

CAMBRIDGE
SCHOOL OF
VISUAL &
PERFORMING
ARTS



Prospectus 2026-27

Art is Change



Welcome to CSVPA

"At CSVPA we offer you opportunities to develop your talents by nurturing your creativity in an inspiring and diverse community. Our courses are built around your individual needs, and through a creative environment we help students develop their talents in the way they want to. Many of our staff have experience working within the creative industries, which shapes the structure of our courses so that what we teach is relevant to current and future industry practices. Our industry connections also set us apart from other institutions and means our young creatives stand out when applying for further study or starting their career in the workplace."

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'K. Askham'.

KARIN ASKHAM | RECTOR, CSVPA



Contents

6	About Us
8	Your Career
10	Our Cambridge Campus
11	Living in Cambridge
12	Our Accommodation
16	Extended Diploma & Foundation
22	Undergraduate
26	Postgraduate
30	Performing Arts
36	English Language Centre
37	Pre-Sessional English Programme
38	What We Look For In A Portfolio
40	What We Look For In An Audition
42	Summer School at CSVPA

FROM THE BEST OF MENSWEAR AWARD WINNING
COLLECTION AT GRADUATE FASHION WEEK 2025

About us

Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts (CSVPA) is a dedicated creative and performing arts school with campuses in the centre of Cambridge. We offer Diploma, Foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate courses across Art & Design, Fashion, Music, and Performing Arts.

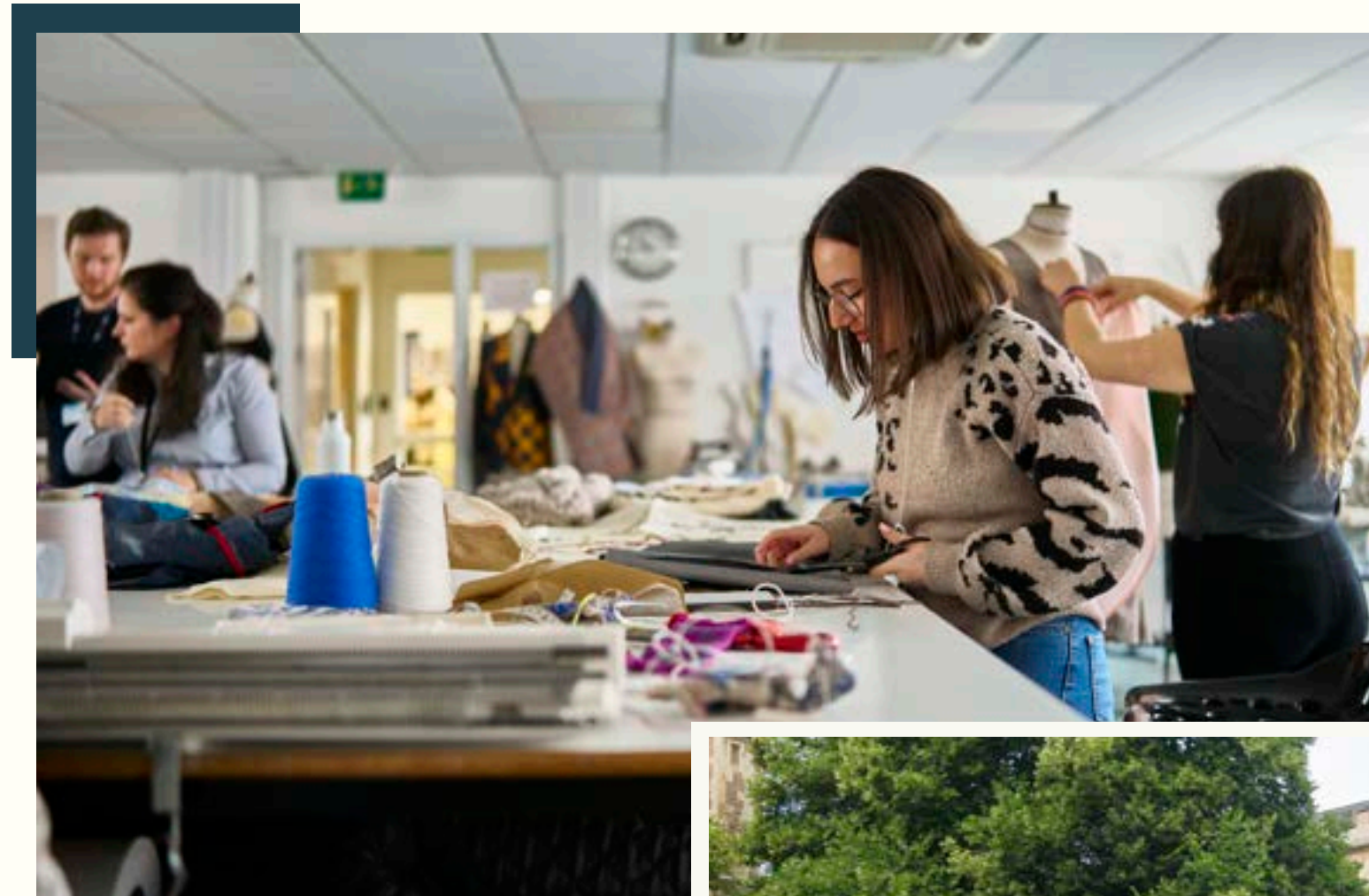
Our approach to teaching focuses on helping our students to become the creatives they want to be. We develop our students' creativity, critical thinking, approach to research, contextual understanding and trend analysis of various teaching philosophy. Alongside developing their individual networks within the UK's creative industries, students will enhance their practical skill sets through industry projects and unique collaborations.

All of our students are part of a vibrant, multicultural community of highly creative people who share common dreams and ambitions. At CSVPA, you will make friends across courses and years, sharing ideas and experiences that elevate your work and inspires you to explore your own creativity.

95%

OF STUDENTS PRAISED THEIR
COURSE FOR CHALLENGING
THEM TO ACHIEVE THEIR BEST
WORK*

*According to National Student Survey in 2025





95%

OF STUDENTS AGREE THEY
DEVELOPED THE KNOWLEDGE
AND SKILLS THEY THINK THEY
WILL NEED FOR THEIR FUTURE*

Your career

In 2023 alone the creative arts industry in the UK is estimated to have contributed £124 billion to the wider UK economy.¹ With employment in the arts industries growing year on year to 2.4 million jobs, studying a creative arts course is a gateway for some of the most exciting and innovative careers.²

Our BA Fashion students have received national press coverage for their final collections and our BA Graphics & Illustration students recognised at leading industry events. Our MA students have gone on to work for global brands such as Vivienne Westwood and Esquire magazine and our Extended Diploma and Foundation graduates have been accepted into some of the top Universities and Conservatoires, including progression to Parsons School of Design (New York), Central Saint Martins, Kingston University, Trinity Laban Conservatoire, RADA, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of Westminster, Goldsmiths, The Ruskin School of Art (University of Oxford) and many more.

How we teach is not only focused on the time you spend studying with us but also prepares you for the creative path ahead of you.

1. gov.uk
2. gov.uk - 2022

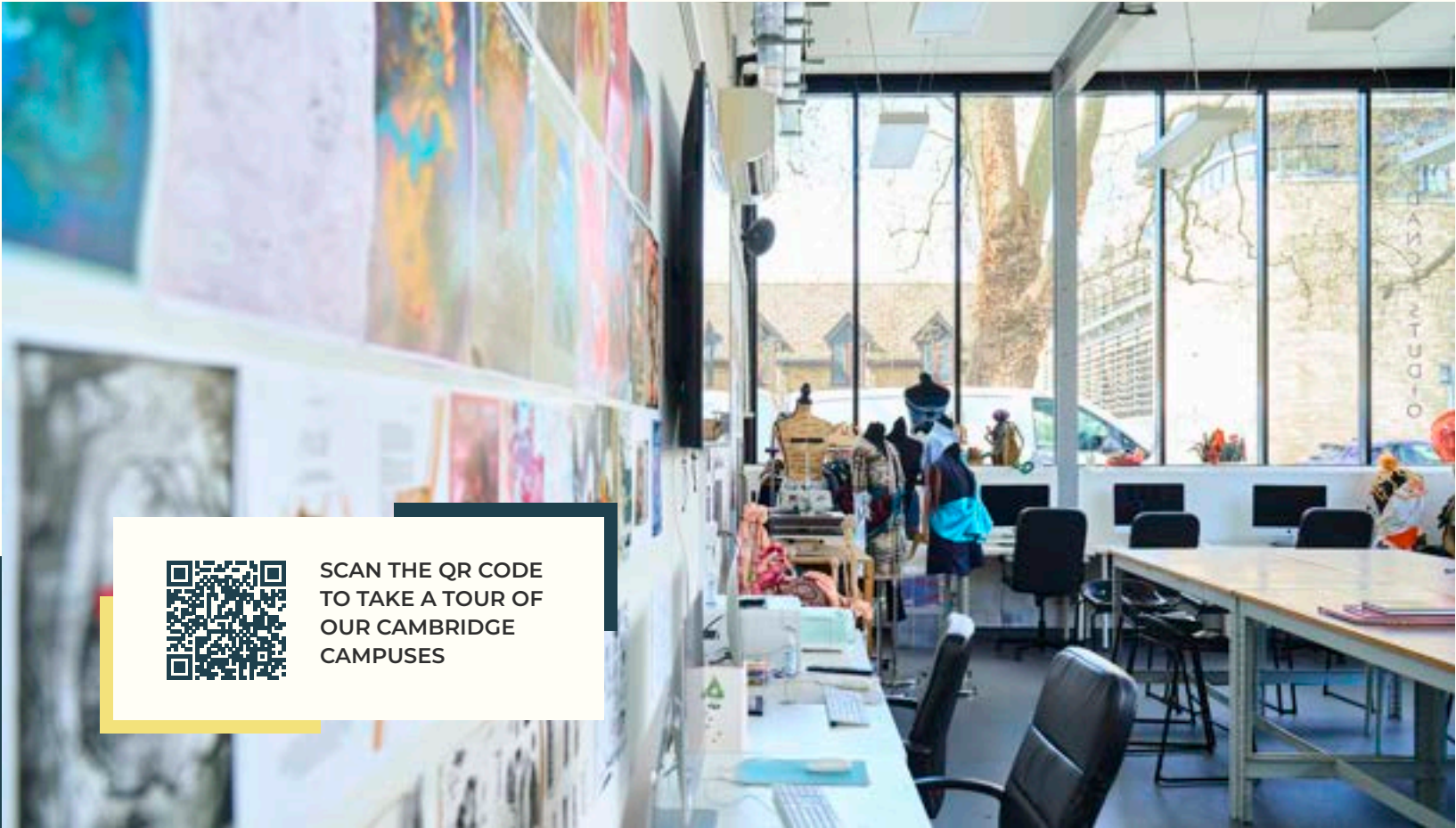
*According to National Student Survey in 2025

Our Cambridge Campus

Cambridge is possibly the best place in the UK to be a student, and our campus is perfectly located in the heart of this vibrant city.

As a student at CSVPA you will have your own space to design, create, rehearse or practice. All our studios are designed to look, feel and operate like those you would work in during your professional career. We make sure you are adept at using all the latest equipment, processes and programmes that the creative industries use.

Students have access to our studio spaces seven days a week and our small class sizes allow our lecturers to provide personalised tuition. What's more, as artists you will need access to lots of essential materials and equipment to create successful portfolios. Unlike other universities and colleges, at CSVPA we provide all your printing, your calico and pattern paper free of charge – so you can experiment, make mistakes and learn without worrying about having to constantly buy more materials.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO TAKE A TOUR OF
OUR CAMBRIDGE
CAMPUSES

Living in Cambridge

Cambridge is a beautiful, multicultural city with a rich history and lots to do. Inspiration is not in short supply. There is a popular music scene with multiple venues to choose from across different genres. Arts and culture can also be enjoyed with world famous museums that show some of the rarest collections, sculptures, art and ancient antiques dating back to the pre-historic era. There are many art galleries that are filled with contemporary and renaissance artworks and plenty of theatres which host performances from Broadway shows to amateur theatre groups.

Cambridge is one of the safest places to live in Britain and offers a wide variety of amenities. There is an abundance of shopping centres, restaurants, cafes, music venues, theatres and cinemas, and when you want to explore the rest of the UK or travel back home, you can easily jump on a train and be in London in just under an hour.

Our Accommodation

At CSVPA we provide student accommodation for all years of study allowing you to focus on the important things; discovering Cambridge, making friends and getting the most out of your course. Located in the heart of Cambridge, our halls of residence are surrounded by a thriving arts and culture scene and with the added benefit of living with like-minded creative students, you will have an abundance of stimuli to inspire your work and develop your creativity.

VARSITY HOUSE PREMIUM BEDROOM



BATIM HOUSE PREMIUM BEDROOM



UNDER-18s ACCOMMODATION

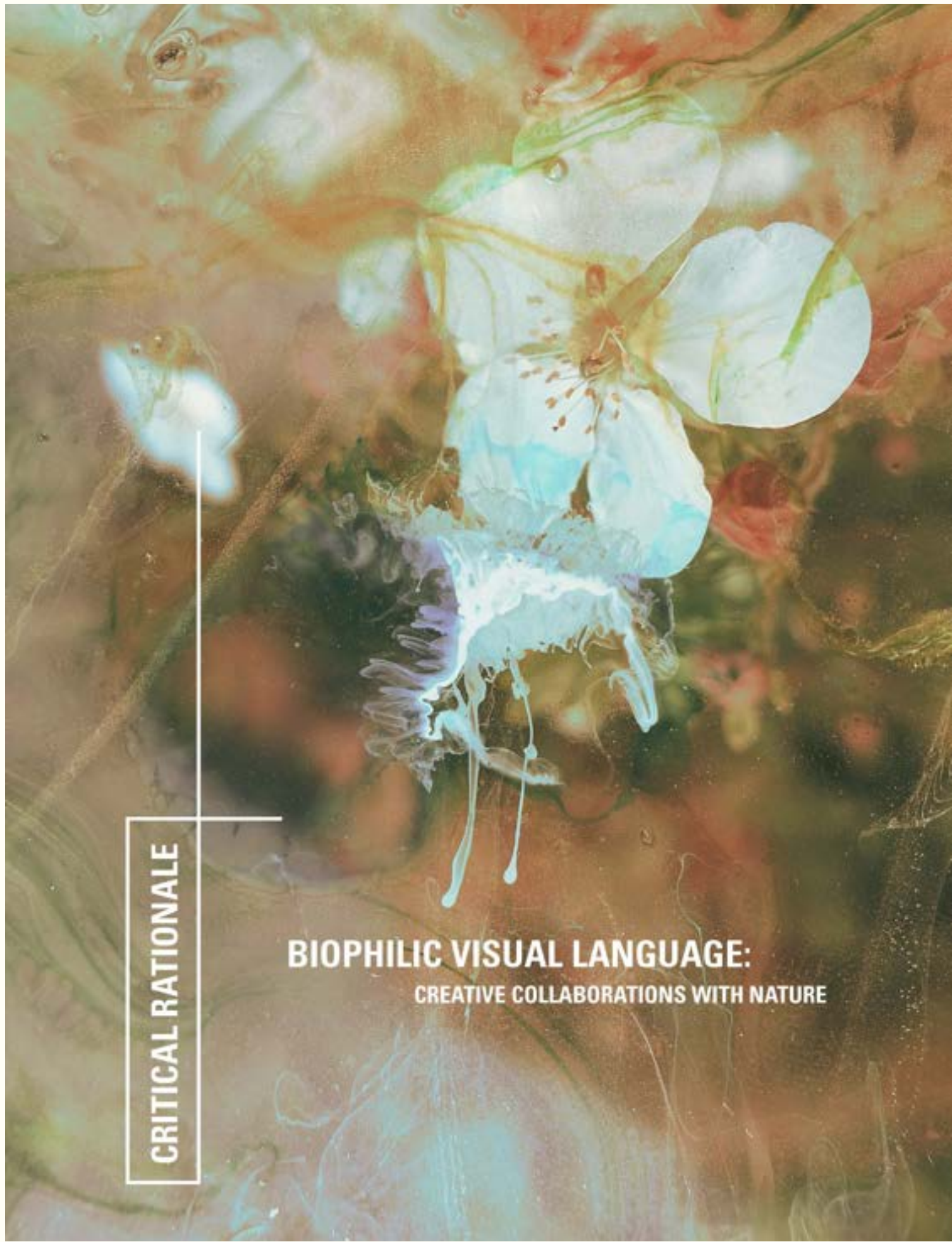
Any student below the age of 18 studying at CSVPA will live in our dedicated under-18 halls at Varsity House where we focus on maintaining a safe, secure and carefully monitored environment for our younger students.

We put a strong emphasis on pastoral care at CSVPA and all under-18 boarding is managed by our highly trained team of professional house parents. Students from CSVPA residing at Varsity House will enjoy the enriching experience of living in a vibrant community of fellow creatives from around the globe — cultivating artistic inspiration, encouraging meaningful collaboration, and nurturing both personal and creative growth within a culturally rich community.

OVER-18s ACCOMMODATION

For our older students, we provide a number of accommodation options, but we highly recommend you stay in our halls of residence where you will benefit from being surrounded by other CSVPA students, as well as the on-site dedicated welfare support. The primary accommodation for our over-18 students is at Batim House, as well as the dedicated blocks for older students at Varsity House. Designed with your needs in mind, we aim to provide safe and secure accommodation but under more university style conditions, appropriate to our older students.

For further information please see our accommodation brochure.



CRITICAL RATIONALE

BIOPHILIC VISUAL LANGUAGE:
CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS WITH NATURE



AWARD WINNING ARTWORK FROM NEW DESIGNERS 2025



SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR DETAILS ON
EACH COURSE



“What I love about my course is the artistic freedom. At CSVPA I’ve learned so many new things like moulding, casting and dark room photography – which is something I’ve never experienced before.”

Olive, Foundation Diploma in Art & Design - Fine Art & Photography
Olive progressed to The Ruskin School of Art (University of Oxford)

Extended Diploma & Foundation

EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE PRACTICE: ART, DESIGN & COMMUNICATION

A 2-year programme designed to prepare you for progressing onto any art and design related degree. In the first year, you will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of art and design disciplines before selecting one of eight creative pathways to specialise in for the second year of the course.

FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN ART & DESIGN

A 1-year programme, designed to prepare you for progressing onto any art and design related degree. There are eight different art and design pathways to choose from, listed below. These give you the freedom to experiment and find your creative voice, while exploring your selected artistic discipline in depth.

PATHWAYS FOR EXTENDED DIPLOMA YEAR 2 AND FOUNDATION DIPLOMA:

3D DESIGN PATHWAY

ANIMATION & FILM PATHWAY

ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN PATHWAY

FASHION COMMUNICATION PATHWAY

FASHION DESIGN PATHWAY

FINE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY PATHWAY

GAMES ART & DESIGN PATHWAY

GRAPHICS & ILLUSTRATION PATHWAY

Extended Diploma
& Foundation Courses

awarded by **ual:** awarding body

Course name	Age	Course start and length	Progression	Course level
Extended Diploma in Creative Practice: Art, Design & Communication	16 years +	September or January 2 years (6 terms)	Degrees & further education in art & design related fields. Guaranteed progression to any of our BA courses on successful completion of the Extended Diploma.	Level 3 Extended Diploma
Foundation Diploma in Art & Design - Animation & Film	17 years +	September 1 year (3 Terms)	Degrees & further education in animation and film. Guaranteed progression to any of our BA courses on successful completion of the Foundation Diploma.	Level 3 or Level 4 Foundation Diploma
Foundation Diploma in Art & Design – Architecture & Interior Design	17 years +	September 1 year (3 terms)	Degrees & further education in architecture, spatial and interior design. Guaranteed progression to any of our BA courses on successful completion of the Foundation Diploma.	Level 3 or Level 4 Foundation Diploma
Foundation Diploma in Art & Design - Fashion Communication	17 years +	September 1 year (3 Terms)	Degrees & further education in fashion communication, styling, branding, marketing and PR. Guaranteed progression to any of our BA courses on successful completion of the Foundation Diploma.	Level 3 or Level 4 Foundation Diploma
Foundation Diploma in Art & Design - Fine Art & Photography	17 years +	September 1 year (3 Terms)	Degrees & further education in fine art, art history, painting, sculpture, ceramics and photography. Guaranteed progression to any of our BA courses on successful completion of the Foundation Diploma.	Level 3 or Level 4 Foundation Diploma

100%

OF FOUNDATION & EXTENDED
DIPLOMA STUDENTS ON THE **FASHION
COMMUNICATION PATHWAY**
RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM UAL¹

Entry Requirements*	English level for International Students	Portfolio Required?	Course Content †
Successful completion of Secondary Education (Year 10 or Year 11 depending on the native country) or 3 GCSEs at grade 4 or C or equivalent, preferably in a relevant creative subject.	IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Fashion Design Fashion Communication Textiles Fine Art Graphics and Illustration Moving Image Photography Life Drawing Visual Studies Critical and Contextual Studies Games Design Architecture Interior Design Introduction to Media Processes Technical Skills Design and Research Skills Professional Practices Audio Production and Technology Visual Production Audience Engagement Experimental Studies
Completion of High School (Year 12 or Year 13 depending on native country) is needed or a minimum of 1 x Level 3 qualification, preferably in a relevant creative subject (i.e. A level) and 3 x GCSEs at grade 4 or grade C, including Maths and English and at least one of which should be in a creative arts subject.	IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Film Making Moving Image Animation Media Processes Research Skills Technical Skills Professional Practices Visual Production Audience Engagement Critical and Contextual Studies Audio Production and Technology
	IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Spatial Design Architectural & Technical Drawing Scaled Construction & Other 2D and 3D Representational Techniques Modelmaking Set Design Photography Architectural Graphics Animation Research Skills Technical Skills Workshop Skills Physical & Digital Materials Professional Practices Critical and Contextual Studies
	IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Fashion Styling Image Creation Photography Production Creative Communication Fashion Graphic Design Brand Identity Visual Communication Fashion Content Creation Experimental Techniques Portfolio Development Research Skills Professional Practices Critical and Contextual Studies
	IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Darkroom & Digital Photography & Post-Editing Mixed Media Printmaking Sculpture Painting & Drawing Casting 3D Arts Digital Arts & Projection Ceramics Material Experimentation Visual Communication Workshop Skills Research Skills Technical Skills Professional Practices Critical and Contextual Studies

*Students who do not meet these entry requirements will still be considered on their own individual potential to succeed.

† Course content may be modified depending on lecturer, projects and assignments.

¹ in 2025

Extended Diploma
& Foundation Courses

awarded by **ual:** awarding body

Course name	Age	Course start and length	Progression	Course level
Foundation Diploma in Art & Design - Games Art & Design	17 years +	September 1 year (3 terms)	Degrees & further education in game development, concept art, game art design, visual effects and virtual production. Guaranteed progression to any of our BA courses on successful completion of the Foundation Diploma.	Level 3 or Level 4 Foundation Diploma
Foundation Diploma in Art & Design - 3D Design	17 years +	September or January 1 year (3 terms)	Degrees & further education in 3D design, product design, automotive design, furniture design, craft. Guaranteed progression to any of our BA courses on successful completion of the Foundation Diploma.	Level 3 or Level 4 Foundation Diploma
Foundation Diploma in Art & Design - Fashion	17 years +	September or January 1 year (3 Terms)	Degrees & further education in fashion design, textiles, costume design, garment technology, patternmaking, buyer. Guaranteed progression to any of our BA courses on successful completion of the Foundation Diploma.	Level 3 or Level 4 Foundation Diploma
Foundation Diploma in Art & Design - Graphics & Illustration	17 years +	September or January 1 year (3 Terms)	Degrees & further education in graphics & illustration. Guaranteed progression to any of our BA courses on successful completion of the Foundation Diploma.	Level 3 or Level 4 Foundation Diploma

100%

PASS RATE FOR STUDENTS STUDYING LEVEL 3 FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN ART & DESIGN AND THE EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE PRACTICE¹

100%

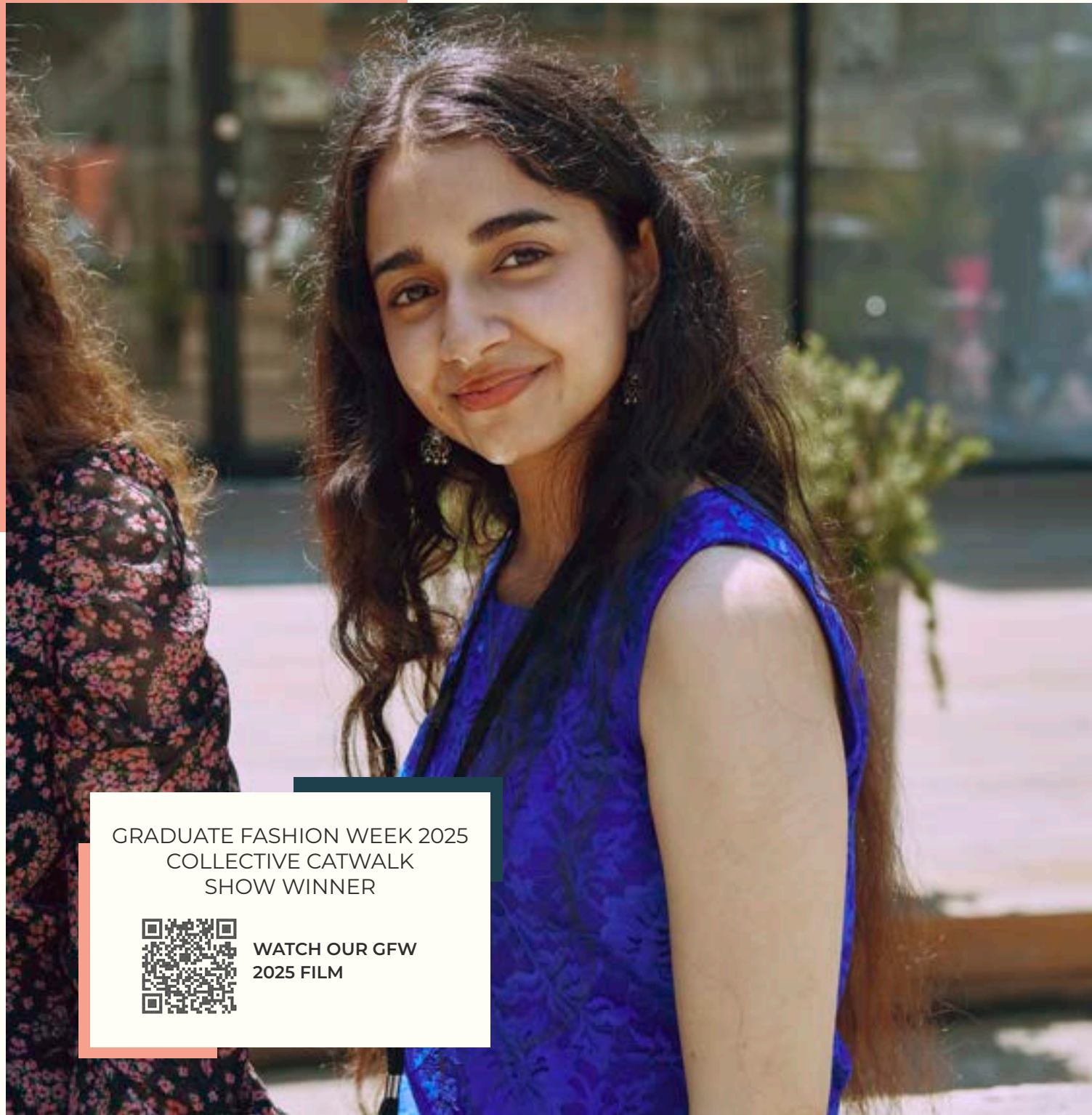
OF EXTENDED DIPLOMA STUDENTS STUDYING ON THE FASHION COMMUNICATION PATHWAY ACHIEVED A DISTINCTION¹

Entry Requirements*	English level for International Students	Portfolio Required?	Course Content [†]
Completion of High School (Year 12 or Year 13 depending on native country) is needed or a minimum of 1 x Level 3 qualification, preferably in a relevant creative subject (i.e. A level) and 3 x GCSEs at grade 4 or grade C, including Maths and English and at least one of which should be in a creative arts subject.	IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Game Creation Design Development Narrative Design World Building 3D Modelling Game Planning Subject Specific Software Visual Language Audio & Soundscapes Game Demo Building Portfolio Development Research Skills Technical Skills Professional Practices Critical and Contextual Studies
	IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	3D Design Object Prototyping Laser Cutting 3D Printing 2D to 3D Development Design Development Specialist Workshop Sessions Modelling Technical Skills Material Experimentation Research Skills
	IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Fashion Design & Styling Draping Pattern Cutting Machine Techniques Exploring Fashion Sustainability Fashion Illustration Fashion Photography Translating designs from 2D drawings to 3D garments Garment Making
	IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Reportage Drawing Digital Design and Illustration Typography Layout Design Printmaking Photography Screen Printing Technical Skills Research Skills Critical and Contextual Studies

*Students who do not meet these entry requirements will still be considered on their own individual potential to succeed.

[†]Course content may be modified depending on lecturer, projects and assignments.

¹ in 2025



GRADUATE FASHION WEEK 2025
COLLECTIVE CATWALK
SHOW WINNER



WATCH OUR GFW
2025 FILM



SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR DETAILS ON
EACH COURSE

Undergraduate

BA (HONS) FASHION

BA (HONS) FASHION BRANDING AND CREATIVE COMMUNICATION

BA (HONS) GRAPHIC DESIGN

BA (HONS) ILLUSTRATION

BA (HONS) VISUAL COMMUNICATION

BA (HONS) CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE & INNOVATION

EACH OF OUR BA (HONS) COURSES HAS THE OPTION OF AN INTEGRATED
FOUNDATION YEAR.

“The best thing about studying at CSVPA is the tutors. Our relationship with them has been so strong over all these years and the help we have received throughout every single field has been so nice.”

Harleen

BA (Hons) Fashion student

Undergraduate Courses

awarded by **FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY**

86%

OF ALL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT CSVPA ACHIEVED A FIRST OR A 2:1¹

100%

OF STUDENTS STUDYING BA GRAPHICS & ILLUSTRATION RECEIVED A FIRST OR A 2:1¹

Course name	Age	Start date	Course length	Course level	Optional Integrated Foundation year	Entry Requirements*
BA (Hons) Fashion	18 years +	September	3 years (6 semesters)	Undergraduate Degree	Yes	72 UCAS points (or equivalent) gained through a Foundation Diploma or Extended Diploma, International Baccalaureate or two A Levels (or similar international High School qualification)
BA (Hons) Fashion Branding & Creative Communication	18 years +	September	3 years (6 semesters)	Undergraduate Degree	Yes	
BA (Hons) Graphic Design	18 years +	September	3 years (6 semesters)	Undergraduate Degree	Yes	
BA (Hons) Illustration	18 years +	September	3 years (6 semesters)	Undergraduate Degree	Yes	
BA (Hons) Visual Communication	18 years +	September	3 years (6 semesters)	Undergraduate Degree	Yes	
BA (Hons) Creative Intelligence & Innovation	18 years +	September	3 years (6 semesters)	Undergraduate Degree	Yes	

English level for International Students	Portfolio Required?	Course Content
IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Womenswear Menswear Surface Decoration and Digital Print Contextual Awareness Sustainable Fashion Design Development Pattern Cutting and Garment Construction Branding and Self Promotion
IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	No	Fashion PR Styling Branding Fashion Marketing Event Management Creative Direction and Fashion Journalism Film Photography Branding and Self Promotion
IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Graphics Photography Printmaking Typography Animation & Moving Image Visual Communication Principles of Design Critical Enquiry Material Experimentation Creative Project Management & Project Delivery Contextual Awareness Creative Solutions
IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Traditional and Digital Illustration Printmaking Typography Animation & Moving Image Visual Communication Critical Enquiry Material Experimentation Creative Project Management & Project Delivery Contextual Awareness Creative Solutions
IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Strategic Communication Motion Graphics UX Design Film Photography Branding Graphic Design Typography Animation Critical Enquiry Material Experimentation Creative Project Management & Project Delivery Contextual Awareness Creative Solutions
IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	New Media Fine Art Animation Visual Media Creative Technology Experimental Studies 3D Visualization Future of Design Graphic Design Illustration Fashion & Textiles Photography Gameification Film & Audio Global Contextual Studies

Course name	Age	Start date	Course length	Course level	Entry Requirements*	English level for International Students	Portfolio Required?	Course Content
Optional Integrated Foundation Year Each of our BA (Hons) undergraduate courses have the option of including an integrated Foundation year. This initial one-year programme at CSVPA, which takes place prior to the chosen undergraduate course, is designed to give students an instructive grounding in the thinking, knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in a creative Bachelor Degree course. It is designed to allow students to explore a broad range of media, approaches and concepts in art and design, and to develop their own distinctive voice and direction for further study.	17 years +	September	1 year (3 terms) then 3 years (6 semesters)	Undergraduate Degree	48 UCAS points (or equivalent) gained through a Foundation Diploma or Extended Diploma, or one A Level (or similar international High School qualification).	IELTS 5.5 (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Technical Art & Design Skills Creative Technology Digital Media Material Experimentation Course Specific Techniques & Skills Critical Enquiry Research Skills Contextual Awareness Creative Problem Solving

*Students who do not meet these entry requirements will still be considered on their own individual potential to succeed.

¹ in 2025



SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR DETAILS ON
EACH COURSE

Postgraduate

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ART & DESIGN

PRE-MASTER'S IN ART & DESIGN

MA ART & DESIGN

MA VISUAL COMMUNICATION: GRAPHIC DESIGN

MA VISUAL COMMUNICATION: ILLUSTRATION & ANIMATION

MA FASHION: DESIGN

MA FASHION: BRANDING & CREATIVE COMMUNICATION

"I was working in the animation and film industry but I always wanted a little bit more. I would highly recommend studying this course. It will really polish your craft."

Anita

MA Visual Communication: Illustration & Animation

Postgraduate Courses



awarded by **FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY**

95%

OF STUDENTS SAID THE FEEDBACK THEY RECEIVED FROM OUR LECTURERS HELPED THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR WORK¹

95%

OF STUDENTS AGREED THEIR STUDIES ENCOURAGED THEM TO BRING TOGETHER INFORMATION AND IDEAS FROM DIFFERENT TOPICS¹

Course name	Age	Start date	Course length	Course level	Entry Requirements*		English level for International Students	Portfolio Required?	Subjects Taught
Graduate Diploma in Art & Design - Fashion Pathway	20 years +	September	1 year (2 semesters)	Postgraduate	Students should hold a good Level 6 qualification (BA (Hons) degree or equivalent qualification); or a Level 5 international qualification (for example, 3 Years Diploma from a University in China) in an Art or Design or a closely related subject.		IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Fashion Design Fashion Branding & Creative Communication Photography Material Experimentation Critical Skills Research Skills Creative Project Management & Project Delivery
Graduate Diploma in Art & Design - Visual Communication Pathway	20 years +	September	1 year (2 semesters)	Postgraduate			IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Graphic Design & Visual Communication Illustration & Animation Photography Material Experimentation Critical Skills Research Skills Creative Project Management & Project Delivery
Graduate Diploma in Art & Design - Fine Art Pathway	20 years +	September	1 year (2 semesters)	Postgraduate			IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Fine Art Product & Industrial Design Spatial Design Speculative Design Material Experimentation Critical Skills Research Skills Creative Project Management & Project Delivery
Pre-Master's in Art & Design (accredited by CSVPA)	20 years +	January	1 semester	Postgraduate Qualification			IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Art and Design Fashion Design Fashion Branding and Creative Communication Visual Communication (Illustration and Animation) and Visual Communication (Graphic Design) Materials Experimentation Photography Research Skills and Critical Thinking for Art and Design
MA in Art & Design	20 years +	September	1 year (3 semesters)	Master's Degree	Successful completion of an Undergraduate Degree in art & design, or related subject, or professional relevant experience.		IELTS 6.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Conceptual Development Critical Skills Art & Design Specialisms Research Skills Curatorial Practice Photography Materials Experimentation Creative Project Management Project Delivery
MA Visual Communication - Graphic Design	20 years +	September	1 year (3 semesters)	Master's Degree			IELTS 6.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Graphic Design Skills & Conceptual Development Critical Skills Research Skills Critical Visual Communication Practice Photography Materials Experimentation Creative Project Management Project Delivery
MA Visual Communication - Illustration & Animation	20 years +	September	1 year (3 semesters)	Master's Degree			IELTS 6.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Illustration and Animation Skills & Conceptual Development Critical Skills Research Skills Critical Visual Communication Practice Photography Materials Experimentation Creative Project Management and Project Delivery
MA Fashion: Design	20 years +	September	1 year (3 semesters)	Master's Degree			IELTS 6.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Fashion Design Skills and Conceptual Development Critical Skills Research Skills Critical Visual Communication Practice Photography Materials Experimentation Creative Project Management and Project Delivery
MA Fashion: Branding & Creative Communication	20 years +	September	1 year (3 semesters)	Master's Degree			IELTS 6.5+ (no element under 5.5)	Yes	Fashion Branding and Communication Skills and Conceptual Development Critical Skills Research Skills Critical Visual Communication Practice Photography Materials Experimentation Creative Project Management and Project Delivery



SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR DETAILS ON
EACH COURSE

Performing Arts

EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN PERFORMING ARTS - DRAMA

EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE & PRODUCTION

DRAMA FOUNDATION - CLASSICAL & CONTEMPORARY ACTING

DRAMA FOUNDATION - MUSICAL THEATRE

MUSIC FOUNDATION

“CSVPA has helped prepare me for my drama school auditions...with one-to-one audition classes, checked my self-tapes and taught me how to film my taped auditions...That was really helpful to me and they really support me.”

K, Drama Foundation student

K progressed to Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

Performing Arts Courses

awarded by **ual:** awarding body

Course name	Age	Start date	Course length	Course level	Entry Requirements*
Extended Diploma in Performing Arts - Drama	16 years +	September	2 years (6 terms)	Level 3 Extended Diploma	Successful completion of Secondary Education (Grade 10 or Grade 11 depending on native country) or 3 x GCSEs at grade 4 or C (or equivalent overseas qualification), preferably in a relevant creative subject.
Extended Diploma in Music Performance and Production	16 years +	September	2 years (6 terms)	Level 3 Extended Diploma	
Drama Foundation - Classical & Contemporary Acting	17 years +	September	1 years (3 terms)	Level 4 Foundation Diploma	Completion of High School is needed or a minimum of 1 x Level 3 qualification, preferably in a relevant creative subject (i.e. A level) and 3 x GCSEs at grade 4 or grade C, including Maths and English and at least one of which should be in a creative arts subject.
Drama Foundation - Musical Theatre	17 years +	September	1 years (3 terms)	Level 4 Foundation Diploma	
Music Foundation	17 years +	September	1 years (3 terms)	Level 4 Foundation Diploma	

100%

PASS RATE FOR ALL FOUNDATION & EXTENDED DIPLOMA PERFORMING ARTS COURSES¹

100%

OF STUDENTS STUDYING THE **EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN PERFORMING ARTS - DRAMA** ACHIEVED A DISTINCTION OR MERIT¹

English level for International Students	Audition Required?	Subjects Taught
IELTS 5.0 (5.0+ in Speaking, no other element below 4.0)	Yes	Acting Voice Text Phonetics Movement Scene Study Dance Group Singing Hand Drumming Theatre in Context Play Project Class Audition Preparation 1:1 Acting and Singing Lessons
IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Composition Musicianship Studio Skills History (Popular and Classical) World Music Hand Drumming Music Theory Ensemble Skills Aural Skills 1:1 Instrument Tuition or Lessons In Main Area of Study
IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Acting Voice Text Phonetics Movement Scene Study Dance (Commercial and Ballet) Theatre in Context Play Audition Preparation 1:1 Acting Lessons
IELTS 5.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Acting Group Singing Voice Text Phonetics Movement Jazz Dance Commercial Dance Ballet Contemporary Dance Musical Theatre Repertoire Musical Theatre History Play Audition Preparation 1:1 Acting and Singing Lessons
IELTS 4.5+ (no element under 4.0)	Yes	Composition Musicianship Studio Skills History (Popular and Classical) World Music Hand Drumming Music Theory Ensemble Skills Aural Skills 1:1 Instrument Tuition or Lessons In Main Area of Study

*Students who do not meet these entry requirements will still be considered on their own individual potential to succeed.

¹ in 2025



BA(HONS) FASHION BRANDING & CREATIVE COMMUNICATION WORK
NOMINATED FOR THREE AWARDS AT GRADUATE FASHION WEEK 2025



English Language Centre

The right IELTS score and being able to communicate in English with confidence is key for studying, university entry and working within the arts industries.

At CSVPA, we have a dedicated team of English teachers who can support you with your English while you study with us. All students whose English is not at the appropriate level receive at least 5 hours of English tuition a week. You will improve your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and develop your ability to use English in an academic environment. Our English tutors are experienced in preparing students for the IELTS exam and we have worked hard to build an English programme to meet your needs. Your English will become the passport to your future!

We also have a dedicated Additional Learning Support Coordinator to support students with specific learning difficulties by providing one-on-one support to develop time management and study skills. Throughout your time at CSVPA, we provide the support you need to achieve your learning goals and become the creative you want to be.



Pre-Sessional English Programme

For students who wish to progress to one of our BA, Graduate Diploma or Master's courses but have not met the English language level, we have designed our intensive 12 week Pre-Sessional English Programme.

By taking this programme, you will build the necessary skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking to succeed in your studies. You will learn new vocabulary and develop your understanding of grammar, and how to use them in both academic and everyday situations. There is also a focus on study skills, essay construction, critical thinking, effective notetaking and presentation skills.

By taking our Pre-Sessional English Programme you will:

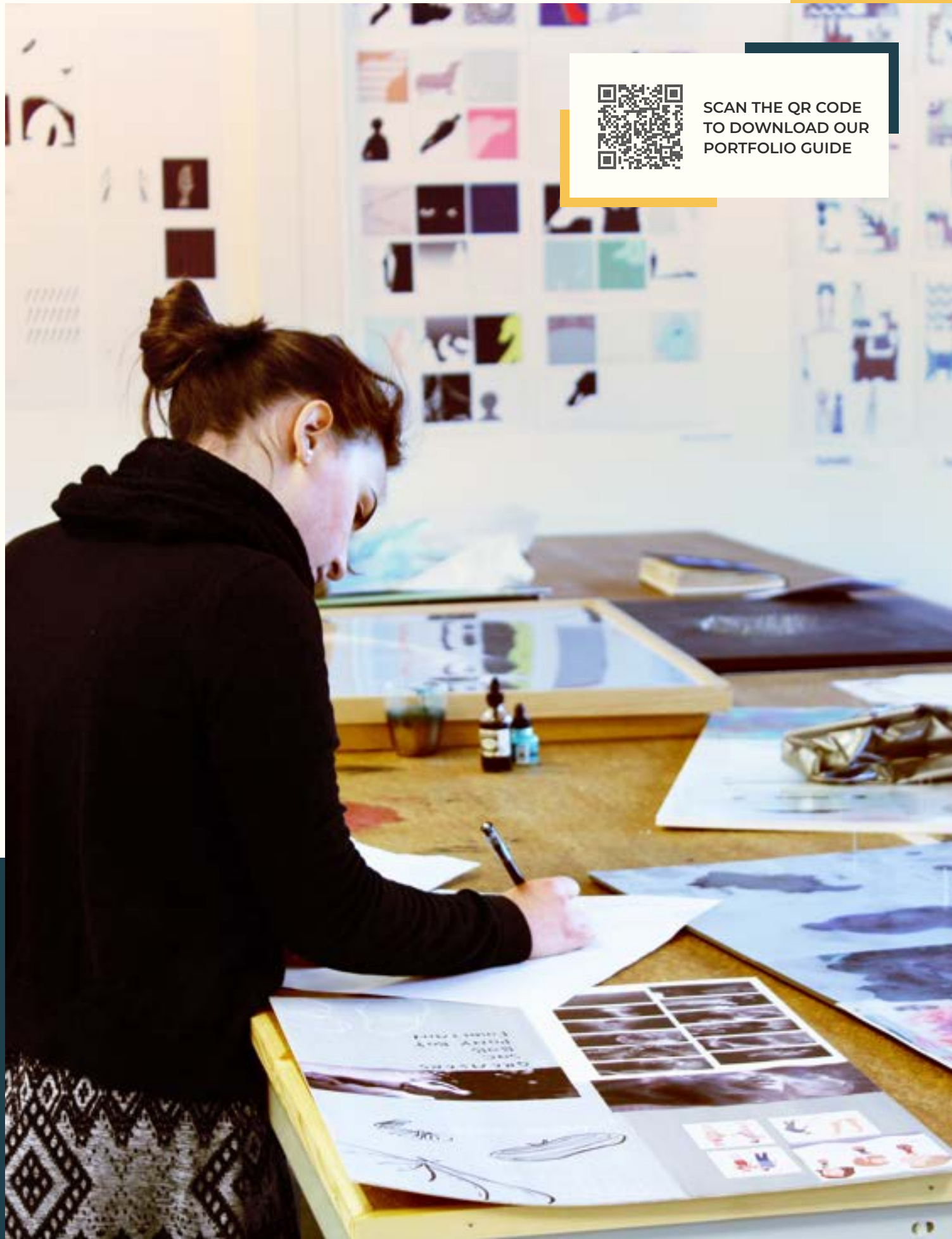
- Develop your ability to listen to lectures and seminars, take notes effectively and ask questions appropriately
- Participate confidently and appropriately in academic seminars
- Develop your ability to conduct research
- Improve your presentation skills and increase your confidence and accuracy when presenting research
- Improve your reading and listening skills in an academic context
- Improve your ability to express yourself in spoken and written forms in an academic context
- Improve your communication skills to help you live, study and thrive in an English-speaking environment
- Learn more about the UK and its traditions and culture

Success on the Pre-Sessional course is a requirement for progression to your next course of study with CSVPA.



*"I enjoyed every class of English.
It is amazing how the teachers
can make learning English
so exciting and find ways to
incorporate different techniques.
With the English Learning
Centre's help, I achieved my UAL
language score and successfully
got an offer from UAL".*

Wesley, UAL Foundation student



What we look for in a portfolio

When students apply to any of our courses we are often asked “what should I include in my portfolio?” and “how many pieces do you want to see?” For us it is less about the number of pieces and more about what you put in there. Quality is more important than quantity; show us your best work.

At CSVPA, we are looking for students to demonstrate originality and motivation. You need to show us that you are interested in the subject area you are applying for. If you are passionate about something, show it! It is less about the final piece and more about the thought process you have gone through. Present your research and ideas in sketchbooks or notebooks and let us see a variety of work which demonstrates the skills and experience you have.

Additional things to think about

Your portfolio is your chance to show us your skills and passion. Use the following points as a guide for preparing your portfolio:

- evidence 10-15 pieces of your very best work: quality is more important than quantity
- include both taught and personal work
- demonstrate drawing skills from live observation, not from photos or reference materials
- express your personal ideas and areas of interest (if you’re passionate about a certain subject, show it!)
- experiment with a wide range of media and materials
- only use work you have made in the last 18 months: nothing older
- submit it electronically as a compressed Powerpoint document or PDF, or arrange an interview to show your work in person.

Students applying for our Foundation Diploma or Extended Diploma Art and Design programmes at CSVPA need to follow the above guidance, but only submit 5-10 examples of their best finished works. These should be supported by relevant research and experimentation, and evidence of process. Examples can be taught or personal work, including 2D & 3D works, Photography, GIFs, animations and films. Please ensure external links to media are included within the PDF or Powerpoint file.

To find out more please contact our Student Advice team at studentadvice@csvpa.com, or download the guide from our website: www.csvpa.com/documents.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO DOWNLOAD OUR
AUDITION GUIDE

What we look for in an audition

When applying to any of the performing arts programmes at CSVPA it is very important to fully understand not only the audition requirements, but also the performance skills the audition panel hopes to see. Auditionees must ensure they submit the requested audition pieces for the relevant area of performing arts they are applying to, and follow the specified performance requirements.

It is also important to show your strengths as a performer; to communicate your understanding, as well as show your level of technical ability.

Please read our guide for audition requirements and interview advice for the Musical Theatre, Acting and Music courses at CSVPA, downloadable from our website: www.csvpa.com/documents.

Additional things to think about

At CSVPA, we want students who demonstrate a real passion, motivation and enthusiasm for the performing arts, as well as clear understanding of the material they've chosen to show. The audition guidelines will discuss what we are looking for and help you better prepare for your audition. Good luck!

Summer School at CSVPA

At Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts we offer a range of diverse and creative one and two week summer courses for young creatives aged between 14 and 18 years old.

If you are passionate about the arts and want to explore your creativity with other young artists then spend the summer with us. Our summer courses are also an excellent way to prepare for full time study at CSVPA.



Our Summer courses include:

Portfolio Preparation: Fine Art (2 weeks)
Portfolio Preparation: Fashion (2 weeks)
Acting (1 - 2 weeks)
Branding & Advertising (1 - 2 weeks)
Fashion (1 - 2 weeks)
Film Making (1 - 2 weeks)
Musical Theatre (1 - 2 weeks)
3D Design (1 week)
Animation (1 week)
Fashion Communication (1 week)
Fashion Make Up (1 week)
Fashion Styling (1 week)
Games Design (1 week)
Graphics & Illustration (1 week)
Jewellery Making (1 week)
Music Production (1 week)
Painting & Drawing (1 week)
Photography (1 week)



SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR DETAILS ON OUR
SUMMER COURSES



Accommodation

Our accommodation is located in safe, beautiful surroundings, about 20 minutes' walk from our city centre CSVPA Bridge House campus, and just a short 1 minute walk from our CSVPA Sturton Street campus in Cambridge. We offer a balance between supervision and independence to make sure that you are comfortable and happy in your accommodation.

Meals

Meals are included within the fees and include breakfast, lunch and evening meals all served on campus in the cafeteria.

Evening Activities

Evening activities are compulsory for all students under 18 years old and are a great opportunity to get to know the students on your course and across the other Summer School courses. Activities might include ice skating, bowling, cinema, park social, or a disco.

Excursions

Every week we organise a different trip, giving you the opportunity to explore UK attractions. Saturday excursions are compulsory for under 18 year old students. Trips might include visits to the V&A, Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Science Museum, Natural History Museum or Southwold Beach. Saturday trips include transport, ticket entry and packed lunches.