

The Student Experience at NUA

As a student at the University, we want you to have the best possible experience of your course and to gain the essential skills required to learn effectively and develop as an independent creative practitioner of the future.

In addition to the information you will already have in relation to learning and teaching, specialist course information and information about how to make a success of being a student, the sections below offer you some additional hints and tips about some of the other course elements you might expect to encounter as you progress toward professional practice.

The first year of your course will see you establishing yourself within your year group and as a valuable member of our creative community. There are a number of things that may help you navigate the uncertain waters of being a new student. At the beginning of your course don't worry if you feel uncertain or lacking in confidence when you look at other people around you, don't forget, they are all starting their new courses too and are almost certainly experiencing the same feelings.

Learning, Teaching and Pastoral Support

Your Tuition Fee gives you access to specialist teaching staff, who are all subject experts and successful professionals in their field. Courses are supported by an extensive range of workshop and technical staff instruction, and access to this expertise is also covered by your tuition fee. The University is fortunate in having a vibrant programme of visiting speakers and resident and Visiting Professors to its courses; these lectures, seminars and tutorials are included in your tuition fee.

Pastoral support and guidance is a crucial part of the package of support and assistance provided by the University to its students. Pastoral support means that there are a range of staff available to help you with issues or difficulties that may not be directly associated with your studies. For students at NUA, pastoral support and guidance takes a variety of forms and may come from a range of sources, e.g. from your course tutors, Course Administrators, accommodation Warden, Finance, Student Ambassadors or PAL Mentors or Student Support etc. Generally speaking these individuals offer a vital point of contact to which you can turn for some friendly, informal advice often before, or instead of, approaching Student Support or the Counselling service. Academic Support staff, such as Course Administrators, offer support and guidance on regulatory matters including extenuating circumstances, intermission and complaints and appeals.

The University provides a range of support services through the Student Support Office, providing advice on a wide range of welfare matters including advice on student finances and budgeting, help with accommodation matters, support for international students, advice on disability support and help with applying for Disabled Students Allowance, Dyslexia support and support with any personal issues. Students can also access the University's counselling service.

Many students may never feel the need to approach a tutor or Student Support for pastoral support, but for some students, pastoral support and guidance offers invaluable help

Norwich University of the Arts

Course and personal equipment

On a more practical level, you will encounter a whole range of rooms, facilities, workshops and equipment you may not be entirely familiar with; again, don't worry, if you need it for your course we'll be showing you how to use it! As a student of the University, you can access some of the best workshop provision and up-to-date equipment in Europe. The cost of maintaining these facilities is met by the University and the use of essential course-related workshops and equipment is included in your overall tuition fee. All technical workshops and processes have an induction which will introduce you to that equipment for the first time. The cost of materials for your workshop inductions is included in your course fee.

Depending on your course, and in preparation for professional life after University, you may also choose to invest in personal equipment that may be useful to your practice in the longer term. There is no requirement for this, but students indicate that access to such personal items can be a useful and convenient addition to the University's provision.

We advise arts, design, architecture and media students to invest in a basic set of equipment to help get started on the course. Depending on your specialism this equipment will inevitably vary; for example, as a student of Photography, you may give some thought to investing in a suitable camera, or as a Fine Art student you may wish to invest in a set of good quality paintbrushes or hand tools. We would encourage you to give some consideration to this before starting your course with us, and your future Course Leader will be happy to advise you.

As a first year, you may discover the need to purchase specific items of equipment related to your individual practice. Once you start working more independently, and as you get to know specialist materials and processes better, you may make choices of material which will mean you could incur some extra costs. In all cases, please seek advice from a member of academic or technical staff if you are thinking of buying anything; whether it's an upgraded laptop, additional software, a camera or a more modest (but special) set of hand tools, we may be able to help you and save you money, making the most of your budget. To support you in this, the NUA Shop offers a wide range of competitively priced arts, design and media materials.

The University provides wide-ranging provision in terms of equipment and does not require students to have their own laptop computers, digital cameras, sewing machines etc to successfully undertake their course of study. If you choose to buy a laptop, tablet computer etc it is your decision and is a matter of personal choice and preference.

At the other end of the scale however, you may find it more convenient to build up a basic toolkit of items that you use on a daily basis, whether this is a tape measure and hammer, designers' pens or a set of sewing needles, depending on your specialist subject.

In these circumstances, the costs of your personal equipment are your responsibility and are not covered by the University as part of the overall tuition fee. These should however be relatively modest.

As has already been mentioned, the costs of providing workshop facilities and a range of fixed and portable equipment is met by the University and the use of essential course-related workshops and equipment is included in your overall tuition fee.

Course Materials

Specialist workshops and processes related to your course will have induction sessions which will introduce you to equipment for the first time, and normally, the cost of materials for your first

Norwich University of the Arts

year workshop inductions are all included your course fee. Inductions in years 2 and 3 that require some small experimental or practice materials to enable you to learn a process are also normally covered by your overall tuition fee.

Arts, design, architecture and media courses require that you will need to meet the on-going, day-to-day cost of materials associated with making your work. For specialist arts courses, the production and presentation of work for exhibition or display is seen as important preparation for professional practice and employment.

From the beginning of your course you will be expected to produce coursework, and each year you will need to produce a portfolio and/or show reel of work as part of your studies. The cost of materials required to produce your work for learning and assessment purposes is not included within the tuition fee so you will need to budget for this.

Because of the choice and diversity of materials for arts, design, architecture and media practice, it is not possible to generalise about the costs that you might incur. Course requirements will largely determine the amount which you need to budget. Recent research indicates that, on average, students of arts, design and media courses spend around £250 in their first year, rising to £375 in Year 2 and around £600 in their graduation year as they prepare and produce work to a professional standard, suitable for presentation to potential employers.

To support students in this, a wide range of competitively priced arts materials - priced lower than high street shops, are available from the University, including the Shop at Duke Street and within the various workshops. Materials lists are published on the intranet and in the relevant workshop areas. NUA operates Papercut, an electronic payment system, and students can pay for goods and services across the campus at specified times.

Information regarding suppliers of related services and materials within the region can be easily obtained from the internet or from workshop or academic staff within the University.

At a glance - So what is covered by your tuition fee –?

Included:

- Welcome Week course activities
- Teaching and technical instruction
- Access to, and use of relevant workshops and equipment
- Access to, and use of relevant equipment in studios, including computers
- Materials used as part of timetabled workshop inductions
- Access to, and use of recycled materials within workshop areas
- Access to Academic Registry and Student Support
- Access to Careers Advice
- Access to professional business expertise and support through the *ideas factory@NUA* which develops participation in 'live' course projects with business
- Access to the specialist NUA Library and associated resources
- Some local study visits
- Support for ERASMUS student mobility opportunities
- Opportunities to publish works on iTunes U
- Exhibition opportunities

Norwich University of the Arts

- Access to the NUA Gallery
- Free entry to Norfolk Museums and arranged access to their collections and archives
- Free access to exhibitions at Sainsbury Centre of Visual Art
- Discounted entry and membership at Cinema City and a range of shops and venues around the City.

What is not included?

- Equipment for your personal or private use
- Day-to-day items you may need as part of your personal, portable toolkit
- Materials for producing your own work beyond inductions
- Books for your personal or private use outside key course texts available in the Library
- Study visits, unless specified