



## GRAY'S SCHOOL OF ART

### Application Advice Sheet

An important part of your application to Gray's is the portfolio. The interview is the second and complementary aspect of this process:

*Application to 1<sup>st</sup> year of a course:* all students who have the appropriate supporting qualifications or who will be sitting them before entry, will be interviewed with their folio.

*Application to years 2 – 4:* see the "simple guide to entry levels" (over) to help you identify the appropriate level of study for your experience.

You will bring your folio with you to interview, where you can discuss its contents. What should your portfolio show? It shows us your interests and abilities and it shows your excitement and commitment for Art and Design, above all it shows your potential.

Here's some basic guidelines on how the interview team will look at your folio.

The interview team will score the following four categories at your interview. So any content in your folio should address these

topics:

- 1. Visual research**
- 2. Idea exploration and development**
- 3. Process and Materials**
- 4. Personal and contextual awareness**

#### ● What is Visual Research?

*Your ability to investigate and explore a particular topic.*

We want to see how you find out about your subject matter and what questions your research asks.

This could be shown through a combination of drawings, photographs, video and documents, It should explore a wide range of relevant contexts.

Here is a list of words that could characterize the approach taken:

**Analytical / Objective / Interpretive / Inquisitive / Searching / Methodical**

#### ● What is Idea exploration and development?

*Your ability to generate and develop ideas and communicate the context of those ideas.*

We want to see how you generate and develop ideas from your visual research. It is important that we see how they progress from the starting point right through to the conclusion of your ideas / project.

This could be shown through a combination of drawings, development worksheets, sketchbook pages, photographs, video, models, CAD and material explorations.

If you are working predominantly in a 3d making processes you would be advised to document that through a photographic approach to show both your development and investigation of process.

Here is a list of words that could characterize the approach taken:

**Analytical / Explorative / Synthesize Experimentation / Progression / Selection / Context**

#### ● What do we mean by Process and Materials?

*Your ability to apply process, media and materials within your work.*

We want to see how you challenge and test your ideas through a range of media and material explorations, models, and CAD if appropriate.

This can be shown through both 2 and 3 dimensional making processes. Remember to document ongoing work if working in 3 dimensions or on a large scale.

Here is a list of words that could characterize the approach taken:

**Explorative / Experimental / Selective / Inventive / Application within Context**

#### ● What is Personal and contextual awareness?

*Your ability to identify areas of personal interest in Art & Design.*

We would like to see and hear about your personal interests in Art & Design.

Your sketchbook will allow you to document exhibitions you have visited; perhaps you are motivated /inspired by the work of specific artists and designers. Equally we are sure that you would like to share your art & design work / sketchbook work that you work on in your own time.

Here is a list of words that could characterize this work.

**Contemporary / Individual / Enquiring / On-going / Independent**

## A simple guide to entry levels

### Entry to Year 1

- practical work shows a willingness to engage in enquiry and exploration of ideas.
- reveals ability to connect associated contextual themes to developing ideas
- demonstrates ability to communicate ideas visually through the use of fundamental skills and processes
- work shows an understanding of idea development processes driven by media selection.
- responsive and engaged communicator, open to discussing their ideas.

***Fundamental visual skills / Enquiry and Exploration / Connections with Context***

### Entry to Year 2

**Applicants would be expected to have successfully completed an HNC (or equivalent) within the appropriate discipline.**

- practical work shows critical enquiry making connections with contextual references and ideas
- demonstrates awareness of a range of cultural and critical themes in relation to art & design practice
- ability to communicate and present ideas in readiness to take on in-depth specialist study.
- work shows a breadth of experience across a range processes and techniques when developing ideas.
- enquiring and proactive communicator, ability to question and analyse within discussion.

***Critical & Enquiring / Established communication skills / Understanding of Context / Established practical skills.***

### Entry to Year 3

**Applicants would be expected to have successfully completed an HND (or equivalent) within the appropriate discipline.**

- practical work shows critical enquiry integrating contextual research.
- demonstrates ability to connect associated cultural and critical theories with regard to the subject.
- ability to communicate ideas and present within external contexts
- work demonstrates a breadth of approach and growing command of the development of ideas and concepts, processes and techniques.
- critically reflective within discussion, openly offers alternative ideas and viewpoints.

***Emerging Critical Framework / Integrated use of skills and approaches / Specialist Knowledge***

### Entry to Year 4

**Applicants would be expected to have successfully completed a BA (or equivalent) within the appropriate discipline.**

- practical work shows independent and critical enquiry making connections with, and integrating contextual references in a personalised and focused manner.
  - demonstrates ability to connect associated cultural and critical theories with regard to the subject and its contemporary industrial and professional contexts.
  - ability to communicate ideas fluidly and present ideas in readiness to take on the professional context.
  - work shows a command and personalised focus to the development of ideas / concepts in tandem with specialist techniques and processes.
  - confident, critical, and reflective in discussion or defence or work.
- independent thinker / self knowledge / professional / specialist / focused knowledge.***

## **Interview = Discussion with your portfolio**

As long as you are able to meet the appropriate or equivalent academic qualification you will be invited to interview. Please bring your folio, sketchbooks etc with you to this interview, you should be confident to talk about the work it contains.

It might be worthwhile practicing talking to somebody about your work for a maximum of 10 minutes to see if you can make clear your thinking. Don't worry about rehearsing this but it may help you think on your feet when faced with an interview situation.

At Gray's the "interviews" are informal and we like to create a relaxed atmosphere. The session will consist of three 1 to 1 sessions with different members of staff. It is important to remember that during this process it's the folio that will be the focus of our questions and we see you as our guide. Also remember that we will ask you questions about what artists and designers you are interested in and why you enjoyed or were interested in their work.

We are interested in you as a person, so be prepared to talk about any interest you may have mentioned in your UCAS statement or that might come up through discussing projects within your folio.

The majority of Interviews for 1<sup>st</sup> year are during the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017. There will be some interviews prior to this that will also be held on Saturdays. Advanced entry interviews will occur throughout February and into early March

There are examples of projects from previous applicants folios online at:

[http://issuu.com/graysartschool/docs/grays\\_tfolio\\_web](http://issuu.com/graysartschool/docs/grays_tfolio_web)

Each project has been selected because it is thematically driven and deals with its theme in an interesting way.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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