

Level 1 UAL Diploma in Art and Design (Graphic Design)

Dates: 14/09/2026

Locations: Pimlico Centre

This UAL accredited course is designed to introduce you to the creative and practical skills required to study at a higher level in graphic design with the intent to work in the graphic design or related industries.

On this year long course, you will learn how to become a creative designer and produce a unique portfolio of work that demonstrates your skills through graphic communication.

Entry Requirements

This course is for beginners who are interested in the creative process of graphic design and wish to learn creative and practical skills to enable you to progress to higher level study with the intent to work in the graphic design or related industries.

- A minimum level of Level 1 in English is required for this course.
- You will also need to have good computer skills as there are regular digital assignments. We use Apple Macs, but skills are easily transferable for PC users.

What topics does the course cover?

You will be introduced to Graphic Design through materials and processes as well as software techniques. Explore colour, texture, surfaces and marks to create unique work and use software to explore layout, typography and presentation. In terms 1 and 2 the tutor will guide you through class exercises and projects. In term 2 and 3 you will develop an independent Final Major Project.

How will I be taught and assessed?

This course is delivered 1 day per week for one year with a combination of face-to-face, studio practical skills, online learning, plus directed study time. The course will introduce you to Graphic Design through discussion, projects, group work, demonstrations, and practical exercises.

There is no formal examination: you will be assessed on the Final Major Project and the course work you produce which will be externally moderated by UAL.

Are there any other costs or equipment I need to get?

The full ADOBE CC suite and MICROSOFT OFFICE SUITE including TEAMS are available to you FREE while you remain on the course. You must have a suitable computer to run the Adobe Suite so you can complete homework and online content at home. You must be able to download, install and work via Microsoft TEAMS. You will be provided with a sketchbook, but you need to purchase a USB stick or portable hard drive for you to take your digital work home (at least 20Gb)

Other costs include an investment in your time to complete self-directed study outside of the tutor led activities, around 4-6 hours per week.

By the end of the course what should I be able to do?

You will be able to create and work on designs through materials and processes as well as using software techniques, including Photoshop. You will understand how to work to a project brief and make creative decisions.

What are the progression opportunities following this course?

You can progress to the Level 2 UAL Diploma in Graphic Design or Level 2 UAL Diploma in Creative Media which start in September.