



# A Level Graphic Design



## What is required of you?

Open mind, creativity, hard work, enthusiasm, a sense of excitement and interest in the world around you, a sense of fun.

## What will you do in the first year of Graphic Design?

In the first term, you will receive training in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to ensure that you have the necessary skills to confidently produce digital design work. You will also explore the work of other designers, critically evaluating and responding to various design styles in order to develop your own ways of working. You will cover the following topics:

- The basics of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator
- Drawing skills from direct observation using traditional materials
- Printmaking using linocut and etching techniques
- Taking digital photographs and editing for use in your own design work
- Research and respond to a range of artists and designers
- Visit a gallery or museum to develop your visual language skills

## What will you do in the second year of Graphic Design?

In the second year, students may choose to specialise in an area of graphic design that they particularly enjoy. This could be type design, illustration, magazine layout, packaging, poster design or even animation. You will cover the following topics:

- Advanced Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator techniques
- Introduction to Adobe InDesign to set up magazine pages
- Design and make bags, badges and t-shirts from your own designs
- Write a critical essay on a designer linked to your coursework project
- Develop a digital portfolio of final design work
- Mount and present your final design work for exhibition

Overall, 60% of your mark will be on coursework and the other 40% on an externally-set module.

## Where will Graphics lead me?

Many students continue their studies onto an art foundation courses or higher education degrees in graphic design, illustration or photography. Some students go onto degree courses outside of the design subject area, such as fine art, textiles, architecture, history, politics, economics and English. Career options can include: Advertising, animator, computer graphics, film work, games designer, graphic designer, graphic illustrator, map maker, packaging designer, teacher, television, typographer, wallpaper designer, zoological illustrator.

## Entry Requirements

Standard advanced course requirements plus:

Grade 5 in GCSE Art, Design or Technology based subject

OR

Merit or above in BTEC Level 2 First Diploma

OR

If GCSE Art, Design or Technology have not been taken, suitably qualified students with a good portfolio of work demonstrating your skills will be considered. You can submit a combination of drawings, photographs, collages, sketches for logos and/or digital design work to demonstrate your creativity, imagination and technical ability.

For more information, please contact:

Jas Chopra

[jcc@varndean.ac.uk](mailto:jcc@varndean.ac.uk)

01273 508011 Ext.439

