

**COURSE SPECIFICATION**

**Awarding Body:** **Norwich University of the Arts**

The University is a recognised body with taught degree awarding powers. The University is subject to regulation by the [Office for Students](#) (OfS).

**Course Title:** BA (Hons) Interior Design

**Level of Study:** Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England (FHEQ).

For further information see:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>

**Award:** Bachelor Degree with Honours (BA (Hons))

**Mode of Study:** Full-time

**Duration of Course:** 3 years

**Language of Study:** English

**Course Accreditation:** None

**Relevant QAA Subject Benchmarks:** Art and Design (2017)

Subject Benchmark Statements set out expectations about standards of degrees in a range of subject areas. They describe what gives a discipline its coherence and identity, and define what can be expected of a graduate in terms of the abilities and skills needed to develop understanding or competence in the subject.

For further information see: [https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781\\_16](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-art-and-design-17.pdf?sfvrsn=71eef781_16)

**Tuition Fees:** For details of tuition fees see: <http://www.nua.ac.uk/study/finance/>

**Other Course Costs:** The cost of materials for producing course work is not included in the tuition fee. Due to the choice and diversity it is not possible to generalise about the costs that you might incur. On average students of arts, design and media courses spend around £250 in their first year rising to £375 in their second year and £600 in their graduating year.

The course may also offer an opportunity to attend one or more study visits. These visits are not compulsory and costs vary depending on the location and duration of the study visit.

For details see <https://www.nua.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Interior-Design-Indicative-course-costs.pdf>

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Entry Requirements / Interview / Portfolio**

When you apply to BA (Hons) Interior Design at NUA, we will ask you to prepare your portfolio, a written submission and an interview. These methods are used to assess your suitability to the course. All three elements should clearly demonstrate your passion for the subject and your individual creativity.

Detailed information regarding entry requirements and portfolio guidance can be found here

<https://www.nua.ac.uk/study-at-nua/courses/ba-hons-interior-design/>

## **AIMS AND OUTCOMES OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDY**

### **The Aims of Undergraduate Study are to:**

- Provide students with an inclusive and stimulating curriculum for the specialist study of art, design, architecture and media.
- Maintain and nurture a commitment to intellectual and personal development as a basis for a lifetime of learning and professional practice.
- Provide students with opportunities for innovative, imaginative and intellectually rigorous opportunities for creative practice along with skills appropriate to the named award.
- To enable students to establish and develop key skills in areas of creative practice, research and professional practice as they apply to the subject.
- Provide students with the required practical and project management skills to realise ideas.
- Provide courses that prepare students for employment and professional practice and/or further study.
- Provide courses that enable graduates to make a useful contribution to the social, economic and cultural life of the region and beyond.
- Enrich curriculum content and ensure course currency through the professional practice, research and scholarship of staff.
- Emphasise the cultural, technical and vocational relevance of course provision.
- Develop effective collaborations with the creative and cultural industries, professional bodies, other HEIs and wider art, design, architecture and media communities.

## **GENERIC SKILLS**

### **Holders of Undergraduate Awards will:**

- Have developed the skills to embark on a professional career or further course of study in a related field.
- Demonstrate a professional approach and work towards achieving their full potential as a creative or technical practitioner.
- Possess the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment and progression to other qualifications assuming personal responsibility and decision-making.
- Be digitally literate in relation to the skills essential for professional practice and its representations.
- Be able to locate their work within relevant professional, cultural and historical frameworks.
- Be able to practice professionally in an area appropriate to their subject skills and expertise.
- Have developed the capacity to critically examine the context within which their practice is based.

- Be able to analyse information and experience to formulate and present reasoned arguments.
- Have an understanding of the extent of their knowledge, and how this influences analysis and interpretation based on that knowledge in their area of practice.
- Be able to interpret and communicate their practice using spoken, written and visual language.
- Be able to work flexibly to manage change and uncertainty.
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively while having regard to the views and needs of other stakeholders
- Have developed the ability to make effective use of processes and materials appropriate to the subject.
- Be able to work with due regard to Health and Safety, Ethics, Sustainability and Risk Assessment considerations as they apply in in a range of professional contexts.

## COURSE DIAGRAM

<b>BA1a: Fundamentals</b>	<b>BA1b: Concepts and Contexts</b>
40 Credits	80 Credits
10 Weeks	20 Weeks

<b>BA2a: Experimentation and Application</b>	<b>BA2b: Collaboration</b>
80 Credits	40 Credits
20 Weeks	10 Weeks

<b>BA3a: Research and Development</b>	<b>BA3b: Resolution and Innovation</b>
60 Credits	60 Credits
15 Weeks	15 Weeks

## WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING IN THIS UNIT

This unit begins by looking at the fundamental skills and principles of interior design. It then moves into location and user group investigations followed by a design response to allow you to explore the use of critical research to inform and develop a creative design outcome. This unit will serve as an introduction to the higher education teaching and learning environment, introducing the skills and processes through inductions and workshops that will enable you to develop the resources you need in your future career as an interior designer.

The importance of becoming proactive and independent in your approach to learning through a motivated attitude towards developing your skills will be critical to your success.

You will be introduced to the industry standard communication methods of interior design and the fundamental creative development tools used within a wider designing process.

Emphasis will be placed on an appreciation of the broad contextual aspects of interior design, you will be encouraged to develop an understanding of the significance that interior design has as a contributor to social and cultural wellbeing. The idea of designing for others and the need for informed research to support this will be introduced along with description of the fundamental methodologies that allow interpretation of a 'user need'.

We will explore design history to understand the factors that have influenced and informed our current designed world and will shape its future. You will be guided in ways to find out about our design history and shown how to identify significant times, events and movements.

**Unit Title:** Fundamentals

**Reference:** BA1a

**Year:** 1

**Credit Points:** 40

**Duration:** 10 Weeks

**Study Time:** 400 Hours

### Description

This unit will introduce you to the fundamental elements of your course and help you to become accustomed to undergraduate study at the University. Becoming an independent learner is an essential aspect of undergraduate study and this unit is designed to help you make the transition successfully by developing skills in planning, researching and reflection.

Within the unit you will be given opportunities to acquire essential practical skills relevant to your subject using an appropriate range of materials and processes. You will develop ways for generating ideas for your creative practice and consider how to progress them towards resolution. Along with your creative development you will be introduced to historical, cultural and ethical concepts that have influenced (and are influenced by) creative practice.

You will be introduced to methods for gathering information and supported to find relevant interpretations of your research. You will also be given the opportunity to develop skills of communication through writing, image and spoken word.

### Indicative Syllabus

The syllabus below indicates topics within each of the three Areas of Study outlined in the NUA Award and Credit Scheme for this unit.

#### Creative Practice

- Technical skills
- Ideas generation
- Knowledge of materials and processes
- Time management
- Documentation of practice
- Reflection on learning

#### Professional Practice

- Introduction to the Learning Environment, Health and Safety and Risk Assessment
- Audience awareness

The importance of building composition as a principle of interior design will be introduced along with appreciation of the fundamental structure, construction and location that underpin any successful interior design process. You will be supported in gaining an understanding of drawing as a design tool and how your observational skills can improve through the drawing process. We will introduce you to a range of drawing approaches and explain the fundamental stages that they are applied within design process.

The skills that you begin to develop in this unit will form the building blocks of your future research and design development processes, enabling you to produce appropriate design solutions that are well informed, conceptually interesting and technically proficient.

- Communication and presentation skills
- Personal planning

### Research

- Writing for creative practice
- Interchange between practice and theory
- Underlying subject histories and theories
- Visual and textual research skills
- Techniques of analysis and enquiry

### Aims

The aims of the unit are:

- To introduce you to the learning environment for undergraduate study in art, design and media.
- To foster an awareness of the importance of research and to enable you to experience key methods of gathering and interpreting information.
- To develop practical, technical and conceptual skills in your subject.
- To develop your understanding of the subject and related contemporary practice in the creative industries.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- LO1:** Show an awareness of the fundamental historical, cultural and ethical concepts and principles associated with your subject.
- LO2:** Demonstrate the skills required for researching, interpreting and presenting fundamental ideas and theories around your subject.
- LO3:** Demonstrate a fundamental understanding of the materials and processes associated with your subject area.
- LO4:** Communicate the development and outcomes of your work clearly and effectively to others.

### Assessment Requirements

You are required to submit the following for assessment:

- A Body of creative work
- Research and supporting documentation
- A Reflective Journal
- A 1,000 word written text

## WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING IN THIS UNIT

This unit will provide you with an opportunity to explore different aspects of the interior design industry. Through a variety of projects centred around different interior design contexts, you will have the chance to identify personal career interests and experiment with research, development and communication techniques.

You will be introduced to a range of fundamental historical, cultural and ethical concepts and theories and be required to engage with a range of approaches to creative and experimental problem solving. Design themes, styles and genres in a range of past, current and future contexts will be examined and explored for the purpose of developing a fundamental appreciation of the contextual nature of interior design.

The unit aims to develop an understanding of the scale and scope of the practice and theory of interior design together with an appreciation of the wide range of methods for creating and innovating. We will encourage you to identify your own personal thinking and doing style preferences and consider how working in a team can lead to an appreciation of different approaches to the creative and technical process.

You will be guided to expand and enhance your drawing techniques and further develop your understanding of their appropriate deployment. We will support you further in developing your writing skills and continue to help you in developing analysis and evaluation skills. We will also introduce you to effective techniques for oral and visual presentation, both individually and in groups.

<b>Unit Title:</b>	Concepts and Contexts
<b>Reference:</b>	BA1b
<b>Year:</b>	1
<b>Credit Points:</b>	80
<b>Duration:</b>	20 Weeks
<b>Study Time:</b>	800 Hours

### Description

This unit will provide you with a framework to support your continuing engagement with the concepts and contexts surrounding your subject. The unit will help you to develop approaches for independent learning, self-reflection, evaluation and documentation. As the unit progresses you will be able to apply the knowledge and skills you have acquired through a process of experimentation and analysis. You will explore techniques, materials and media in a variety of ways and be engaged in an investigation of the apparent and less obvious connections between ideas, images, objects, words and theories that surround your subject.

Successfully working as part of a team is an essential element of professional practice and you will be supported to develop this ability within the unit as you work towards a group presentation. You will be encouraged to gain insights into the industries associated with your subject and to consider the market and audience for your work.

The unit supports you to develop research skills in gathering information, analysis and communication and you will continue to hone your academic writing skills alongside your creative conceptual and technical progression. You will consider the historical and cultural influences that have impacted on your subject and have shaped its contemporary presence. You will be encouraged to reflect on your studio practice in terms of the key influences that have informed the evolution and development of your subject specialism and to consider issues of ethics and sustainability in contemporary practice.

## Indicative Syllabus

The syllabus below indicates topics within each of the three Areas of Study outlined in the NUA Award and Credit Scheme for this unit.

### Creative Practice

- Enhanced Technical skills
- Ideas development
- Key components of creative practice and processes
- Project planning
- Enhanced documenting
- Critical reflection and evaluation

### Professional Practice

- Learning environment and Health & Safety awareness
- Team working
- Industry awareness
- Audience and market understanding
- Presentation and pitching skills
- Developing personal planning

### Research

- Academic writing conventions
- Global, cultural, social and economic issues of creative practice
- Essential subject histories and critical theories
- Selecting, gathering and evaluating information
- Research and analysis of images and objects

### Aims

The aims of the unit are:

- To establish a practical approach to learning as part of an undergraduate experience in art, design or media practice.
- To identify some of the key historical, cultural and ethical influences on your subject, by investigating the work of others through visual and text-based research.
- To enable a flexible approach to problem-solving and idea generation.
- To develop a capacity for independent learning and time-management.
- To foster an enquiring and professional approach in the production of work.
- To develop skills in visual, written and oral communication, and to work effectively with others as part of professional skills development.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- LO5:** Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental techniques, materials and processes associated with your subject.
- LO6:** Make judgements and present arguments through engagement with fundamental historical, cultural and ethical concepts and theories associated with your subject.
- LO7:** Demonstrate a range of approaches to creative and experimental problem solving.
- LO8:** Communicate the development of your ideas clearly using text, image or object.
- LO9:** Demonstrate fundamental subject-specific and transferable skills relevant to your practice and future career.
- LO10:** Evidence independent planning and time-management in the development of your work.

### **Assessment Requirements**

You are required to submit the following for assessment:

- A Body of creative work
- Research and supporting documentation
- A Reflective Journal
- A 2,000 word text
- A group presentation

## WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING IN THIS UNIT

This unit will enable you to utilise and expand upon the skills and knowledge introduced in year 1. Through a focused approach of effective experimentation and informed conceptual thinking, you will begin to develop your own person design methodologies. The unit will provide the opportunity to develop an enhanced appreciation of methods and phases within the design process, where experimentation often leads to innovation. The concept of calculated risk in the context of professional and ethical practice will be explored.

Through set and negotiated projects you will explore your potential career interests and create portfolio-ready content in preparation for BA2b where you will further develop the necessary tools to gain internships and work placement opportunities. The concept of designing effective commercial outputs while exploring a variety of design process will enhance your developmental knowledge and design justification skills. Ethical issues of commercial design will be addressed with a view to developing appreciation of the significant role and responsibilities a designer has to the immediate and wider social, cultural, economic and political contexts.

Using experimentation with design ideation and developmental processes, you will be encouraged to appreciate an approach where the outcome is not the design but the process that leads to it. The aim is to encourage deeper critical thought processes with a developed creative attitude toward design process where confidence in application of appropriate technical skills allows enhanced criticality and consequential innovative outputs.

<b>Unit Title:</b>	Experimentation and Application
<b>Reference:</b>	BA2a
<b>Year:</b>	2
<b>Credit Points:</b>	80
<b>Duration:</b>	20 Weeks
<b>Study Time:</b>	800 Hours

### Description

This unit will enable you to utilise and expand the specialist knowledge and skills introduced in year 1 through focused experimentation and application. The unit enables you to develop a more targeted engagement with the techniques, materials and media of your subject and encourages you to explore the dynamics of process and theory relevant to the subject and the development of your individual practice. You will continue developing specialist practical skills and the unit will help you to identify areas for personal development through independent study.

Industry engagement is a key feature of the unit and you will be supported in identifying markets and audiences for your work. You may engage in competition entry, working with live briefs and other forms of work-related learning which will help you to develop an understand of the professional pathways open to you.

You will be encouraged to reflect on your studio practice in terms of the professional, commercial and contextual influences that have informed the development of your subject specialism. This unit will develop your skills as a reflective practitioner and enable you to develop your visual, verbal and written communication skills.

The unit will support you to continue to develop academic writing skills through composition of a longer written text for which you will independently research, analyse and present your findings. Understanding and exploring methods of developing and presenting an argument through word and image will form a key part of your learning.

The unit will focus on developing professional communication skills in drawing and writing. You will be encouraged throughout the unit's delivery to develop both hand-drawing skills and those that are technology aided. The application of these skills will be applied to professional contexts and use a range of media and approaches.

You will be encouraged to develop styles of academic and professional writing and consider communication techniques for a range of audiences. The unit will also support your opportunity to develop visual and verbal communication skills. Your outputs within this unit will be aimed at developing a critical approach, where analytical methods and informed judgments can be presented effectively and efficiently to support your decision making and the implementation of appropriate design solutions.

### Indicative Syllabus

The syllabus below indicates topics within each of the three Areas of Study outlined in the NUA Award and Credit Scheme for this unit.

#### Creative Practice

- Expanded technical skills
- Creative problem solving and evidence of conceptual thinking
- Diversity and experimentation in materials and processes
- Project development
- Establishing a personal archive
- Sustaining an individual practice

#### Professional Practice

- Health and Safety in context
- Work-related learning
- The creative and cultural economy
- Competition entry and live briefs
- Effective communication of visual, audio and written material
- Professional awareness

#### Research

- Writing as creative practice
- Developing a sustainable & ethical practice
- Key components of critical theory and subject discipline
- Evaluating texts and a variety of research methodologies
- Identifying authoritative sources for extended research

### Aims

The aims of the unit are:

- To encourage breadth and depth of enquiry into, and application of, techniques, processes and materials.
- To develop your awareness and understanding of professional practices and the creative industries associated with your subject.
- To offer a range of approaches to problem solving and ideas generation
- To establish a range of research methods relevant to your discipline and support your understanding of their application.
- To facilitate an appreciation of the application of theories and ideas to your practice.
- To consider and evaluate appropriate methods for successfully communicating and presenting ideas to different audiences.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- LO1:** Demonstrate knowledge and application of the key techniques, materials and processes associated with your subject.
- LO2:** Identify relevant historical, cultural and ethical concepts and principles and apply them to a range of contexts.
- LO3:** Demonstrate knowledge of problem-solving approaches used in your discipline and show a critical approach to practice-based enquiry in your work
- LO4:** Critically reflect on the boundaries of your knowledge and learning.
- LO5:** Articulate the findings of your research and practice using appropriate means of production and communication
- LO6:** Demonstrate your ability to identify, plan and, where appropriate, participate in relevant work-related learning.

### **Assessment Requirements**

You are required to submit the following for assessment:

- A Body of creative work
- Research and supporting documentation
- A Reflective Journal
- A 3,000 word text

## WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING IN THIS UNIT

In this final unit of the second year you are presented with the opportunity to consolidate your previous learning through collaborative work. You will also enhance your professional practice skills through the preparation of portfolio and publicity material, enabling you to more effectively seek industry internships and workplace opportunities. You will engage in collaborative learning both within your cohort and in conjunction with other NUA course disciplines. The intention is to enable you to experience situations that reflect interdisciplinary working and for you to have a broader range of learning experiences that will help you expand the scope of your creative and professional practice.

Project-based activity will provide you with first-hand experience of collaborative working and help you to recognise the influence this has on your individual processes, performance and outcome. The challenge of working efficiently and effectively to achieve an outcome which satisfies a given task will enhance your personal and professional practice based-skills. The range of professional collaborations experienced within interior design practices will be introduced in the context of taking a design idea through to a real outcome. Opportunity will be given to explore the principles of a collaborative design and development team, including the specific responsibilities of team members and the individual and collective contribution from concept to completion of an interior design project. The project in this unit may be linked to an industry partner, if appropriate. In this case, the definitive brief will be determined and set by professional practitioners with students pitching their outcomes as a potential commercial opportunity.

<b>Unit Title:</b>	Collaboration
<b>Reference:</b>	BA2b
<b>Year:</b>	2
<b>Credit Points:</b>	40
<b>Duration:</b>	10 Weeks
<b>Study Time:</b>	400 Hours

### Description

This unit provides an opportunity for you to work with others and to expand the learning experiences gained in Year 2; in particular, the unit focuses on developing your creative practice and enhancing your technical and conceptual skills within the context of other practitioners and audiences. It is anticipated that you will use the methods, knowledge and understanding gained previously to help you locate your work in relevant professional and creative contexts. The unit also allows the flexibility to help you engage with external-facing activities and to interact with a variety of audiences beyond the Course using appropriate forms of participation, dissemination and communication.

You will have the opportunity to test a number of different collaborative working practices in this Unit; for example: in-course collaborations which explore generic team-working skills; cross-course collaborations that look at the opportunity for potential interdisciplinary outcomes; collaboration with industry to understand key skills required for working in your subject and an inter-change of ideas that allow you to work in groups with students from different disciplines to learn new skills and gain new knowledge.

The unit will raise your awareness of your own skills and help you identify appropriate career opportunities through work-related learning and collaborative projects, and, as part of the Unit you will be supported in expanding your own skill set. Team-working, project management and the ability to communicate effectively with a variety of stakeholders are essential skills that you will develop as part of this unit. This unit will also equip you with the skills to enable you to become a more autonomous learner and assist in preparing you for further study at Year 3.

The fundamental principles of professionalism and employability within the context of interior design practice will be introduced and explored with a view to developing skills necessary to become part of this professional community. Guidance will be given on how to develop a professionally formatted CV together with opportunities to practice interview techniques and devise professional networking strategies. You will also be given opportunity to construct your own personal development plan and devise strategies aimed towards achieving it.

During this unit you will begin to consider the direction of your own creative practice and how this may lead into final year field of focus. Tutorial support and guidance from the course team will assist you identify a relevant personal research topic that will go onto to form the basis of a detailed research enquiry that you will undertake in Year 3 of the course. In support to your ongoing professional and creative practice skills development you will be encouraged to focus on applying a range of digital and traditional media to principles of construction and visualisation drawings. You will also be introduced to application techniques aimed at crafting the assembly of concise writing that is harmonised with use of effective visual language.

### Indicative Syllabus

The syllabus below indicates topics within each of the three Areas of Study outlined in the NUA Award and Credit Scheme for this unit.

#### Creative Practice

- Appropriate Interdisciplinary skills
- Tackling unfamiliar problems and concepts
- Developing a collaborative practice
- Project Management
- Documenting individual and group roles
- Creative decision-making

#### Professional Practice

- Understanding professional Health and Safety considerations
- Working with cross disciplines teams
- Commissioning and funding structures
- Curation and display
- Professional pitches and presentations
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

#### Research

- Writing for a diverse audience
- Processes linking production, distribution, circulation and consumption
- Identifying research questions and appropriate methodologies

#### Aims

The aims of the unit are:

- To consolidate your knowledge, skills and experiences as an independent learner and informed practitioner
- To increase awareness and understanding of the creative industries and the nature of working within them
- To strengthen your understanding and application of appropriate research methods for your study
- To prepare you for study at Year 3 and future employment.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- LO7:** Demonstrate an understanding of a wide range of applications for your work, including workplace contexts for your practice.
- LO8:** Propose and plan areas of research for further study, based on analysis of appropriate techniques and information that extend your knowledge.
- LO9:** Evaluate and employ appropriate communication and presentation techniques in relation to subject and audience.
- L10:** Demonstrate your ability to work collaboratively in order to meet specified goals.

### **Assessment Requirements**

You are required to submit the following for assessment:

- A Presentation of collaborative outcomes
- A 1,000 word Research Report Proposal
- Research and supporting documentation
- A Reflective Journal

## WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING IN THIS UNIT

This unit initiates your final year of study and aims to establish the necessary framing to underpin a major project which will be your signature output in the next unit. While the emphasis of the unit is on preparing a personal project design proposal, there will also be an expectation of involvement in competitions and live briefs where relevant and timely opportunities present themselves.

The combination of contextual research and analysis will underpin the concepts and development procedures for your purpose-focussed interior design. An in-depth investigation and critical analysis of contextual factors not only outline potential design opportunities but also constraints. An understanding of the contextual social, cultural, political, economic, technological, commercial constraints within a particular design area will aid the identification of design opportunities.

The unit will provide you with a focused period of research aligned to establishing a personal project design brief. You will be guided through the process by completing a set of tasks which ensure all relevant aspects are your design brief are considered. Your research will take the form of a 5,000-word research report and follow a structured format aligned to your specific topic as identified within your previously prepared Research Proposal. The completed research report should contextualise your creative practice and present a conceptual design direction. You may, with the agreement of your Course Leader, elect to undertake an extended research report of 10,000 words; this option allows you to explore your topic of choice in greater depth and will be balanced with an

<b>Unit Title:</b>	Research and Development
<b>Reference:</b>	BA3a
<b>Year:</b>	3
<b>Credit Points:</b>	60
<b>Duration:</b>	15 Weeks
<b>Study Time:</b>	600 Hours

### Description

This unit will support you in further developing the skills of research and development essential to maintaining a sustainable creative practice. The Unit requires that you to build on the knowledge and skills gained through Years 1 and 2 of the course to develop a body of work that is informed by appropriate research and experiential learning.

This unit will encourage you to assume a greater degree of responsibility for your learning, and you will be supported in determining the direction of your work through tutorial guidance and appropriate discussion and debate to develop both your research and creative practice. Academic and pastoral support will help you plan effectively and realistically for the remainder of the course as you formulate and finalise plans for your creative practice. The parameters of your creative practice for the final course unit, ('Resolution and Innovation') should assist you in contextualising your work for this unit.

This unit will concentrate on the process of further developing and reflecting upon your practice to date in order to provide a robust basis for the work to be undertaken in the final unit of the course. The production of your creative practice and written work will enable you to refine your understanding of historical, contemporary and environmental including ethical perspectives that are essential to and indicative of an in-depth understanding of your subject specialism.

In this unit you are required to submit a completed Research Report of 5000 words that broadly contextualises your practice and demonstrates your engagement with a sustained piece of written work. With the agreement of your course tutors, you may choose to develop an extended Research Report of 10,000 words, which allows you to explore your topic of choice in greater depth. You will agree a schedule of work with your course tutors that reflects an appropriate balance between your creative practice and written work.

agreed reduced personal project design proposal.

Throughout the unit you will be supported in group and individual tutorials to assist with development of the core project research objective. Lectures and teaching sessions will provide guidance on establishing a research contextual framework which underpins the notion of your undertaking of applied design research, methods of investigation, and analysis using different media and techniques. Topics will include:

- Structuring and managing your research report
- Defining your research and project purpose
- Site analysis
- Building analysis
- User and user-need identification
- Case study analysis
- Information sourcing
- Design policy and practice
- Creating a conceptual design starting point

By engaging deeply in your research and robust rigorous enquiry you should emerge at the end of the process with a clear tested conceptual starting point to your next project resolution stage by way of a definitive design brief that will lead to an innovative, purposeful ethically considered, viable future focused design interior environment.

### Indicative Syllabus

The syllabus below indicates topics within each of the three Areas of Study outlined in the NUA Award and Credit Scheme for this unit.

#### Creative Practice

- Advanced specialist technical skills
- Advanced concept generation
- Proficiency with materials and processes
- Sustaining a prolonged project
- Learning Agreement methodology
- Reflection as an emerging practice

#### Professional Practice

- Professional presentation
- Communicating research findings
- Focussed career planning including further study

#### Research

- Structuring and sustaining an argument
- Applying a theoretical basis to practice
- Demonstrating knowledge at the forefront of the discipline
- Enquiry based research methods using museums, archives and libraries
- Advanced information retrieval skills to gather, sift, synthesise and organise material independently

#### Aims

The aims of the unit are:

- To support you in planning and managing the production of a body of creative and written work
- To help you to sustain and engage with an in-depth enquiry into your interests
- To develop knowledge and understanding of your subject through historical, contemporary and cultural perspectives
- To help you to develop a breadth of reference material through creative practice and text based research
- To help you devise and apply strategies that will sustain independent learning
- To develop skills in effective communication

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- LO1:** Demonstrate rigorous use of recognised methods to test and analyse concepts, materials and processes appropriate to your area of study.
- LO2:** Show ability to construct and develop arguments using knowledge and methods pertinent to current research and practice in your subject.
- LO3:** Show evidence of utilising a range of independently gathered scholarly information including primary material and academic or industry-based research.
- LO4:** Develop questions and make informed judgements that allow potential solutions to problems to be identified.
- LO5:** Communicate creatively and appropriately to a variety of audiences using text and images.
- LO6:** Demonstrate a clear approach to planning and developing a career in the creative industries.

### **Assessment Requirements**

You are required to submit the following for assessment:

- A Body of creative work
- Research and supporting documentation
- A Reflective Journal
- A Research Report of 5,000 words or an extended Research Report of 10,000 words\*

\*If you are undertaking a 10,000 word Research Report you should write a minimum of 2000 words for the draft submission in this unit.

## WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING IN THIS UNIT

This unit sees the culmination of your final year of study and provides you with the opportunity to produce a substantial body of work over an extended period of time. You will take forward the conclusions from your conceptual design exploration established in the previous BA3a unit. You will be expected to consolidate your previous experience, knowledge and skills (both practical and theoretical), in the design and production of a professionally presented outcome that aligns to your research proposal and fulfils your interior design brief. Your design development work should provide an opportunity to push personal boundaries, employing innovative consideration evolutionary refinement through a design cycle of creating, testing and review.

Your design outcome should be assembled in a professionally aligned manner that is conducive to the exhibition of your work and that demonstrates clearly and concisely an innovative proposition supported with a justification to the purposed design solution. The proposition may either remain conceptual or be real in nature, but it should include the consideration of ethical matters and take account of the contextual technical issues associated to its creation. By engaging deeply with your practice throughout this unit you should be confident in presenting and discussing the full aspects of your undertaken design process and its consequential outcome, relating it clearly to a user and a need that can also be framed within a defined purpose statement.

Throughout the unit you will be supported in group and individual tutorials to assist you with development

<b>Unit Title:</b>	Resolution and Innovation
<b>Reference:</b>	BA3b
<b>Year:</b>	3
<b>Credit Points:</b>	60
<b>Duration:</b>	15 Weeks
<b>Study Time:</b>	600 Hours

### Description

This final unit is the culmination of your undergraduate study within your chosen specialism and, as the title implies, gives you the opportunity to bring your work to a suitable degree of resolution within the context of innovative practice.

The Unit is dedicated to your creative practice and provides you with the opportunity to plan, develop and produce a substantial body of work over an extended period of time. The unit allows you to consolidate and capitalise on the skills, knowledge and experience gained throughout the course and provides a unique opportunity to generate a sustained and innovative body of resolved work that will support you in your future career or further study.

This unit supports you in developing and delivering a professionally presented project relevant to your chosen career path. You will consider appropriate forms of production, display and dissemination – including self-promotion, communicating your practice effectively to a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences.

You will utilise skills in organisation, management and communication alongside the technical, creative and conceptual skills associated with your subject practice. The research, development and reflection undertaken in the previous unit (Research and Development) provides the foundation needed to support this final stage of your study.

### Indicative Syllabus

The syllabus below indicates topics within each of the three Areas of Study outlined in the NUA Award and Credit Scheme for this unit.

### Creative Practice

- Delivering work to appropriate professional standards
- Consolidating approaches to concepts and production methods
- Realisation of appropriate methodologies
- Project resolution

and presentation of your final project objective. Workshops and teaching sessions will provide guidance on realising your conceptual and contextual understanding for presentation to external audiences. Topics will include:

- Structuring and managing your independent practice
- Defining your communicating your project purpose
- Effectively communicating your final design solution
- Industry standards for 2D communication
- Project communication through 3D artefacts

Your project will have worked with appropriate consideration to the technical conventions of professional interior design practice and your creative approach to problem solving with use of critical thinking supported by research will be demonstrated effectively.

- Documentation as outcomes
- Reflection and resolution

### **Professional Practice**

- Application of professional Health and Safety requirements
- Promotion and dissemination
- Creative and appropriate communication with word, sound, image etc.
- Manage creative, personal and interpersonal commitments in a professional manner

### **Research**

- Writing for a specialist and non-specialist audience
- Conceptualising creativity and authorship
- Application of knowledge at the forefront of the discipline
- Application of appropriate research methodologies

### **Aims**

The aims of the unit are:

- To develop awareness and understanding of the creative potential and practice of the subject.
- To enable a sustained critical engagement with the subject through referencing the bodies of knowledge that support and challenge the discipline.
- To develop awareness of debates within and around the subject area to profile the diversity of a contemporary practice.
- To enable you to sustain a commitment to thematic enquiry.
- To help you initiate work that is innovative, ambitious and original in thinking to develop outcomes beyond an obvious solution.
- To enable you to communicate your intentions effectively.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- LO7:** Demonstrate consistent knowledge and understanding of your subject area, making detailed reference to current and emerging practice.
- LO8:** Show evidence of sustained critical engagement with an issue or question relevant to your subject.
- LO9:** Demonstrate an open and evidence-based approach to learning.
- LO10:** Apply skills, methods and knowledge to develop and extend projects beyond initial findings and solutions into resolved outcomes.
- LO11:** Communicate effectively to a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences using means appropriate to your practice.
- LO12:** Evidence a professional approach to career development through appropriate self-promotion, industry awareness and engagement.

### **Assessment Requirements**

You are required to submit the following for assessment:

- A Body of creative work
- Research and supporting documentation
- A Reflective Journal

## **LEARNING AND TEACHING**

Learning and teaching methods include lectures, individual and group tutorials, placements and work-related learning.

NUA emphasises learning and discovery through studio and workshop practice, critical reflection and experimentation with ideas, processes and materials. Other learning and teaching methods include lectures, individual and group tutorials, placements and work-related learning, alongside technical demonstrations, exhibition practice and other presentations of students' work.

Students' progress is assessed in a number of ways. All courses provide clear information about the work required for assessment, and the criteria which are used in assessment. Courses make considerable use of group critiques where students present their work for discussion. Courses also use self-evaluation and peer evaluation to complement the assessment of work by tutors. Students come into contact with a wide range of staff, all of them committed to supporting learning. As well as academic staff, these include staff in technical workshops, the Library, Employability Service, and Student Support.

### **Independent Learning**

Independent learning complements and builds upon the teaching you receive on your course. Key aspects of learning develop through the acquisition of research skills, the generation and development of ideas, and independent study. Learning Agreements are used by courses to support independent study and to enable students to focus, direct and negotiate their individual pathway through the course.

At undergraduate level, an increasing emphasis is placed on independent learning as students' progress through their course. This enables them to make the best use of the University's resources in support of individual creative development. Independent learning may be based on projects or assignments set by staff, or it may be self-initiated. There are significant opportunities for self-initiated study at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

### **PAL Mentor Scheme**

Each undergraduate degree course has a system of peer support known as Peer Assisted Learning or PAL. This means that Year One students have ready access to trained Year Two students from their course, from before they arrive through to the end of the first year. The advice and support given by the PAL Mentors is directly relevant to first year students and is delivered by Year Two or Three students who have had similar experiences themselves. This extra layer of support for first year students has been found to be very effective in helping to smooth the transition to higher education.

### **Collaboration**

One of the most exciting aspects of study at NUA is the opportunity for students to concentrate on their art and design discipline. However, there are also valuable opportunities to learn from the experience of working collaboratively or as part of a team with students on other courses. Collaborative projects may form part of the approved content of a course unit, with the outcomes of the collaboration being formally assessed, or they can be negotiated as part of a learning agreement. The chief benefit of collaborating in this way is that it reflects the realities of professional practice in the creative industries, and thus it enhances students' understanding of the professional context for their work.

## **Work-Related Learning**

All NUA courses offer students opportunities to undertake periods of work placement in order to reinforce their professional development and awareness. Other types of work-related learning emphasised by courses include: guest lectures or workshops led by visiting artists and designers; 'live' projects or commissions for external clients; mentoring by practising artists and designers; and projects which simulate professional practice in the creative sectors. In addition, students are encouraged to participate in regional and national competitions for artists and designers such as the Starpack Packaging Awards and Design & Art Direction Awards, often achieving significant success.

Students also undertake voluntary projects, for example in schools, hospitals and the wider community. This experience is particularly valuable for those who want to pursue a career in teaching or community work. NUA is developing mechanisms by which such activity can be accredited towards a degree. The University regularly takes advice from the creative and cultural industries in order to maintain the currency of its courses and to ensure that the learning experience is relevant to future employment, freelance work and progression to postgraduate study.

## **Learning and Teaching**

All of these features of learning, teaching and assessment are underpinned by NUA's Strategy for Learning, a key document which sets out its principle aims and the ways in which learning and teaching will be enhanced at NUA. Academic and other staff involved in teaching and the support of learning regularly identify and share good practice with colleagues within the University and nationally. Each year NUA recognises the contribution made by staff through the award of a Teaching Fellowship and a number of Teaching and Student Support Awards.

Staff are able to apply for small grants for the development of new approaches to learning and teaching, and for funding to promote the application of their research and creative practice to inform and update their teaching. The University is committed to a learning environment in which traditional forms of learning and teaching are complemented by e-learning, and which is significantly enhanced by its Library and learning resources.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is the process of evaluating or assessing your learning. Sometimes it will involve consideration of work in progress, while at others it concentrates on work which you have completed and submitted as assessment requirements for each unit of study.

The University assesses you through the coursework that you produce as you complete each unit. Each unit will require that you present a portfolio of work which may include finished pieces of work, written work, your research, and a reflective journal which allows you to evaluate your learning and highlight your strengths and areas for further development.

There are two types of assessment that you will receive while on your course:

- Formative assessment is the process whereby your work and progress are assessed at regular intervals with accompanying feedback from staff in order to help to improve your performance. Staff will provide you with feedback on the progress of your work before you reach the assessment point at the end of the unit. This may take place one-to-one with a tutor (e.g. in a tutorial) or in group sessions.
- Summative assessment is the process whereby your work is evaluated and given a mark at the end of course unit. Summative assessment formally records your achievement of the unit's learning outcomes.

You will be assessed against the approved unit learning outcomes and assessment requirements as outlined in Unit Outlines. Project Briefs guide you through the specific areas of work in which you will be engaged in order to produce the work required for assessment and so successfully achieve the unit learning outcomes.

Many courses also employ self and peer evaluation or assessment within their overall assessment processes. Self-evaluation and self-assessment require you to reflect upon your learning and performance and to submit this to tutors. Peer evaluation and peer assessment are used when students have been working in teams and require each team member to reflect upon their peers' performance and to submit this to tutors.

### **Feedback Following Assessment**

Formative assessment is itself a process of feedback on your progress. You are also given feedback on your performance following each summative assessment. This is delivered in accordance with your unit outline and with reference to the NUA Student Agreement. Feedback on assessment performance will be given to you in a written report with opportunities to meet your tutor for further discussion.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRESSION ON THE COURSE**

The general requirements for progression are as follows:

Progression from Year 1 to Year 2 (Honours degree): you must pass all Year 1 units and be awarded 120 credits (FHEQ Level 4)

Progression from Year 2 to Year 3: (Honours degree): you must pass all Year 2 units and be awarded 120 credits (FHEQ Level 5)

If you do not pass a unit at first attempt you will normally be offered at least one further attempt to pass the unit through resubmission. If you do not pass the unit after a resubmission attempt you will not be allowed to progress to the next stage of study and may have your course terminated.

See the University's Student Regulations and Procedures

<http://www.nua.ac.uk/about/information/support/>

If you fail all 120 credits in a year of study you will not normally be offered resubmission opportunity and may have your course terminated, or be required to repeat the year, depending on your circumstances.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A QUALIFICATION**

To qualify for the award of Bachelor of Arts with Honours [BA (Hons)] you must have achieved a pass in all units and be awarded 360 credits.

*If you do not complete your course for any reason, you may qualify for an exit award as follows:*

- Completion of Year 1 – Certificate of Higher Education (120 credits at Level 4 (FHEQ))
- Completion of Year 2 – Diploma of Higher Education (240 credits with 120 credits at Level 5 (FHEQ))
- Partial completion of Year 3 – BA Degree (Unclassified) (300 credits with 60 credits at Level 6 (FHEQ))

## **CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY RESULT IN COURSE TERMINATION**

The University may terminate your place on a course if:

- Your attendance is deemed unsatisfactory;
- You do not meet the requirements for progression as set out in the Student Regulations and Procedures;
- You do not pay the University fees and/or any other required payments in line with our Undergraduate or Postgraduate (Taught) Student Tuition Fees Payment policies;
- You are found to have broken specific course or other regulations about student conduct or anti-social behaviour; or
- You need a visa to study at NUA and have broken the terms and conditions of that visa as set out by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). UKVI is the part of the Home Office responsible for deciding who has the right to visit or stay in the country, including the right to study.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

The University was established as an independent higher education institution under Section 121 of the Education Reform Act 1988, and is a recognised body with taught degree awarding powers. The University is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS). Information about the University's status can be found on the [OfS Register](#) and on the [list of recognised bodies](#) published on the UK Government (GOV.UK) website. The OfS regulatory framework will come fully into force from 1 August 2019. As part of its registration with the OfS the University is required to satisfy a number of conditions that relate to quality and standards. From 1 April 2018 until 31 July 2019 the University will be subject to the OfS Transitional Arrangements.

Prior to 2016, the University was quality assured by the QAA. Read [NUA's latest review](#).

Quality in the University is assured by a number of systems and procedures. Many of these notably those which contribute to annual monitoring work to an annual cycle. Others, such as the Periodic Review of courses, operate over longer timescales. The objectives of the QME systems and procedures are:

1. To enhance the quality of courses and university professional services;
2. To attract a high quality student application and intake;
3. To ensure that the University is a reflective community committed to continuous enhancement;  
and
4. To retain the confidence of key stakeholders, including external accreditors and funding bodies.

**Date of Course Specification: October 2018**