

Your Degree in Art...What Next?

What skills have I gained from my Art degree?

A degree in Art aims to instill personal creativity and individualism. Graduates will be proficient in integrating practical, theoretical and conceptual knowledge of fine art practices, evaluating their own work in context and demonstrating mastery of their chosen medium. Graduates are motivated by wanting to create a living by what they love doing.

Core skills gained from an Art degree include:

Technical Skills	Non-technical “Soft” Skills
Mastery of Artistic Media	Self-motivation & self-management
Diagnostic & Creative Skills	Attention to Detail
Decision-making	Collaboration
Budgeting (both personal & professional domains)	Responsibility
Evaluation & Critique,	Communication & Interpersonal
Negotiation Skills	Imagination

Other desirable qualities, characteristics required for employment in the Art sector:

- A passion for Art in several forms.
- Provide Creative ideas
- Individualism
- Ability to network.
- Self-directed learning and work.
- Adventure & Curiosity
- Commitment & Resourcefulness
- High self-esteem and personal focus.
- Problem-solving & lateral thinking
- Project management, Organisational and time-management skills.
- Awareness of governmental financial and career supports e.g. The Arts Council.

What can I do with my Art degree?

On graduating from an Art degree, graduates are equipped with both technical and specialised skills, as well as transferable skills that are marketable in other environments. Ideally, final year is spent researching further training and career options for either **graduate employment** or **further study**.

Fine Art

Fine Art offers a series of very varied career paths. Fine Art students have well developed skills in problem solving, and the course aims to instill individualism and independence. While some students build careers as professional practicing artists (and Crawford students are among the top artists in Ireland today) there are many professional careers to be forged in the art world, including roles in art galleries and museums, critical writing, theatre, film, teaching, facilitating as technicians and craft assistants, that are suited to fine art graduates.

Ceramic Design

Careers in Ceramic Design are focused primarily on ceramic and pottery production. Individualism, independence and problem solving are well developed skills in the Ceramic Design student. Some students build careers as practicing ceramists and designers, and Crawford students are among the top practitioners in Ireland today. Other careers include teaching, multi-media and crafts, and students may find employment in art criticism, as exhibition curators and art handlers, in commercial potteries, and as technicians and craft assistants.

Graduate Employment

Potential Careers - There is a wide variety of career opportunities across a range of art industries from working as an Artist, creating unique artefacts for exhibition and commission, art professional within museums and galleries, to running workshops, Arts Education, Arts Admin & Management, Curation, Art Therapy, Community Arts, and Art Criticism, and/or further study at Master's level.

- Self-Employed Practicing Artist

- ***Funding***

For self-employed practicing artists, the Arts Council of Ireland is the body charged with allocating governmental finances in this sector. It acts in partnership with the arts, providing advice and financial support to artists in all domains, and as an advocacy body for continued governmental and private funding.

There is recognition by the Arts Council that due to current economic times that public funding is more difficult to acquire, though they intend to continue to provide these social and financial supports to artists over the coming years.

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

- Cork Co Council also provide some funding and grants for various art projects.

<http://www.corkcoco.ie/co/web/search>

- Visual Artists Ireland www.visualartists.ie

Visual Artists Ireland is an all-Ireland body for professional visual artists. It provides services, facilities and resources for artists, initiates artistic publications and acts as an advocate on behalf of individual artists. Information on Internships.

In addition, there are European funds available to artists and organisations seeking to enhance common cultural heritage through a variety of media. These are non-profit funds, though organisations such as Rehab and the Pan Pan Theatre have successfully implemented programmes and events funded by this the Cultural Contact Point (CCP)

<http://www.ccp.ie/>

- Photography
- Broadcast, Film & Interactive Media – encompasses TV, radio, film, private production companies, web and internet services, multimedia and computer games at all levels from animation to acting and directing.
- Creative & Cultural Arts – includes crafts, cultural heritage, design, music, performing, literary and visual arts.
- Advertising – involves the promotion and management of any brand including; companies, individuals, products and services.
 - Main jobs include Advertising Account Executive, Copywriter and Campaign Designer / Planner
 - Employers include; Advertising Agencies: Southern Cork Agency, Dublin Advertising Agency, RedFly LTD., AOC Marketing Ltd., Bullseye Food Marketing Ltd...
- Fashion
- Journalism & Art Critique
- Setting up Artist Studio Facilities & Workshops – i.e. sculpture factory, backwater artists group on Wandsford Quay in Cork, print workshop, etc...
- Exhibition Organiser
- Art Handler
- Art/Craft Technician
- Craft Assistant
- Portfolio Worker
- Arts Administrator/Manager – supports artistic activity, including the presentation, exhibition or preservation of cultural forms in the performing, visual and heritage arts. Functions range from marketing and booking, to finance, sales, marketing, building maintenance and insurance matters.
- Art Therapist – works with people who suffer mental/physical illness, emotional and learning difficulties, stress and trauma, enabling clients to cope and even change through the use of art. *(See Post Grad study below)*
- Community Arts Worker – works with communities to improve their quality of life using a variety of art forms to explore relevant issues. Community arts workers generally work in areas where there are social, cultural or environmental issues.

- Museum/Art Gallery Curator – acquires, cares for, develops, displays and interprets a collection of artefacts or works of art in order to inform, educate and entertain the public. The role also includes PR, fundraising, handling enquiries, education and access activities.
- Museum Assistant – works in museum settings, deals with museum clients both public and professional.
- Designer – collaborative or employed roles with fashion/textiles/industrial design.
- Animator/Illustrator
- Multimedia Specialist – combines design and technical knowledge to create information and communication technology (ICT) based products, such as CD ROMs, DVDs and websites. Typical outputs include entertainment products; education and training materials; marketing materials; catalogue databases; and public information resources.
 - Employers include; Media & Marketing Consultants: Fuzion, Finn Media Ltd., Fuse, Alternatives...
- Art Teacher – teach art or design, craft, or technology as part of the national curriculum. (*See Post Grad study below.*)

What to do with a Fine Art Degree...

Fine art graduates split off into a broad range of career directions, from teaching to management to media and advertising.

Finding jobs in this sector is not straightforward. Short-term possibilities are available on a competitive basis and are a means of becoming established. Roles include artist in residence, developing art-related activities in schools, hospitals and prisons, or bidding for fixed-term funding to carry out a particular project or commission. Many fine artists produce and market their own work.

You can diversify by taking extra courses in art-related disciplines, such as graphics, or teaching, or become a 'portfolio' worker who holds down several jobs to support their creative work.

Fine art graduates may also apply for mainstream graduate jobs and training in a wide range of industries, such as banking, insurance, media and public relations.

What skills have you gained?

First and foremost you should have begun accumulating a hefty portfolio of work with which to showcase your technical and creative talents. The theoretical side of your degree should enable you to put your work into proper context, explaining your influences, the reasoning behind your choice of subjects and why you used certain materials.

Art is often a solitary pursuit so you should also have a good idea of how to motivate yourself and research ideas, materials and equipment.

What jobs can you do?

Fine art graduates often specialise in a particular form of art such as painting, drawing, installations, sculpture or printmaking but finding regular work or a permanent job as an artist is not easy and for

some, self-employment, short-term residencies or commissions are the main career opportunities. It can take time to establish yourself as an artist while building up a credible portfolio.

The creative arts sector has more to offer though and roles in art galleries and museums, theatre, film and crafts would be suited to fine art graduates.

In business, the artistic flair of fine art graduates is also recognised in roles where the visual image is paramount, such as advertising and marketing, exhibition design, publishing and illustrating.

Teaching, art therapy and working for community arts projects offer more socially and educationally focused careers, plus arts administration and management would give an alternative perspective to the arts.

Work Experience

Start building up a portfolio of work while you are still an undergraduate. This should contain examples of your own ideas rather than just course work. In addition, enter as many competitions and exhibitions as possible and begin to get your work known.

Also try and network, making contacts who may be able to offer (or help you secure) commissions. If friends or family ask you to produce work for them, this can be included in your portfolio and in the list of commissions on your CV.

Voluntary work with, for example community art initiatives, can likewise be valuable. You may also be able to find paid art-related employment while studying, through projects at summer camps and activity centres for young people.

Postgraduate Study

- www.postgradireland.com for courses in Ireland
- www.prospects.ac.uk for courses in the UK.

Gaining a postgraduate qualification brings with it many benefits. It enables you to gain further, more specialised knowledge in your field of study. It can give you a specific technical, vocational or professional qualification and facilitate you in developing a range of key skills including; research, analysis, evaluation and written communication.

For further information, go to the 'Further/Postgraduate Study' link on the Students page of our website; <http://www.mycit.ie/careers>. Or see www.qualifax.ie.

Fine art graduates may move on to a Masters in different creative subjects, such as illustration or art conservation, if their portfolio demonstrates an aptitude for this. Other MAs provide grounding in related areas, such as arts management, history of art and art therapy.

Some examples of Post Grad courses:

- ***PME Professional Masters in Education (Art & Design) – NCAD, (TEACHING)***
<http://www.ncad.ie/postgraduate/school-of-education/professional-masters-in-education-art-design/>

The Professional Master of Education (PME) is a two-year master's programme which leads to a professional qualification to teach Art and Design at second level. The award is accredited by the Teaching Council of Ireland.

- **Masters Stage Design, Trinity**
- **Masters Art Therapy, CIT, Crawford**

Further Resources

Gradireland publications – Available at the Careers Service or download a copy of the relevant sector publications from www.gradireland.com

For career opportunities in the UK see www.targetjobs.co.uk

The TARGETjobs publication and TARGETjobs magazines are available from the Careers Service or download a copy from www.targetjobs.co.uk

Tip: If you are unsure about what direction to take after your degree, the gradireland Careers Report is a useful tool for matching your personal information and preferences to potential careers. Log on and register at www.gradireland.com to use the report.

Tip: If you want to find out more information about what is involved in any of the job titles listed in this document, check out the *A to Z Occupation List* on www.careersportal.ie.

Useful Websites

www.creativecareers.ie

Links to jobs, creative spaces for rent/hire, intern and volunteer opportunities and training. Also has an excellent links page, providing a list of resources divided by heading for further research.

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/> provides career information, entitlements and career tools for young people in the UK.

<http://artsmanagement.ie>

Has a weekly blog on art related issues, and also lists available jobs in the area.

www.vaireland.org

Voluntary Arts Ireland, a body that seeks to promote involvement in voluntary art, particularly cross-border.

Job vacancies for the organization are also advertised here.

<http://www.create-ireland.ie> Website of Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts, linking artists with each other and with the community.

www.arts.ac.uk Careers and info for graduates.

<http://visualartists.ie/category/jobs-ops/> Jobs in UK

<https://ccskills.org.uk/> Apprenticeships and Career Info UK