



POSTGRADUATE PORTFOLIO
& INTERVIEW GUIDE



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LIVE. MAKE. KEEP CREATING.

FEEL IMAGINE UNMAKE



LIVE. MAKE. KEEP CREATING.

KEEP CREATING, KEEP LEARNING, KEEP MAKING, KEEP SHARING...
THIS IS THE SPIRIT THAT DRIVES EVERYTHING WE DO. IT STARTS WITH THE PEOPLE WHO COME HERE – THE OPTIMISTS, ACTIVISTS, MAKERS AND COMMUNICATORS.

WE PROVIDE A PLATFORM, A CRUCIBLE, A SPACE WHERE PEOPLE COME TOGETHER, EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS, AND PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF CREATIVE PRACTICE.

TOGETHER, WE IMAGINE, EXPERIMENT, THINK, LEARN, MAKE THINGS AND MAKE THINGS HAPPEN WHATEVER YOU WANT TO MAKE, WHEREVER YOU WANT TO GO, THE JOURNEY STARTS HERE. **AND NEVER STOPS.**

Established in 1856, Plymouth College of Art is one of the UK's longest standing independent art schools. Run by creatives for creatives, our tutors are industry practicing artists, designers and media makers. Students here specialise in a wide spectrum of disciplines, from fine art to game design; 3D craft to photography.

We believe creativity doesn't just happen in the studio, the workshop or the darkroom. We see it as a way of life. We're fascinated by the way a person's creativity evolves

over time. From our earliest adventures in paint to the making of contemporary masterpieces, it's a process of evolved learning. We see every student here develop a little bit more each day – and the first step in your creative journey begins with your portfolio or showreel.

This guide provides you with an overview of the kinds of work you might include, how to self-edit and curate, ways to present both physical or digital media, and top tips for making a great impression at interview.



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WHAT KIND OF PORTFOLIO FOR AN MA APPLICATION?

AS AN APPLICANT TO A MASTERS COURSE, YOU WILL HAVE DEVELOPED A BODY OF WORK THAT CONVEYS YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AS A CREATIVE PRACTITIONER. WE WANT TO BEGIN A CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW YOUR WORK CAN MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL. INCLUDE VISUAL MATERIAL THAT SHOWS YOUR PAST ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT ALSO YOUR CURRENT INTERESTS AND CONCERNS.



WHAT WE WANT TO SEE

TAKE US ON A VISUAL JOURNEY

ENJOY

Make the journey an interesting one for yourself, and we'll look forward to seeing it in your portfolio.

OBSERVE

It is important to include a range of creative work that demonstrates your suitability for the MA course you have applied for and you must be prepared to discuss your work with the interviewer.

The most successful portfolios are the ones that show that you can be tenacious and open-minded when you explore a subject that you're curious about or have a personal interest in.

Your portfolio should represent your current practice and we appreciate that for some candidates, an MA application represents a change in direction and some work may only be in a developmental stage. We also welcome applications from those currently in their final year of undergraduate study, where your portfolio may be representative of work in progress. This is absolutely fine, as we are just as interested to learn about your ambitions for future study with us.



WHAT TO INCLUDE

- Physical examples of practice (printed matter, objects, painting, sculpture etc.) are acceptable at interview; for bulky or larger pieces of work that are too difficult to transport, our preference is for these to be shown as photographs, or evidenced through digital photographic documentation.
- Sketchbooks: these should demonstrate your creative thinking and problem solving skills.
- Film, video, animation and sound work should be no more than 2-5 minutes long, and available on a suitable format for presentation at interview. This could be on a laptop, memory stick, or as a digital file.
- If you are submitting a showreel of moving image related work, this should be no longer than 5 mins duration.
- Include any links to relevant websites or blogs that contain your work.
- Include any relevant examples of written work, as appropriate.



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SELECTING & PRESENTING

YOUR PORTFOLIO SHOULD SHOW THE QUALITY OF YOUR WORK, NOT THE QUANTITY.

Dependent on your intended area of study, we suggest you include between 15 to 20 examples of your best work; and/ or a showreel of approximately 5 minutes duration for moving image related content.

Be selective and organised.

Gather together all the recent work you have produced and systematically make decisions about what to include. Avoid repetition and don't overload your portfolio; it should be clearly laid out and easy to look through.

We suggest that you spread the highest quality work throughout your portfolio, as the review of your portfolio may not be sequential.

In your Masters interview, you will be invited to talk about your portfolio. Be prepared to speak about the creative practitioners or ideas that have influenced your work and how your practice might be developed in the future.





PREPARING FOR INTERVIEW

THE INTERVIEW IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR ADMISSIONS PROCESS. WHEN PREPARING FOR YOUR INTERVIEW THINK ABOUT WHY YOU WANT TO STUDY AT PLYMOUTH COLLEGE OF ART.

If possible, visit the college beforehand. Attend an open day to find out about the courses and the college or, if this is not possible, visit our website plymouthart.ac.uk.

You can also request a prospectus which contains detailed information about the college, our industry-standard facilities, and all our courses.

Think about which postgraduate course you want to study and be prepared to discuss the reasons for your choice. Organise your portfolio so it is presentable and is arranged in the order you want to talk about it.

THE INTERVIEW

The interview is your opportunity to start a conversation with us about your creative practice, so arrive with a positive attitude. The interview will be relaxed and informal, and the staff will be asking questions about your motivations for study, your portfolio of practice and MA proposal, alongside your ambitions for the future.

The interview also provides you with an opportunity to ask about the course structure and other questions you might have about studying your MA with us.

CELEBRATE COMMIT EXCITE COMMIT



ANY MORE QUESTIONS?

THE ADMISSIONS TEAM IS ON HAND TO ANSWER ANY QUERIES YOU MIGHT HAVE – IT'S OUR JOB TO HELP YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. WE CAN TALK YOU THROUGH THE APPLICATION PROCESS, ORGANISE A GUIDED TOUR OF THE COLLEGE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, AND BOOK YOU IN FOR AN ADVISORY INTERVIEW. WE CAN ALSO PUT YOU IN CONTACT WITH OUR EXPERT PROGRAMME LEADERS, TUTORS, AND TECHNICIANS.

We can introduce you to our student services team, to help with funding your study or finding you a place to live in Plymouth, or to our Graduate Associates to chat with you about student life at the college. From the first point of enquiry on the phone or by email, up until the day you walk through our doors – if you have any worries or questions, we're here to help.

SUPPORT

We are fully committed to providing equal opportunities and strive to ensure that your individual learning needs are met in the best possible way. Additional support is available on request at interviews. If you have specific access and or mobility requirements, let us know as soon as you can.

SKYPE INTERVIEWS AND DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS

Skype interviews are available where it is not possible for you to attend the college in person. If you would like a skype interview, please contact admissions in the first instance.

You will be asked to share a digital portfolio, which will be accessed by your interviewers in advance of the interview.

The digital portfolio can be presented as a collection of digital files, a website or a blog. Please note that each piece of work in the digital portfolio should be clearly labelled. Remember that your interviewers will look at this work before speaking to you in person. It is extremely important, therefore, that your work is clearly presented, with adequate supporting information.

ONLINE SUBMISSION

We accept portfolios as web links or email attachments under 25 MB or uploaded via WeTransfer, Flickr, Vimeo, Youtube, Behance, Issuu, and visual social media platforms like Instagram and Tumblr.

- Please ensure projects and images are individually named with clear titles.
- It's important to include a written statement of authentication as the originator of the artworks (as a word doc or scanned note with signature).

CONTACT US

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