Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Norwich University of the Arts. I hope the information in this leaflet will help you decide if you would like to make an application to join us.

Walk around the campus at Norwich University of the Arts and you will see evidence all around of artists, designers, media producers, makers and innovators at work.

We are one of the great British art schools: a specialist arts, architecture, design and media university that draws on more than 170 years of history but with our focus on the future. We are renowned for our teaching quality. NUA was awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and praised for how we encourage our students through “experimentation, creative risk-taking and team-working.” We were ranked in the UK’s top 10 institutions for teaching quality in the 2018 Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide.

We are also proud of our award-winning campus and facilities. Our 21st century teaching spaces and workshops are housed in renovated buildings with a medieval, Victorian and Edwardian heritage. NUA won the Outstanding Estates Strategy Award at the 2018 Times Higher Leadership and Management Awards, and was a finalist in the Buildings that Inspire category of The Guardian University Awards in the same year.

We welcome diversity. Whatever your background, wherever you are from, you’ll be welcomed as an innovator and leading practitioner in your field. You will join a community of creatives and makers who are committed to delivering expert academic tuition and who are supported by visiting specialists from the creative industries. You will work in a stimulating and critically-engaged environment.

NUA was “highly-rated” in the Which? 2018 Student Survey for “Job Readiness” and 94% of our graduates are in work or further study six months after graduation. You will find them in key positions at leading arts organisations, museums, galleries, fashion and textile houses, design and advertising agencies, UX and game development studios, film and media companies across the globe. There are Oscar and BAFTA winners, and rising stars who are honoured across the creative industries: from D&AD Pencil winners, to acclaimed fine artists, photographers and fashion designers.

We understand that making career choices requires careful consideration. We hope that as you learn about us you will be inspired by our ethos and plans for the future.

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Professor John Last
Vice Chancellor OBE
Our vision is to be the best specialist university for arts, architecture, design and media in Europe, producing graduates of the highest quality. We are a leading contributor to the cultural and economic life of Norwich as well as a distinctive, high quality, nationally recognised, specialist university; a university for the creative industries. Our overriding commitments are to our students, our staff, the quality of teaching, learning, research and scholarship and the quality of our resources.

Our key commitments

Achieving excellence in learning, teaching and the wider student experience, to give our students the best possible preparation for their future lives and careers.

The continuous development of our curriculum and our academic portfolio, to meet the changing needs of students, the creative and cultural sectors and society.

Excellence in research, consultancy and other forms of professional and business engagement, to promote innovation, enterprise and the development of new knowledge and skills.

The development of our staff, estate and physical resources as the bedrock of a professional and supportive academic community, with equality, diversity and environmental sustainability to the fore.

The growth and development of the university, to build the organisation’s long-term sustainability and strengthen our impact.

Stimulating new creative businesses through strengthening our engagement with business through the Ideas Factory.

Establishing our international profile and increasing our recruitment of international students towards 10% of the university’s total population. There need to be opportunities for students and staff to explore the international context and significance of the globalisation of arts, design, architecture and media.
The Senior Management Group

The Strategic Management Group membership comprises the Vice-Chancellor Professor John Last, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Angela Robson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Neil Powell, Dean of Design and Architecture Professor Hilary Carlisle, Dean of Arts and Media Professor Richard Sawdon-Smith and the Academic Registrar Angela Tubb.

Professor John Last OBE, FRSA,
Vice-Chancellor, Norwich University of the Arts

John has been at NUA since 2009, having worked in higher education since 1980. Prior to this, he was Deputy at the Arts University Bournemouth for ten years so has worked in specialist HE for over 25 years. He is currently a Trustee and Vice Chair of GuildHE the representative group for smaller and specialist Universities, Chair of the United Kingdom Arts and Design Institutions Association (UKADIA) and immediate past Chair of the Group for Learning in Art and Design. He was a Board member of HESA for ten years and served for 5 years on the HEA Board and the NSS Steering Group. Within the eastern region John is Chair of the New Anglia LEP Digital Creative Industries group, a committee member for the East Anglian Art Fund and on the Strategic Board for Norfolk for Jobs. He is a Trustee of the Norwich Forum (the charity that runs the city Library and public exhibition space), the Norwich School and the Sapienta Trust. In 2017 John was named regional Business Leader of the Year for the development of NUA and in 2018 he was awarded an OBE for services to higher education.

Angela Robson,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Angela Robson graduated from Exeter in 1982 and then qualified as a Chartered Accountant in London in 1985. On qualifying she moved into investment banking, working for JP Morgan and then Goldman Sachs. In 2003, she left the City to move to Norfolk. She joined NUA in 2005 and is now Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Outside the University she is a Non-Executive Director of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, a trustee of the Theatre Royal Norwich and a Director of the Diocesan Finance Board.

Angela Tubb,
Academic Registrar

Angela Tubb has been the Academic Registrar at NUA since 2008, having worked previously at the University of East Anglia, University for the Creative Arts (as University College for the Creative Arts) and the University of Southampton. Angela is currently responsible for services delivered through NUA’s Academic Registry, Quality Management and Enhancement and Student Support teams, and looks after various areas of compliance including CMA, Data Protection, Tier 4, Prevent and Safeguarding.
Professor Neil Powell, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Professor Neil Powell is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at NUA where he has overall responsibility for the management and operation of undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses. Professor Powell previously held the position of Principal Lecturer in Fine Art at Staffordshire University from 1991-2005 and has taught, examined and been widely involved in academic course reviews in numerous UK, European and international higher education institutions.

Professor Powell continues to engage in research and practice. Studio practice and written reviews and papers continue to be a focus for the work, and exhibitions and papers have received international acclaim, with some texts being translated into a number of languages. His inclusion on UBU, and written reviews for the contemporary Italian arts magazine not apARTheid, continue to provide Professor Powell with the stimulus to continue to research into contemporary and historical practice.

In terms of studio work, Professor Powell continues to produce sculptural objects using a varied range of materials and idioms, from objects through to printed matter. More visible collaborations over the past decade include work with Dr. Michael Corris and Art & Language, (‘The Artist Out of Work’, Museum of Modern Art, New York 2000). Professor Powell has also worked with artists as diverse as Lawrence Weiner, Alfredo Jaar, and the late Ian Hamilton Finlay, whose works formed part of the successful exhibition ‘Spectre at The Feast’, curated by Powell in New York City.

Professor Hilary Carlisle, Dean of Design and Architecture

Professor Hilary Carlisle completed a practice-led PhD in 2004 in which she designed and developed computer software to generate subtly changing non-repeating patterns suitable for digital textile production. Since then, Professor Carlisle has continued to develop algorithms using different software languages including most recently, Processing. Her two current interests lie in investigating small variations in repeating patterns that disrupt and intrigue, and in creating patterns with organic resonance that transcend their digital origins. Professor Carlisle’s work has been exhibited across the UK and cited in articles and books on contemporary textile design. She supervises and examines PhD students within textiles and the wider areas of design, including topics such as the second-hand clothing industry in Korea; the role of the designer educator in developing textiles; and the haptic and scopic qualities of textiles. Professor Carlisle is a member of the Pattern and Chaos group of collaborative, interactive and networking designers, artists, theorists and innovators in education, all of whom are based at Norwich University of the Arts.

Professor Richard Sawdon Smith, Dean of Arts and Media

Professor Richard Sawdon Smith is an internationally exhibiting and award-winning photographer. He is a former winner of the John Kobal/National Portrait Gallery Photographic Portrait Award, a Board Member of The bookRoom Press & Archive, on the Editorial Panel of the Journal of Photography & Culture, a member of the Visual AIDS Archive, and Co-editor of Langford’s Basic Photography and The Book is A Live!. His photographs and writing are widely published. Professor Sawdon Smith’s main research fields and specialisms span photographic self-portraiture; artists representations of their own diseased or damaged body exploring issues of ill health, identity and subjectivity, sexuality and classification; the AIDS body; photography in relation to institutions practices, photographic archives and tattooing; and the artist/photographic book.

The Senior Management Team membership comprises the members of the Strategic Management Group, plus Innovation and Engagement Director Sarah Steed, Director of Human Resources Kate Seeker, Director of External Relations Sarah Hamilton and the Director of Finance Stephen Belderbos.
More than 2,000 students study a wide range of arts, design, architecture and media subjects at all levels from undergraduate to research degrees. Our students are diverse in age, mode of study and educational background. More than 60% of students come from outside the UK’s eastern region and from overseas. In September 2017, NUA launch three new creative science degrees – Interaction Design, User Experience and Games Development – adding to its current course portfolio.
Faculty of Arts and Media
- Animation
- Film and Moving Image Production
- Fine Art
- Games Art and Design
- Games Development
- Photography
- VFX

Faculty of Design and Architecture
- Architecture
- Design for Publishing
- Fashion
- Fashion Communication and Promotion
- Graphic Communication
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Interaction Design
- Interior Design
- Textile Design
- User Experience Design

Postgraduate
- Communication Design
- Curation
- Fashion
- Fine Art
- Games
- Moving Image and Sound
- Photography
- Textile Design

From 2020 Year 0 will be offered on all undergraduate courses
Teaching and learning
NUA has retained the core values of specialist studio-based learning and teaching that has made the UK the leading destination for arts, design and media education in the world. Learning and discovery is developed through specialist studio and workshop practice. Teaching methods include lectures, demonstrations, project briefs, individual and group tutorials, placements, seminar presentations, work-related learning and exhibition practice. We deliver a programme of study that successfully combines studio practice with research, business and professional skills and personal development. All courses work closely with industry. Industry Liaison Groups, consisting of representatives from companies such as Creative Review, Media Molecule, Baby Cow Productions and Wysing Art Centre, meet regularly with course staff at NUA to provide an industry perspective and ensure course content remains current. Links to industry are externally endorsed with Creative Skillset/ScreenSkills course accreditation and we’re also an approved Apple-accredited training centre. Course teams are also supported by Visiting Professors who include animator Keith Chapman, designer Jim Sutherland, photographer Andy Earl, Chief Executive of Film London and the British Film Commission Adrian Wootton, games consultant Gina Jackson, designer Sean Perkins, architect Anthony Hudson and curator Nichola Johnson. The majority of our teaching staff are practising artists, makers and researchers and together with skilled technicians and inclusive learning support services, we are able to bring out the best in our students and help them to achieve their potential.

Research and consultancy
Academic staff are professionally engaged in research and consultancy, activities which are informed by our long history of creative practice and collaboration in the UK and overseas. Research and consultancy embrace work which has national and international significance, together with external commissions, advice and support for business and community projects. 19% of NUA research is recognised as world leading and 36% as internationally excellent (REF 2014). NUA’s research has been judged to be particularly successful in terms of its impact on the broader cultural and economic landscape: 40% has been classified as world leading and 50% as internationally excellent.
Joining our creative academic community
Our graduates help shape the creative landscape: winners of the art and entertainment world’s most prestigious prizes, including Oscar and BAFTA winners. Some are at the height of their careers, others are winning acclaim in their chosen industries just a few years after graduation. Our celebrated alumni include painter Sir Alfred Munnings, Turner Prize nominee Glenn Brown, Bob the Builder creator Keith Chapman, and Rastamouse creator Genevieve Webster. Design graduates have founded some of the most successful agencies in the country, including Hat-Trick and Carter Wong.

www.nua.ac.uk/alumni

STUART CRAIG OBE
Production Designer
Winner of the BAFTA Award for Best Production Design 2017 and nominated at the Academy Awards in 2017, Stuart Craig has designed the sets for all eight Harry Potter films and more recently Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.

BRIAN BOLLAND
Comic Artist
Illustrator of Judge Dredd, 2000AD and Batman: The Killing Joke. Winner of the Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album illustrated by Brian Bolland. (Five times Eisner Award winner for Batman, Animal Man, The Invisibles, Wonder Woman and The Art of Brian Bolland).

JESSICA MILES
Sculptor
Sculptor on Jason deCaires Taylor’s installation The Rising Tide, selected for the Totally Thames 2015 festival.

MARY SINCLAIR GIBSON
DESIGN ASSISTANT, H&M Stockholm
Mary won a place on the one-year graduate training scheme with Karen Millen before being offered a permanent post as a designer at H&M’s head office in Stockholm.

ANITA CLIPSON
Composer and Senior Paint Artist
Anita is a Compositor and Senior Paint Artist at Industrial Light and Magic and Lucasfilm in Vancouver. She has worked on Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Tomorrowland and Jurassic World.

ADAM AVERY
Illustrator
Our city

Norwich sparks with creativity. You'll encounter a flourishing music and cultural scene in one of the UK’s ‘greenest’ cities. An easily walkable city centre houses six theatres, a permanent six-day market, the vintage and independent shops of the ‘Lanes’, two shopping malls and four cinemas. But don't be fooled by the city's medieval architecture; Norwich has a history of rebellion and radicalism, of innovators, creators and makers.

You’ll find the NUA campus in the city's cultural quarter at the centre of a buzzing and diverse social and creative landscape. An ever-growing number of independent galleries, museums, theatres and events, including the oldest international arts festival in the UK, reflect the diversity of creative interests represented in the city. UNESCO named Norwich as England’s first City of Literature in 2012, recognising the city’s celebrated literary tradition, spanning Booker and Nobel prize winners and the new National Writers’ Centre. Norwich has a wealth of independent galleries and internationally renowned public art spaces featuring artists from Rembrandt to Paul Nash; Henry Moore to Antony Gormley. The city is also a thriving hub of creative business and enterprise; home to one of the UK’s most highly concentrated and diversified creative industry clusters (The Geography of Creativity in the UK, NESTA 2016).
The campus is a 10-minute walk from Norwich Train Station and there are regular buses from the city to suburbs and surrounding villages. Trains to London run on the half-hour on a 1hr 50 minute journey to Liverpool Street. A short flight from Norwich International Airport to Amsterdam’s Schiphol connects the city to continental Europe and beyond.

Students ranked Norwich as one of the UK’s best university cities for its creative scene, according to the Which? Student Survey 2018. It’s no wonder Norwich has also been voted one of the best small cities in the world. The city is one of the UK’s safest with a warm and welcoming attitude to its 40,000-strong student population.

Our region
Beyond the city limits, Norfolk is famed for its 90-mile coastline of big skies and stunning beaches. The tranquil waterways of the Norfolk Broads National Park span 120 miles of rivers and lakes – a perfect place to seek inspiration. Green spaces and medieval villages offer historical and architectural interest within easy reach of Norwich.

“Norwich is a thriving city, a contemporary place which has consistently moved ahead in its own distinctive, radical and independent way.”

Stephen Fry
Presenter, Actor and Writer