

**Q. How big are groups?**

A. Groups range in size from around 15 - 20 students

**Q. What about vocational links?**

A. Art tutors at Varndean are practising artists who exhibit regularly. Our weekly enrichment programme includes talks and workshops from internationally renowned artists such as Andrew Gifford and Chris Riddell. Art History students from Sussex University contribute to the course with talks and activities based around the subjects studied.

**Q. Can I do more than one Visual Arts subject?**

A. Yes, many students do more than one Visual Arts subject. Those students often progress to other courses and a career in art and design.

**Q. What do people do after they complete this course?**

A. Most students progress to degrees in all sorts of different areas. Many students move on to Foundation Course in Art and Design, before studying specialist Art & Design degrees. We have ex-students studying at masters level at Royal College of Art, and the Royal Academy, others whose drawings are regularly featured in the Guardian and New York Times, others exhibiting regularly in commercial galleries.

**Q. Are there any costs?**

A. You will be aware that all colleges work with very tight government funding. Students make a contribution to help pay for the cost of studio materials, and buy workbooks at cost from the college shop. Canvases or boards for large scale work are also bought by students.



**For further information,  
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**Art**



**Varndean**  
College Brighton & Hove

## Art at Varndean College

### Prospective students ask...

#### Q. What grades do I need?

A. You will need normal advanced course entry requirements including a Grade 5 or higher in GCSE Art, or Merit or Distinction in BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Art & Design, or if Art has not been taken suitably qualified students with a good portfolio will be considered.

#### Q. What do we do in Fine Art?

A. Lots of different drawing, painting, mixed-media and sculpture processes. The first project runs through a series of activities which build confidence using line, tone, surface, colour and composition. Students develop these skills in more individual ways in subsequent projects. Themes include portrait, landscape, objects and abstraction.

#### Q. What goes on in lessons?

A. Some lessons teach you specific techniques or skills. At the start of your course, there will be lots of these! As your confidence builds, your lessons will focus on how you successfully explore your own ideas. You will discover lots of useful ideas from artist research. In some lessons you will produce many small pieces of work, in other lessons you will work on longer-term projects.



#### Q. The work on display looks great, I'm not sure if I can do it!

A. The work you see at open evening is mostly end of course work – so that is where you end up, not where you start! We teach lots of the skills, processes and ideas which will help build your abilities as an Art student.

#### Q. Does everyone get to do life drawing?

A. Yes it is scheduled for every class, and there is an option for twilight and extra sessions. This will really boost your A level grade and add to your portfolio for progression to degree or foundation course. All Fine Art students do several life drawing sessions during their course.

#### Q. What kind of equipment do you have?

A. We have oil, acrylic and watercolour paints, and a wide range of drawing materials and papers. We have easels, desk-easels, palettes, brushes and palette knives. We have glue guns, hand tools and printing presses.

#### Q. Are there any trips?

A. There are regular visits to London galleries and museums and local research visits. There is also the opportunity to take part in Visual Arts trips to cities like Paris, Barcelona, Amsterdam etc.

#### Q. How much homework is there?

A. As in all other subjects, two to three hours of work are set for completion in your own time each week. You can do this at home or in the art studio.

