



British International School Riyadh

Subject Profiles: Art & Design

Creation of visual work, from painting and sculpture to computer graphics and video games - includes crafts and fine art

What will I learn?

An art and design degree is a broad canvas of opportunity for students. It covers anything from fine art and installations to arranging an exhibition or designing a logo. And it's an exciting field of study, where you can truly develop your passions in a practical, creative way.

Whichever area you choose, your course should teach you how to develop your craft - and you will probably be learning from the experts. Most university degree courses are taught by current or former artists and designers, which means you should get expert tuition and a good insight into life after study.

Your chosen university should have a suite of specialist equipment from which to perfect your skills and a fair chunk of your course will probably be spent using it. Of course, along with the practical comes the theoretical, so as well as producing a series of paintings /sculptures /jewellery /graphics you will need to demonstrate a knowledge of other techniques, the process history, and perhaps even a bit about business and marketing.

Depending on your course, you may opt to spend a semester or two studying art abroad, perhaps in Italy or France, where you could also develop your language skills.

If you want to study for an arts course, chances are you will need to have undertaken a foundation course beforehand. The downside is that this will cost money, but the plus side is you will have a good base from which to launch into your degree, a portfolio of up to date work, and have a good idea about whether a three or four year degree crouched behind an easel is really for you.

Expect trips out to see exhibitions and guest lecturers.

What skills will it give me?

By the end of your degree you should have a hefty portfolio to demonstrate your technical and creative skills to future employers. As art can be a solitary pursuit, you will also have learned how to work independently, researching ideas and experimenting with new materials and equipment.

The theoretical aspect of the degree will mean you will be able to put your work into some sort of context. For example, you should be able to explain why you chose a particular style of work and your influences.

Having lecturers who have worked in the sector should give you a knowledge of how it operates, and hopefully a few contacts to help you realise your potential.

And if you do manage to spend time overseas, you will have demonstrated your ability to work on your own and have gained cultural awareness.

What job can I get?

The creative industries are competitive, so you will need a bit of grit and perseverance if you plan to pursue your dreams as a freelance artist or designer.

You will be well placed to get a job in most fields that involve some form of creativity. Specific roles include advertising art director, arts administrator, art therapist, exhibition designer, graphic designer or curator.

What will look good on the CV?

- An ability to generate ideas, concepts, proposals to set briefs
 - Present ideas and work to different audiences
 - Identify personal strengths and needs
- For the full range of skills you can develop through a degree in art and design click [here](#) (pdf).