

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COURSE

## BA (HONS) GAME ART

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our Game Art degree is a practical skills-based course tailored to meet the demands of creating professional art and assets for the games industry. All our staff are active within the industry and teach students the skills that they'll need to gain employment after graduating. The course utilises a mix of lectures, hands-on workshops, tutorial classes, and practical exercises, to give our students a rounded education in the creative arts.

We start by focusing on your existing traditional artistic abilities, covering areas such as still life, life drawing and other observational art, including essential concepts such as proportion, anatomy, and composition. This involves classes, projects, lectures, and field trips and helps you to develop these non-digital aspects of your creative work.

At the same time, we start to bring your work into the digital realm, working with industry standard hardware and software. You will explore 2D concept art, 2D design, 3D art, Digital sculpting, digital painting, and game engines which including lighting.

There is a heavy emphasis on professional workflows, collaborative feedback and foundational knowledge, this programme covers a wide range of subjects from fundamentals such as drawing, perspective, shape language, colour theory digital painting and 3D modelling, to complex subjects such as anatomical sculpting, PBR texturing, game engine integration and transferable skills such as self-promotion, networking, and C.V. writing.

By the time you reach your third year, you will be ready for the challenge of your honours project. You will work with your tutor to define a project that will make the most of the abilities you have developed, while keeping it focussed on the career and specialisms that you hope to pursue

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for this course, you will require 104-120 UCAS points.

This could be gained via a number of qualifications, for example:



- BCC or above at A2 Level
- DMM or above at Extended Diploma Level
- M or above at UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma Level
- A proven interest in this area

If you're unsure how many points you have you can use the [UCAS tariff calculator](#).

Remember that qualifications such as Graded Examinations in Music Performance and Arts Award (Gold) can also count towards your UCAS points – check the tariff calculator!

All applicants are expected to have at least a Level 4 or grade 'C' in GCSEs Maths and English Language or equivalent. Non-UK applicants will need to have an English Language qualification at International Level B2 or higher, such as an IELTS of 6.0 or better (with no component below 5.5). Students with equivalent qualifications will also be accepted.

If your application is successful, you will be invited to an interview where you will have the opportunity to talk about your work, influences and interests. A guide will be sent with your interview details to help you prepare for your interview. Ideal applicants will have a keen interest in art, design, and video games. You will be asked to bring any relevant examples of work with you, in the form of a portfolio. The portfolio is required for this course and applications will not be considered without the provision of a portfolio.

## MODULES (CREDITS)

### YEAR 1

**Art Fundamentals** (40 credits) – an introduction to the fundamentals of applied artistic knowledge, covering core principles such as form and volume, perspective, figure, gesture, light, and colour, alongside observational and life drawing workshops.

**Introduction to 3D Modelling for Games** (40 credits) – designed to introduce you to basic modelling techniques with an industry-standard 3D modelling package and familiarise you with 3D modelling workflows. It aims to provide a solid foundation of game engine ready asset creation and enable you to create a portfolio of 3D modelled work.

**Visual Design 1** (20 credits) – this focuses on the foundational concepts of design, analysis successful practices, the theories behind good design, shape language, environmental design, character design and prop design which are all used in the creation of concept art. Framing the learning around constant iteration and development of ideas, formulating good design ideas and peer to peer feedback.

**Historical Contextual Studies** (20 credits) – This module encourages students to engage with the history of their mediums, with a chronological study of the history of art and their movements (placing the techniques they are learning against the backdrop of their historical development) and



how these movements have influenced the visuals of games. Key skills like writing, research, referencing, and presentation skills are also developed.

## YEAR 2

**3D Character Art** (40 credits) – you will explore the forms of the human body, familiarising yourselves with the creation of a character through digital sculpting, detailing, retopologising, baking and texturing phases. This both strengthens the core understanding of anatomy as well as enriches the appreciation of how the production pipeline works.

**3D Environment Art** (40 credits) – enhance your practical skills in 3D modelling and texturing software and analyse the process for preparing game art assets for use within a game engine. You will construct a level using a game engine, incorporating modular modelling, trim sheets and PBR (physics-based rendering) texturing.

**Visual Design 2** (20 credits) – this module expands your visual design skills and introduces more advanced levels of concept design methodology and theory as well as allowing students to specialise in their chosen field within the realm of visual design and concept art.

**Contemporary Contextual Studies** (20 credits) – an introduction to key concepts, cultural issues, and contexts that support both workshop and studio practice as well as professional game art practice. It will explore the development of the game art practitioner and analyse the influences of design practitioners, enabling you to develop a range of cognitive skills including research, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

## YEAR 3

**Honours Project** (40 credits) – your chance to develop your specialism, working on a project you design in collaboration with the module lead.

**Game Engine Project** (40 credits) – to prepare you for a career in game art by developing your ability to employ professional technical art practices and procedures. It enhances your skills through the creation of a unified body of work that showcases a professional understanding of the technical art pipeline and promotes the development of work from original conception to completion using an industry-standard game engine, encouraging exploration to formulate workflows that solve art pipeline problems related to a proposed brief.

**Visual Design 3** (20 credits) – This module aims to investigate and evaluate game art created by contemporary artists, building upon your visual design skills through the creation of a professional 2D game art portfolio. It enables you to create your own project briefs that are appropriate for and complement your chosen specialism and provides an opportunity to prepare portfolios in readiness for job interviews for game art roles within the industry.



**Personal & Professional Development** (20 credits) – a module focusing on getting you a job: everything from CVs, websites, showreels and portfolios, to how and where to network, interview practice and how to find work as a freelancer

## WHAT ARE CREDITS?

As a guide, 20 credits typically represents around 52 hours of tutor contact time (e.g. lectures/workshops/feedback) and 148 hours of self-study time (usually over the course of a semester). These numbers may increase or decrease depending on the nature, length and level of the module, especially towards the end of the course.

## LOCATION OF DELIVERY

Your primary location of study will be at our Riverside Campus, which is located on New Bailey Street in Manchester. As part of your course, some of your lessons may take place at our Futureworks Studios facility located in MediaCityUK, a few miles from the city centre.

## TEACHING STAFF

Futureworks recognises that the skills, competencies and contribution of its staff are vital to the delivery of high-quality Higher Education. All programmes are managed by a dedicated Programme Leader and team of experienced tutors, and our excellent links with industry employers mean you'll have access to exciting guest lectures and fantastic opportunities to gain experience on real-world projects.

## METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

We want to do everything we can to prepare you for working within the creative industries, and this is reflected in the way we teach and assess you. The programme is mostly coursework based, which means your tutors will be able to give you regular, constructive feedback. Presentation techniques will give you valuable experience of how to present your thoughts and ideas successfully and enthusiastically, so you are better at selling your ideas to prospective employers.

The written work is an important part of assessment and will improve your communication skills. A combination of lectures, tutorials, peer reviews, discussions and observations will ensure that you're industry ready. External trips will present you with a wider range of topics and the opportunity to expand your portfolio, whilst guest speakers will help you to understand the world of games, how it works and how you can make your mark on it.

The principal methods of assessment will be:

Essays

Presentations, individual and group

Sketchbooks

Interactive Game Levels

Projects



Project Plans  
Portfolios  
2D and 3D game assets  
Timed examinations  
Personal Development Plans  
Reflective journals  
Digital Showreels

The centrality of vocational skills throughout the programme results in all assessments being directly or indirectly related to employability and personal development.

Formative assessment supported by tutor feedback will be employed throughout the programme.

## COURSE DETAILS

**Award to be received on successful completion:** BA (Hons) Game Art

**Length of course:** 3 YEARS (FULL TIME)

**Regulator:** Office for Students ([OfS](#))

**Awarding Institution:** University of Central Lancashire

## FEES / COSTS

### TUITION FEES

Home Students: £9,535 per year

International Students: £17,000 per year

You may be eligible to apply for a student loan from Student Finance. Please see our [Tuition Fees](#) page for more information.

### EQUIPMENT & ACTIVITIES

We provide PCs to work on onsite, with Cintiqs, Wacom tablets and digital camera capture stations; all of which can be signed out from facilities. We have onsite licenses for Toonboom Storyboard Pro, Adobe Creative Cloud and TV Paint that means students can use them on campus.

You may find it beneficial to invest in additional equipment and/or study resources to support your learning. Example costs are:

- Pens, pencils and notebooks: around £50



- Adobe Creative Suite license (for home use): £16.24 per month (with student discount)
- Graphics tablet (for home use) -£80 upwards depending on size and model
- Portable HD or SSD - £40 upwards depending on size
- Maya/Substance package - free but requires sign up

At Level 6 there may be an opportunity to visit Cloud Imperium Games (subject to availability). This trip is at no additional cost.

