

NCAD - YOUR PORTFOLIO – YOUR WAY

First Year Common Entry Guidelines

The following guidelines may be used when applying to **First Year Common Entry**. Please note that these are simple guidelines to get you started on your portfolio journey and do not have to be followed.

Your portfolio for **First Year Common Entry** will be assessed broadly, meaning that you may have different interests within your portfolio.

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to the fact that **BA Education** students are working towards a joint Honours Degree in Education and Art/Design, inspiration may be drawn from this First Year Common Entry sheet, as this is also a broad, all-inclusive Art/Design sheet.

Pick one or more of the following guide words to explore.

Expansion	Territory	Remnant
Departure	Encounter	Restriction
Gradient	Hurdle	Affinity

For example; what would happen if you **expanded** an every day object slowly over the period of a week? Could you place an unusual **restriction** on something? For example what if you could not touch the cover of a book and could only open it by inventing a new device? Can you think of ways to explore and interact with your own **territory** in an interesting and new way? The possibilities are endless here and there is nothing holding you back from your own creativity.

Your portfolio will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. Research and observation

Come up with your own ideas from the guide words above. Play around with them, mix them up, put them together and take them apart. Observe everything around you. Look at minute details and the bigger picture. Think about the materials that you like to work with and research other artists who work with those materials. This is the stage where you should put the time and effort into really looking and observing and seeing what is already out there in order to change it, or improve it. Create some mind maps using different guide words and push the boundaries of what you already know.

2. Creative ideas - outcomes of your research and observation

Use your Research and Observation to generate lots of ideas - practical, wild or futuristic. Try different things, work with new media and experiment. You can draw, paint, sculpt, photograph, try mark-making, digital imagery, videography, sewing, anything you can think of. Refine your skills and come up with visual solutions. What materials would you use, how would you construct it and why would you do it that way? Is there another way? This is that stage where you think about what could be made and create some samples and tests. Discover what works and does not work. Begin to formalize your ideas.

3. Developed creative work

This is where you select, develop and present at least one idea. It could take any form and use any medium. We want to see how you have taken your ideas, which could have sprung from the simplest, most basic source and turned them in to something extraordinary. Your creative vision is unique and only you can arrive at the developed stage you have reached. This will be through careful thinking and planning and a lot of hard work. Show us your talent, creativity, progress and dedication. We know you have it in you.

Creative Notebook

Whatever pathway you are interested in, you should have a creative notebook to back up all of your ideas, thoughts and final work. They should be full of ideas from your Observation and Research stage, right through to your final conclusions. Your notebooks do not have to be neat or follow any particular format. We would advise that you carry a notebook with you so that you can jot things down as they come to you.

Your notebook can show any extra project development like planning, thoughts and notes.

We are also interested in the artists/designers that inspire you, the drawings that didn't quite fit in the portfolio or the hobbies, art, school projects or work experience that you didn't get chance to show.

For information on the practicalities of submitting your portfolio to NCAD, [please CLICK HERE](#)

Helpful Information

Throughout the year, NCAD runs several Portfolio Information sessions, workshops and clinics. These will be in November and January and will be clearly advertised on our website. These events are specifically designed by our expert portfolio assessment teams to help you with your portfolio. If at all possible, you should try to attend at least one of these events. These events are free but places are limited, so be sure to check back on the website regularly in order to book your free place.