



Smart fine art graduates know that there are loads of job options and opportunities out there – you really don't have to starve in an attic studio!

A degree in fine art will provide you with the traditional skills involved in painting, drawing and sculpture. Some graduates will become professional artists, photographers or printmakers but others, having gained key transferable skills like creative thinking, problem-solving, and organisation, will be well prepared to apply for jobs in graphic design, museum and art gallery curation, art therapy and web design.

You'll have gained valuable transferable skills during your three year BA Honours course which you could put to good use in many jobs in the creative and cultural industries.

Transferable skills gained from studying fine art include being able to articulate ideas visually, verbally and through the written word. You'll be able to use many different techniques, materials and forms of technology to express yourself, to produce original, well-researched ideas.

Searching for the right career path after graduating with a fine arts degree may seem daunting at first but there are more options than you might think. The visual arts industry employs nearly 700,000 people in museums, galleries, studios, art centres and educational establishments.

Another option is to take a further qualification, to specialise in a particular area. Many universities offer masters' degrees in subjects such as illustration, arts management, art therapy and the history of art. Some students go on to take a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) and become art teachers.

About 20 per cent of fine art students go on to have a career as a professional artist earning money from selling their work in galleries, exhibitions and art fairs. It can take time to establish yourself as a successful artist by building up a portfolio, working for free, entering competitions and exhibitions to publicise your work. Work experience and volunteering in community art initiatives will also help to boost your CV. Earning money from part-time jobs to supplement your income for the first few years, to support your creative work is inevitable unless you hit the big time straight from college.

Good advice to those considering a career in fine art is to remain positive and think long-term. Don't be too daunted at the start of your career – even if it is slow to get going, opportunities will come along if you remain passionate and work hard. Most art colleges have a careers service which will help and advise you, even after you've graduated. ■

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For more information on career options after studying Fine Art, go to prospects.ac.uk, the UK's official graduate careers website:

www.prospects.ac.uk/options_fine_art.htm