



Bachelor of Visual Arts



Domestic fee: \$7,742 (first year)

International fee: \$24,050 (first year)

Compulsory student levy >
StudyLink >

*Fees are approximate, subject to change and exchange rates

Location	Dunedin School of Art (P Block, Riego Street - click here for a map)
Duration	Three years full-time
Delivery	On campus

Credits	360
Level	7
Start	February
Apply	Now

Translate your creativity into an art career. Gain experience in a range of specialty subjects and discover where your artistic talent truly lies.

This degree will teach you how to become a creative maker, thinker and active agent in a local, national and global context. A qualification in the Visual Arts will allow you to find employment in a diverse range of professions such as practising artist, curator, art educator or researcher. A variety of roles within the digital and film industries would also be possible.

Gain technical, academic and personal skills which will be transferable to a wide variety of fields including education, design, management and marketing. This qualification provides a perfect bridge into further learning as you select from a range of subjects initially and then move into full specialisation, focusing your talents in your chosen field.

Study art at New Zealand's most established school of art and benefit from the nationally-unique range of workshop facilities and the excellent studio-based teaching. Flourish under the guidance of highly experienced lecturers who have national and international profiles and represent a diverse range of approaches and understandings.

Entry requirements

- > Five years completed at secondary school with successful art units and portfolio OR
- > NCEA Level 3
 - > 14 credits at Level 3 in each of three NZQA approved university entrance subjects, and
 - > 10 Literacy credits at Level 2 or above, made up of:
 - > 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing, and
 - > 10 Numeracy credits at Level 1 or above, made up of:
 - > specified achievement standards available through a range of subjects OR
 - > package of three numeracy unit standards (26623, 26626, 26627- all three required).
- > OR equivalent qualifications and experience.

COVID-19 adjustments to NCEA requirements

- > If you completed your NCEA Level 3 during 2020, you only need 12 credits per Level 3 subject (i.e. a total of 36 credits).
- > If you completed your NCEA Level 3 during 2021, please visit this page on the NZQA website. There are different adjustments depending upon which part of New Zealand you studied in.

- > Mature students with work and life experience are encouraged to apply.
- > All applicants must submit a portfolio (see further information in the Portfolio and writing requirements section below).
- > International students will be individually assessed to ensure they meet degree-level entry requirements and must have achieved the equivalent of Year 13.
- > If English is not your first language, you must provide:
 - > New Zealand University Entrance OR
 - > Overall Academic IELTS 6.0 with no individual band score lower than 5.5 (achieved in one test completed in the last two years), OR
 - > Acceptable alternative evidence of the required IELTS (see here for NZQA proficiency table and here for list of recognised proficiency tests).

If you need to improve your English Language skills, we offer a wide range of English programmes.

Bridging options

The New Zealand Certificate in Arts and Design (Level 4) and New Zealand Certificate in Digital Media and Design (Level 4) provide a great pathway into this degree if you don't hold the entry requirements or have the necessary portfolio.

Portfolio and writing requirements

Portfolio Requirement

We require examples of your artwork and the ways that you develop your ideas. Your examples need to show us your working processes and your ability to use a range of materials.

If you have been working in the NCEA system, please send us twelve (12) examples of your finished works and of your working processes from your folders.

If you have not been working in the NCEA system, please send us six (6) examples of finished work and six (6) pages of sketches or workbook pages.

Please submit your portfolio digitally (2MB file size limit if you are applying online) or in an A4 folder. Please do not submit originals as we do not return application folders.

Writing Requirement

Please include with your portfolio:

1. An essay or written text (at least 300 words). You may include writing produced for any of your NCEA subjects or you may write a new piece on any topic of your choice.
2. A double-spaced letter of not more than one page (300 words) explaining why you want to come to art school and what your experiences of art may have been to date. This may include all or some of the following:
 - > Why art is important to you, the community and the wider world
 - > Your expectations for your own future after your studies
 - > Art galleries you may be familiar with
 - > Artists whose work you may know
 - > Art skills you may have already gained.

Please contact artoffice@op.ac.nz with any further questions.

Additional documentation

You must supply certified copies of proof of identity, academic records, proof of residency (where appropriate) and a curriculum vitae.

Selection procedure

All submissions are viewed by a panel of academic staff and applicants are accepted on merit based on an evaluation of a portfolio of art practice and evidence of academic skills. An interview may be required. Where the number of successful applicants exceeds the places available, a waiting list will be kept and applicants will be offered vacant places in waiting list order.

Additional costs

The cost of materials, on top of those provided, vary according to individual projects.

Further study options

This programme perfectly prepares you for further learning and you may go on to study for a Postgraduate Diploma in Visual Arts, a Master of Fine Arts or a Master of Visual Arts.

Programme specific risks

You will complete Health and Safety checklists for specific hazards in your courses. During your study, you will use a range of technical equipment and chemical substances. If you have known allergies or reactions to materials, please indicate these in your application.

You will study

In the first semester, you will gain experience in each of the studio disciplines listed below. This will be supported by visual arts courses in Studio Methodologies, and Art History and Theory that will introduce you to a range of key skills in art-making and research. In the second semester, you will extend your knowledge in two of these studio areas and continue with Art History and Theory. In the second year, you will specialise in a single studio subject, developing your core skills and techniques, experimenting widely and engaging with critical debates as you move towards more independent learning in your chosen area. You will also continue to study Art History and Theory, and Studio Methodologies. In your final year, you will extend your art practice into a sustained body of work for presentation in a public exhibition. The Studio Research and Professional Methodologies courses provide critical, historical and vocational contexts for the development of your studio project in your final year.

Specialist Studio Disciplines

Study Ceramics

We have the largest ceramics arts department in New Zealand with wood, salt, electric and gas kilns, electric wheels and online research facilities. You will benefit from an emphasis on hands-on experimentation in clay-making workshops which explore ceramics as a medium with its own language, skills and history.

Study Electronic Arts

Specialise in Electronic Arts, which inhabit a constantly shifting location in art and media practice. You may choose to explore 2D and 3D animation, film, installation, electronics, projection and online media and audio/video production. Through the study of contemporary practice, you will engage with media arts and reflect on their historical and contemporary position in the art world.

Study Jewellery and Metalsmithing

Develop your artistic eye and practical skills with the understanding that the fundamental reference for jewellery is the human body. Jewellery uses a visual language based on interaction, communication and contact, and may be expressive and intimate or aggressively provocative. Art, objects and adornment for

the body use an unlimited palette from precious metal recycled materials.

Study Painting

Here is an opportunity to develop your artwork so it is relevant to today's society and to national and international contemporary practice. That is the focus of this specialty, although you will also be encouraged to investigate painting movements and methodologies in recent centuries.

Study Photography

Gain a solid foundation in the practical and theoretical components of black and white, colour and alternative photographic processes. Use and explore a range of equipment and techniques in our well-designed facility. Understand the principles and history of photography as you study different photographic approaches, such as the antiquarian, formalist, documentary, fabricated or manipulated.

Study Print

Our internationally-renowned Printmaking Department is well-established and is one of the leading departments of its kind in New Zealand. You will work and learn in its spacious studios and well-equipped workshops, designed to enable you to study and practice a comprehensive range of printmaking processes and related techniques. Experienced and award-winning staff members monitor these programmes, which help you research, explore and develop creative concepts.

Study Sculpture

Develop a sculptural language through studio workshops focusing on drawing, form and spatial analysis. This department is equipped to international standards with separate workshops for wood, metal and plastics fabrication, a modelling and casting studio and specialist facilities for ceramic shell bronze casting, metal forging, vacuum forming and spray painting.

Study Textiles

Major in textiles in a visual arts context, examining the value of cloth and its relationship to the body, different genders and classes, and material culture. The field of textile practice can encompass many approaches such as sculptural, 2D and site-specific artworks. We specialise in construction and a variety of print processes such as screen-print methodologies using pigment ink, dye, discharge and burnout applications, manual and digital embroidery and 3D sewing.

Your workload

A full-time programme entails five full working days (or the equivalent) for 32 weeks. Studios are open for extended hours for senior students.

Qualification structure

Bachelor of Visual Arts	Level	Credit
YEAR ONE		
Studio Methodologies 1	5	15
Art History and Theory 1	5	15
Introduction to Studio Practices 1	5	15
Introduction to Studio Practices 2	5	15
Studio Methodologies 2	5	15
Art History and Theory 2	5	15
Studio Practice 1	5	15
Studio Practice 2	5	15
Year One Total		120

YEAR TWO		
Studio Methodologies 3	6	15
Art History and Theory 3	6	15
Studio Practice 3	6	45
Studio Practice 4	6	45
Year Two Total		120
YEAR THREE		
Studio Research	7	15
Studio Practice 5	7	45
Studio Practice 6	7	45
Professional Methodologies	7	15
Year Three Total		120
Programme Total		360
STUDIO DISCIPLINE AREAS		
Visual Arts Core Studio - Ceramics	5	
Visual Arts Core Studio - Electronic Arts	5	
Visual Arts Core Studio - Jewellery and Metalsmithing	5	
Visual Arts Core Studio - Painting	5	
Visual Arts Core Studio - Photography	5	
Visual Arts Core Studio - Printmaking	5	
Visual Arts Core Studio - Sculpture	5	
Visual Arts Core Studio - Textiles	5	

Recognition of prior learning

If you have extensive knowledge and skills due to practical experience in this area, enquire about our recognition of prior learning process at Capable NZ. You may have already gained credits towards this qualification.

Disclaimer

While every effort is made to ensure that this sheet is accurate, Otago Polytechnic reserves the right to amend, alter or withdraw any of the contained information. The fees shown in this document are indicative ONLY. Both domestic and international fees are subject to change and are dependent on the development and implementation of Government policies. Please note that additional fees may from time to time be required for external examination, NZQA fees and/or additional material fees.

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