



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, New York, Venice, Amsterdam etc.

Q. How much independent work is there?

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

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. Specialist fabrics are also bought by students.

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 courses and careers in art and design.

For further information, please contact: Textiles Programme Leader, Helen Brewer: hbr@varndean.ac.uk, 01273 508011 or visit www.varndean.ac.uk



Textiles



Varndean
College Brighton & Hove



Prospective students ask...

Q. What grades do I need?

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

Q. Do I need to have studied GCSE Textiles to study A Level Textiles?

A. No, If you have Grade 5 or higher in any art and design subject you can choose to study Textiles. It could be a different and new course for you

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. In some lessons you will produce many small pieces of work, in other lessons you will work on longer-term projects.

Q. What is the Textiles course like?

A. Textiles includes all sorts of processes, machine and hand stitch, felting, collage, work with plastics, paper and metal, garment making, jewellery, wall hangings and so on. This is not, however, a needlework course, so pattern cutting is not taught. You will learn to handle materials and ideas in ways that are used by professional textiles artists to produce your own exciting, individual work.

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 - and Varndean Textiles students achieve high grades - this is where you end up, not where you start! We teach lots of the skills, processes and ideas which will help build your Textiles abilities.

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

A. Students progress to degrees in all sorts of areas. Many students move on to Foundation Course in Art and Design, before studying Specialist Degrees. We have ex-students designing for Donna Karran in San Francisco, designing jewellery for TOAST, designing for theatre, high street and Olympic opening ceremonies!

Q. What kind of equipment do you have?

A. We have heat transfer presses, sewing machines, overlocker, batik equipment, shibori equipment, printing presses, inks, dyes, paint, drawing equipment, felting equipment, everything the adventurous Textiles student needs to succeed. As part of a large Visual Arts department, you can also have access to darkrooms, photographic studios with technical support, wood, metal and plastics workshops by arrangement.

Q. What are your industry links like?

A. Textiles tutors at Varndean are practicing designers with international experience. Our weekly Art Enrichment Programme includes visits from Textiles artists and designers including Julianna Sissons and Sanna Annukka of Marimikko. Textiles students also involve themselves in London Fashion week and other events and have been finalists and winners in the London Knitting and Stitching show.

