell at Warrington Christmas Market, external exhibitions at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, a collaboration with Mind mental health charity, and extensive links with Culture Warrington.

What will I learn?

Throughout the course you will develop the skills to be autonomous as a visual artist, gaining a full understanding of professional practice, working collaboratively, and developing advanced art practice skills.

The HNC will consist of four core mandatory units:

- Professional development
- Contextual studies
- Individual project
- Techniques and processes.

Two specialist mandatory units:

- Media practices
- Material practices.

Two optional units:



- Visual merchandising
- Communication in art and design.

Please note that modules listed are indicative and may be subject to change. We do not guarantee that a non-mandatory unit will always run in any given academic year as options may be dependent on student numbers, sector requirements, and staff expertise.

You will be assessed through a variety of formative methods throughout the course. This will take place through one-to-one tutorial, questioning, peer critique, small group and whole class critique, teacher facilitation, target setting, and ongoing review. Summative assessment will take place following the submission of each unit. Each unit is graded as pass, merit, or distinction and you will receive in depth written and verbal feedback.

What will the course lead on to?

Successful completion of the HNC allows progression onto related HND courses. Following completion of the HND you can progress onto university to complete a top-up to a BA honours degree or enter employment within the creative industries.

Are there any links with industry and university?

Throughout the course, visiting artists and guest lecturers will visit the college to deliver talks and technical demonstrations. Working processes and techniques are developed in line with industry and this will be articulated throughout the programme. You will be encouraged to visit local artists in their studios, as well as gallery exhibitions, in order to broaden your understanding of professional practice. You will have the chance to exhibit your work both internally and externally in order to create links with galleries and develop curator and exhibition skills.

There will be a wide range of local museum/gallery trips ran throughout the year. Examples of recent trips include Liverpool Tate and Walker Art galleries, World Museum, Manchester City Art Gallery, Whitworth Gallery, Manchester Natural History Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, and Yorkshire Sculpture Park. There may also be opportunities to take part in a residential trip. Past foreign trips have included New York, Barcelona, and Berlin. A fully guided schedule of art galleries and museum visits are provided on these trips.

In order to get the most from the course, you will be expected to have a workspace outside of college in order to develop your practice. This could be either at home or in a separate studio. Work placement will be completed via live employer-led projects

What support is available?

All HE students receive termly one-to-one tutorials with their programme leader to support them with their progress on programme. You will also have access to an online tutorial programme which provides guidance on a wide range of topics such as mental health, managing finances, support for single parents, and working online. In addition, you can access a programme of workshops throughout the year to support with topics such as study skills, academic writing, and time management.

We have a team of staff dedicated to providing learning support if it is required, and a Welfare Team that is on hand to offer guidance, support, and help when needed. All HE students have access to a designated progress coach who can also provide welfare support.

Click here for learning support: <https://wvr.ac.uk/college-life/learning-support>

Click here for finance support: <https://wvr.ac.uk/study/higher-education>



Why should I choose to study the course at Warrington & Vale Royal College?

The college offers a very high-quality education for HE students. HE student feedback is strong, and students are highly complimentary of their learning experience. HE students have access to specialist facilities and resources to support their programme of study as well as designated HE learning spaces to support independent study.

Here at Warrington & Vale Royal College we have a team of dedicated, experienced staff who can share their extensive knowledge and skills with you. Learning in a friendly and inclusive environment, you will be fully supported to achieve your goals.

What are the entry requirements?

You will typically have one of the following:

- A BTEC level 3 or other level 3 qualification in a related subject (64 UCAS points)
- A minimum of two A-Levels (A2) with one in a related subject at grade C or above (64 UCAS points)
- Access to HE with relevant options
- Appropriate relevant work experience – mature students who have appropriate work experience in a related sector or role and/or have professional qualifications in a related industry are welcome to apply.

AND

- A* to C grade and/or 9 to 4 in GCSE English (language or literature)
- A* to C grade and/or 9 to 4 in GCSE maths is also recommended.

Non-native English speakers who have not undertaken their final two years of schooling in English need to demonstrate capability in English at a standard equivalent to the levels identified below. This is necessary before being recruited to the programme, as the programme is both taught and assessed in English:

- Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) level B2
- IELTS 5.5; reading and writing must be 5.5.

All HNC/HND programmes require the completion of a personal statement and curriculum-set task prior to an admissions interview being offered. Further information on this will be provided to you upon receipt of your application. You will also be required to provide a reference from one of the following options:

- A previous course leader/teacher (if progressing from a recently attended further or higher education course)
- A recent or current employer
- An appropriate professional who can provide a character reference (if you have not been in recent education or employment).

For the HNC in Visual Arts, a portfolio of recent artwork is required for presentation at interview

What are my funding options?

Students applying to study on a Higher Education course can apply for a HE student loan at www.gov.uk/student-finance.

For further finance support and enquiries please visit <https://www.wvr.ac.uk/higher-education/higher-education-funding-support/>



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Are there any additional costs associated with the course?

You will be advised to put together a collection of your own personal materials and equipment dependent on your own specialisms and interests. This will include paint brushes, drawing media, acrylic paints, watercolours etc. A list of desirable tools, equipment, and materials, plus details of where to purchase these from, will be provided during induction. It is also advised that you have access to Wi-Fi and a device such as a MAC computer and iPad to complete digital aspects of work at home. We will use Google Classroom to set and review work, so a digital device is an essential requirement for the course.

We run a range of trips to local universities, museums, and galleries e.g., Liverpool John Moores University, Tate Liverpool, Manchester City Art Gallery, and the Whitworth Gallery. There is usually a cost of approximately £10 per local trip. Additionally, we offer an annual optional European residential trip, which can cost between £300 - £450.

The college provides all students with £3 print credit. Any further printing will incur a cost.



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