

## Preparing your portfolio

Preparing your portfolio is an important part of your application process for Art, Design, Film, Photography and Animation courses. Staff from the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) share their top dos and don'ts:

- Curate your content. Include your strongest work – and/or the work you are most interested in talking about. We want to hear about your ideas and inspirations. Tell us the story behind your work.
- Make sure your work is displayed in a tidy, professional fashion. Neatness and organisation definitely matter!
- Some courses will ask you to submit an online portfolio. Check the course application details for further information
- Organise your work in a way that you're most comfortable discussing – and for ease of access
- Use your portfolio to display and showcase your scope of interests, ideas and skills across a range of media and processes. This might include drawing, painting, digital work, print, photographs, storyboards, films and animation
- Large work or group projects can be represented by photographs
- If you do independent work outside your current studies, consider including it in your curated portfolio; past examples include photography, painting, web design/blog, Vimeo channels featuring films and animations, 'zines, etc
- Do not include work that you are not enthusiastic about – or you would rather not discuss. Be sure to remove 'extras' – like spare paper, cardboard and rulers (that you might be using for your day-to-day course work)
- Always include your sketchbooks, notebooks, storyboards, contact sheets, and process work. We are interested in the research, development and motivation behind your ideas, as much as a final outcome. Include a few life-drawing examples, if you have them.
- If showing motion/moving image work, you may choose to host it on your own site, blog or Vimeo channel and include stills/screen grabs in your portfolio, with full address in your captions
- Label your portfolio neatly with your name and contact details
- Sometimes you will be asked to complete a task in advance of an interview. Please make sure you try to do it, and include in your portfolio
- Include a sample of your written work – this might be a school essay, or something else you have written. Always spell-check.

# Interviews

All of UWE Bristol Art, Design and Film courses with the exception of Journalism interview prospective students. Applications for all programmes are submitted via UCAS and are reviewed by UWE Bristol's central Admissions Team and the relevant course team. A proportion of applicants are invited to interview along with their portfolios.

- An applicant interview is a friendly conversation about you, your work, your motivations and goals. It takes place usually with a staff member and a current student, and is typically between 12 – 20 minutes in length
- The interview team will have reviewed your portfolio briefly in advance of the interview if you are required to submit one
- Do your research and make sure you understand the emphasis of the course. The more you know about the place and the course, the better prepared and more confident you will be during the interview
- Attend our Open Days ([www.uwe.ac.uk/opensdays](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/opensdays)) and Degree Show ([www.uwe.ac.uk/degreeshow](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/degreeshow)) if you can. You will gain valuable perspective when weighing your options and forming questions about different programmes and universities. You can find more information on our website:

## Sample interview questions

- Why are you interested in studying (discipline/programme/course)?
- Why are you interested in studying at UWE Bristol? Why Bristol?
- How would you describe your chosen area of study to someone who is unfamiliar with that discipline?
- Who/what inspires you to study (discipline/programme) at degree level? Please choose one example from your portfolio and tell us about your process.
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- What was the last film you watched?
- Be sure to prepare questions for your interviewers, too. Do not be afraid to write them down beforehand or during the day. Applicants often ask tailored questions about programme, international study, work experience, opportunities, employability, life in Bristol and much more.

## Explore our creative courses

- Art and Design - visit [www.uwe.ac.uk/subjects/art](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/subjects/art)
- Animation, Filmmaking and Photography – visit [www.uwe.ac.uk/subjects/filmmaking](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/subjects/filmmaking)
- Journalism, Media and PR – visit [www.uwe.ac.uk/subjects/media](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/subjects/media)