

# Art Academy

**Student Handbook for Open University Validated  
Undergraduate programmes**

Academic Year 2025/26

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This Student Handbook along with the Programme Handbook and the Student Terms & Conditions together make up your contract with the Art Academy and you are bound by all of the regulations and policies contained or signposted within them.

Large print versions of this document are available on request

# 1. Welcome and introduction

Welcome to the Art Academy (formerly Art Academy London). We are an independent art school and registered charity founded in 2000 and based in Southwark, central London. We began life as the Sculpture Academy in response to a (perceived) gap in skills-based teaching in art education, providing sculpture training in an atelier style.

We have grown and evolved since then. The Art Academy has developed into a dynamic artistic community which has reinvented the contemporary art school by going back to basics, putting the skills tuition that other institutions have long since rejected, at the heart of what we do. We want to offer you the very best fine art education, as well as providing you with a learning environment where you will feel safe and happy, and so find the confidence to become the best artist you can be.

Our guiding belief is in the value of art education and its transformational power. We all benefit from the unlocking of individual creative potential and its positive impact on personal wellbeing, societal development and economic health.

We offer tuition in a wide range of artistic skills from oil painting or clay moulding to digital media or installation, whilst at the same time challenging you to develop your own creative practice and academic knowledge.

This **Student Handbook** tells you all you need to know about the organisation, staff and facilities here at the Academy to support you in your studies, including student welfare, student participation, health and safety and other key Academy policies. (The majority of Academy policies can be viewed via the [website](#)). Your **Programme Handbook** provides you with more information about your course structure and academic study programme. We hope you will find here, and in the Programme Handbook, most of what you need, and you can find more information on our Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle, once you've been inducted in its use. But remember we are a relatively small art school and our staff and tutors are very approachable, so please ask if there is something about the Academy or your studies you need to know, or simply want to talk about.

My staff and I wish you every success in your studies here.

Rob Pepper  
Principal

## 2. Student Charter

### *As an Art Academy student I will...*

- Attend sessions regularly and punctually with a respectful and professional attitude;
- Take responsibility for finding out about study requirements including deadlines, expected levels of attendance and engagement and academic regulations;
- Share my knowledge and opinions; participate in the culture of open communication and ask for help when I need it;
- Treat fellow students, tutors and staff members and the Academy environment with consideration and respect;
- Be creative and enthusiastic, take part in new things and approach tasks with a positive mindset;
- Join in! Ask questions and show an interest in other people's work. Feedback and development of work comes from the whole community and it's essential that we all take part in that;
- Work to the best of my ability with passion;
- Provide honest feedback to help future Academy developments;
- Take responsibility for my own learning;
- Maintain positive lines of communication with Academy staff including keeping current contact details up to date;
- If I pay fees or have a student loan for my studies, make myself familiar with my financial commitment to the Academy.

### *The Art Academy will...*

- Welcome you to its close-knit, vibrant artistic community and support you to become the best artist you can be;
- Provide high quality learning and teaching experiences from tutors who are professional artists eminent in their fields;
- Ensure tutors and staff maintain a high level of professionalism;
- Respond to prospective and current students queries and communicate important information (e.g. key dates) in an appropriate and clear time frame;
- Aim to ensure that our tutors and staff members communicate effectively so that students receive consistent information and feedback;
- Get to know you as an individual in order to ensure your journey through the Academy is best suited to your needs, aptitudes and interest;
- Provide a safe, accessible and stimulating learning environment, where you feel able to take risks, experiment and make mistakes;
- Create opportunities for you to gain employability skills and research and prepare for your future;
- Provide information on work related opportunities alongside studies;
- Respond appropriately to student feedback and make sure students are represented on Academy boards and committees;
- Clearly describe and explain course and programme requirements and marking criteria;
- Maintain a high standard of facilities and support services and good access to industry standard equipment and resources;
- Be clear about course costs (including additional material costs) and promote available financial support;
- Advertise what information, support and advice is available at the Academy and locally;
- Actively promote students and their work.

### ***The Student Council will...***

- Create a vibrant community through a varied and student inspired social calendar;
- Facilitate discussion between students and Academy staff and support students in raising concerns through Student Forum Meetings;
- Represent students at relevant Academy committees and meetings.

## **3. Staff**

### **Executive team**

Rob Pepper	Principal	<a href="mailto:rob@artacademy.ac.uk">rob@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Sue Spaul	Director of Programmes	<a href="mailto:sue@artacademy.ac.uk">sue@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Geof Thompson	Director of Operations	<a href="mailto:geof@artacademy.ac.uk">geof@artacademy.ac.uk</a>

TBC	Commercial Director	TBC
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The Executive Team has responsibility for the strategic management of the Art Academy, working with the Board of Trustees and Academic Board. The Principal, Rob Pepper, has overall responsibility for all aspects of the Academy's work. Rob is on campus for two or three days a week and can be contacted by email (or phone via the office) on the days he's not in. The Director of Programmes, Sue Spaul, is on campus two days a week and usually teaches on a third day. Sue has overall responsibility for academic affairs at the Academy and heads the team of Programme/ Department Leaders. She also has overall responsibility for student welfare. She can generally be contacted by email (or phone via the office) on the days she's not in. Sue deputises for the Principal as necessary. The Director of Operations, Geof, has overall responsibility for the buildings, facilities and HR. He is on site three days a week and can be contacted by phone or email. The Commercial Director will oversee the Academy's commercial activities including event hire, gallery hire and the shop.

Members of the Executive Team are available to speak to students at any time (subject to their working hours) during office hours (9am-5pm), when they can also be contacted on **020 7407 6969**.

### **Academic team**

Sue Spaul	Director of Programmes	<a href="mailto:sue@artacademy.ac.uk">sue@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Aimee Briggshaw	Admissions & Student Services Manager	<a href="mailto:admissions@artacademy.ac.uk">admissions@artacademy.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:aimee@artacademy.ac.uk">aimee@artacademy.ac.uk</a>

Thomas Groves	Quality Manager	<a href="mailto:thomas@artacademy.ac.uk">thomas@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
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Paulo Sallis	Academic Systems & Support Coordinator	<a href="mailto:paulo@artacademy.ac.uk">paulo@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
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The Academic Team is responsible for the day-to-day organisation and running of all academic programmes. Most members of this team are full time, both during term time and during most holiday periods. The team works closely with the Programme and Department Leaders and Tutors to ensure the smooth running of your programme, that all students are happy, safe and making progress in their studies. Aimee, the Admissions & Student Services Manager, looks after the admissions process and oversees all student services, leading on pastoral and wellbeing for students. She is also available to students for general enquiries and pastoral support. Paulo the Academic Systems & Support Coordinator is available to students and tutors for general enquiries and IT and systems support. The Quality Manager ensures that our programmes meet national standards and works with Sue to complete programme timetables and the team to maintain student records. The Quality Manager is the person to speak to about academic regulations, policies and assessment procedures and results.

Members of the Academic Team are available to speak to students at any time during office hours (9am-5pm), when they can also be contacted on **020 7407 6969**.

### Key Academic Staff (programme delivery)

Alison Hand	BA Fine Art Programme Leader	<a href="mailto:alison.hand@artacademy.ac.uk">alison.hand@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Sadie Lee	BA Contemporary Portraiture Programme Leader	<a href="mailto:sadie.lee@artacademy.ac.uk">sadie.lee@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Sarah Charalambides	Critical & Contextual Studies Department Leader	<a href="mailto:sarah.charalambides@artacademy.ac.uk">sarah.charalambides@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Briony Marshall	Professional Development Department Leader Figurative Sculpture Lead	<a href="mailto:briony.marshall@artacademy.ac.uk">briony.marshall@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Lynn Dennison	Foundation Programme Leader	<a href="mailto:lynn.dennison@artacademy.ac.uk">lynn.dennison@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Alice Clarke	SEND Coordinator	<a href="mailto:alice.clarke@artacademy.ac.uk">alice.clarke@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Temsu Longkumer	Print Lead	<a href="mailto:temsu.longkumer@artacademy.ac.uk">temsu.longkumer@artacademy.ac.uk</a>

All the teaching staff at the Academy are practising artists, and therefore don't work full time at the Academy. Key academic staff such as programme leaders are usually in at least two days a week during term time. Key teaching staff are directly contactable by email. You will also be taught by a number of staff in Elective Skills Workshops who may only be in for their teaching days - one day a week for one or more terms during the year. Should you need to contact these tutors, the Academic Team can contact

them on your behalf.

## Support & Office Staff

Emily Barnes	Office & Facilities Manager	<a href="mailto:emily@artacademy.ac.uk">emily@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Angelica Fitzmaurice	Head Technician	<a href="mailto:angelica@artacademy.ac.uk">angelica@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Felipe Marinho	Studio Technician (Daytime)	<a href="mailto:felipe@artacademy.ac.uk">felipe@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Andrius Falkauskas	Studio Technician	<a href="mailto:technician@artacademy.ac.uk">technician@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
TBC	Digital Technician	TBC
Jonny Cope	Wood & Metal Technician	<a href="mailto:jonny@artacademy.ac.uk">jonny@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Deborah Somoye	Receptionist	<a href="mailto:deborah@artacademy.ac.uk">deborah@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Shaesta Mallick	Gallery & Events Coordinator	<a href="mailto:shaesta@artacademy.ac.uk">shaesta@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Ernestine Chua	Multimedia Design Coordinator	<a href="mailto:ernestine@artacademy.ac.uk">ernestine@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Irfaan Shaikh	Finance Lead	<a href="mailto:irfaan@artacademy.ac.uk">irfaan@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Aleksandra Olchovic	Assistant Financial Accountant	<a href="mailto:aleksandra@artacademy.ac.uk">aleksandra@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Alison Cowling	Short Course Manager	<a href="mailto:alison@artacademy.ac.uk">alison@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Will MacKeggie	Short Course Coordinator	<a href="mailto:will@artacademy.ac.uk">will@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Ellie Day	Short Course Coordinator	<a href="mailto:ellie@artacademy.ac.uk">ellie@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Lisa Hopwood	Evening & Weekend Duty Officer	<a href="mailto:info@artacademy.ac.uk">info@artacademy.ac.uk</a>
Shreeti Visrolia	Evening & Weekend Duty Officer	<a href="mailto:info@artacademy.ac.uk">info@artacademy.ac.uk</a>

Most support and office staff are full time. The main offices are in the Academy's Bankside campus (main building). You will have interactions with most of them throughout your time here at the Academy.

The Office & Facilities Manager and Head Technician work with the Director of Operations to ensure our buildings are maintained and Health & Safety and Fire regulations are observed. The Head Technician also works with the Studio Technicians to ensure that you have all the facilities and resources you need. Again, all have open-door policies for students. You will probably have most dealings with the Head Technician and the Studio Technicians who you will be able to go to with day-to-day resource and facilities issues. The (on duty) Studio Technician also has a mobile phone, the number for which can be found on notices around the Academy buildings, should you need to contact them when they are not in the office.

The Digital technician looks after the digital facilities and provides IT support to students. You will need to go to them to get access to digital equipment, facilities and support. They are part time. They are available to give advice and support to students in the digital suite during open access sessions (which coincide with the studio practice sessions). They are also on hand to help students install work for the graduate shows.

The Wood & Metal Technician runs the open access sessions in the workshop, supporting students. Open Access coincides with studio practice sessions. They are also on hand to help students install work for assessment days and the graduate shows.

The Short Course Manager, and the Short Course Coordinators, organise and run all of the evening, weekend and short courses at the Academy. As an academic student at the Academy, you are entitled to free places on these courses (subject to availability and some other conditions). You will need to speak to this team in order to book a place on a short course.

Our Multimedia Design Coordinator will be there to assist you in marketing and organising your graduate exhibition, and may be able to give you advice in relation to other exhibitions and events you organise whilst at the Academy. They may also contact students from time to time if they need to photograph artwork for publicity purposes, or put together information relating to news stories about the Academy.

The Events & Gallery Coordinator, looks after our corporate clients and the gallery.

The Assistant Financial Accountant works with the Finance Lead. As an Academic student you may need to speak to Aleksandra about your tuition (and other) fees payment. She is in the office every morning (until 1pm) and can be contacted by phone and email.

Mermaid Court is looked after by the Academic Team or the receptionist/ aDuty Officer  
The Evening & Weekend Duty officers are responsible for the security of the building outside of office hours (9-5) when public programmes are running. You can find them at the reception of each building.

Support and office staff can also be contacted on 020 7407 6969 during office hours (9am-5pm).

## **4. Student support, guidance and advice**

The provision of a high level of support and guidance is an integral part of the Art Academy's ethos, designed to help you from your first enquiry to the completion of your studies. The small scale of the Academy facilitates the provision of student support, fostering a close community of staff and students where students feel safe, are known to staff members, and are easily able to seek advice and guidance from a variety of different people.

### **VLE**

The Academy operates a Virtual Learning Environment, which will be central to your time here and will enable you to take control of your own learning, access all the information you need about the Academy (such as policies and procedures) and about module and programme learning materials. All students are fully inducted into Moodle and a handy user guide is available on the homepage.

***The home page contains Academy-wide information relating to all students:***

- Student representative and student council information
- Elective skills workshop overviews and information sheets (during the enrolment periods)
- Internal competition application forms
- Public Course reserve form
- Moodle user guides



- GDrive/ email user guides
- Link to the dyslexia screening programme
- Weekly Monday bulletin (students also receive this by email)
- Academy wide announcements (students also receive these by email)

***The academic resources and support section contains Academy-wide information relating to all students:***

- Staff structure overview and contact details
- Advice, guidance and support information
- OU academic regulations
- All relevant policy and procedure documents and associated forms
- Art Academy wiki
- Digital suite information and resources
- Library catalogues, resources and information
- Study skills resources
- Useful study skills resources
- Resources and information relating to Health & Safety and facilities
- Moodle help
- Wellbeing resources and contacts
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion information
- SEND support
- Minutes of Boards and Committees
- External Examiner reports

***You have a dashboard/homepage through which you are able to access:***

- Main programme Moodle course page
- Elective Skills workshop Moodle course pages
- Induction related information

***The tutorials section allows you to access:***

- PAT schedules and information
- Booking form for PATs
- Information on artistic tutorials
- Booking form for artistic tutorials

***Main academic programme Moodle courses allow you to access:***

- Programme Handbook
- Student Handbook
- Studio practice module specifications
- Module assignment briefs, timetables and schedules for studio practice modules
- Attendance records for Studio practice modules
- Resources for Studio Practice modules, including reading lists
- Resources and information relating to the wider programme, including reading lists
- Specific H&S information
- Announcement board (this is the primary means of tutors or the Academic Team communicating with whole cohorts, students also receive these by email)

***Elective Skills Workshop or specific module (ie Critical & Contextual Studies and Professional Development) Moodle courses allows you to access:***

- Course/ module documents, timetables and schedule
- Course calendar
- Studio practice modules specifications
- Project briefs
- Attendance records for course/ module
- Resources for course/ module
- Assignment details and upload sections
- Specific H&S information
- Reading lists
- Announcement board (this is the primary means of tutors or the Academic Team communicating with whole cohorts, students also receive these by email)

## **Communication**

We will communicate information primarily through email. It is important that you ensure all contact details are up to date and you regularly check your student email. You will receive emails from individual team members and through Moodle (the Virtual Learning Environment - see below). Moodle can send out emails to the entire Academy or your tutors will use it to send out an email to a cohort or studio group. We release a bulletin every Monday through the Moodle system with reminders and information for the week ahead; you should ensure that you read these. The Monday bulletin also contains lots of useful information, including exhibition openings, competition and commission opportunities. Please make sure that emails from Moodle are not going to your junk folder.

## **Tutor Support**

Academic teaching staff are easily accessible and provide comprehensive support throughout your studies. The Art Academy is a small institution, which brings the benefit of a close community where most students know each other and teaching staff usually have knowledge of all students. Small class sizes and high contact time are central to the Academy's ethos, which ensures that you will benefit from a high level of one-to-one support and guidance.

You will be supported both academically and pastorally by your Programme Leader (working closely with the Academic Team).

## **Personal Tutoring**

You will be allocated a Personal and Academic Tutor (PAT) at the beginning of your period of study at the Art Academy. Programme Leaders will fulfil this role with additional PATs appointed from amongst the Academy's core Studio Practice tutor group. You will retain the same PAT throughout your two or three year period of study, except where staff changes prevent this.

These tutorials provide opportunities for you to review Personal Development and Planning (PDP) and seek guidance on academic matters; they are centred around discussions about your academic progress, review of your current Elective Skills Workshops and advice on your choices for the following term. These tutorials are also used to discuss pastoral, personal, academic and administrative issues, and to monitor and discuss your targets and general wellbeing. Through these tutorials, PATs provide personalised and consistent support throughout your journey at the Academy, helping to ensure you maximise your opportunities and achievements. Your Programme/ Pathway leader will be able to refer you to appropriate support services (external and internal) where appropriate.

You will be advised of the annual timetable for tutorials at the beginning of each academic year and appointment schedules will be posted on Moodle. They will be a mixture of group and one-to-one tutorials. This will usually be up to six times a year (seven for newly enrolled students), including meeting your PAT at least once per term one-to-one. These appointments usually occur during Studio Practice Module days (for both full time and part time students). If you are unable to attend any of these sessions and need to reschedule, speak directly to your PAT or the Academic Programme Manager, who will be able to help you.

For newly enrolled students an initial tutorial is also scheduled for the first week of the academic year. This initial tutorial is intended to support the induction programme in introducing new students to the culture of the Academy and familiarise them with academic expectations and help ease the transition into Higher Education.

You are able to request additional tutorials throughout the year to discuss any academic or personal issues you wish, by contacting your PAT directly on the email listed in this handbook. They will arrange to see you at the next possible opportunity. Should you wish to speak to someone other than your PAT, for whatever reason, you can also meet with the Director of Programmes or any member of the Academic Team; simply pop in to the office and if possible, they will speak to you there and then or agree an appointment. You can additionally email to arrange an appointment. In such instances the member of staff may agree with you that the content of the discussion is passed on to your PAT, if it is appropriate and necessary, though you are able to request confidentiality provided that the member of staff agrees that any information you disclose does not need to be shared in order for your PAT to continue to effectively support you or to ensure the safeguarding of you or another student.

All PAT tutorials are recorded on notes on your student record. These provide a summary of points discussed for the Academy staff to consult in preparation for other future tutorials. Should you mention anything you wish to remain confidential please state this. Please be aware, should the PAT (or other member of staff) consider the sharing of that information necessary to ensure the safeguarding of you or another student they are obliged to share it with the designated safeguarding officer.

A typical timetable for Personal and Academic tutorials is set out below.

Term 1	Week 0	Group tutorial - Induction Session Introducing PAT system Allocating PATs Outlining timetable for PATs Discuss academic programme Explain student support services
	Week 1	One-to-one meeting with PATs Introductions Initiate plan for the year
	Week 5	One-to-one tutorials Review academic progress and welfare, setting targets and discussing any issues with either and appropriate further support as necessary.  Discuss Elective Skills Workshop choices for Term 2
Term 2	Week 1	Group tutorial Review academic programme, with particular reference to aspects of Term 2

	Week 5	<p>One-to-one tutorials</p> <p>Review academic progress and welfare, setting targets and discussing any issues with either and appropriate further support as necessary.</p> <p>Discuss Elective Skills Workshop choices for Term 3</p>
Term 3	Week 1	<p>Group tutorial</p> <p>Review academic programme, with particular reference to aspects of Term 3</p>
	Week 5	<p>Extended one-to-one tutorials</p> <p>Review academic and artistic progress and welfare, setting targets and discussing any issues with either and appropriate further support as necessary.</p> <p>Discuss Elective Skills Workshop choices for Term 1 of the forthcoming academic year</p> <p><i>For graduating students the remit of tutorial sessions in the third term will focus on final preparation for the graduate exhibition and support for individual progression plans.</i></p>

Please see the full tutoring policy, which forms part of the document 'Student Support and Guidance'. This is available on Moodle, in the [Policies](#) section

## Contacting tutors

All programme, department leaders, module tutors and other key programme staff are directly contactable via official Academy email, as published in the programme and student handbooks and on Moodle. These tutors will respond to you within normal working hours.

You should not need to communicate with Elective Skills Workshop Course tutors (or those undertaking artistic tutorials) outside of sessions. Most have an official Academy email. Where tutors don't have an official Academy email, they can be messaged through Moodle. However, as they are not teaching/ supporting assessed elements of the programme, they are not obliged to respond outside of their normal teaching sessions. Alternatively, please speak to the Academic Team who may be able to speak to the tutor on your behalf, if they assess the request as warranted and urgent. That said, all our tutors are here to help and are approachable, so will often gladly chat and assist in person when they are on site.

When you are on an accompanied trip as part of your programme, tutors will be issued with an official Academy mobile, which you may contact them regarding matters relating to the trip. This number will be published through Moodle.

The Art Academy will not issue personal contact details of any staff or student without prior consent and will not provide students with the personal contact details of staff under any circumstance. Many tutors have websites and social media accounts which have publically available contact details. Under **NO** circumstances are students permitted to use such details to contact tutors (including visiting tutors). Data Protection and the safeguarding of all members of our community are paramount and students found to have contravened this rule will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

Tutors are advised by the Academy not to provide students with personal contact details. Should they do so, you are strongly advised against using them for both data protection and safeguarding.

## **SEND**

The Art Academy welcomes students with Special Educational Needs subject to being able to support their individual needs. The SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) Coordinator has overall responsibility both for their welfare and for enabling them to access the curriculum successfully during their time at the Academy. A bespoke programme of elective skills workshops will be mapped for each student if necessary, and alternative assessment models employed where appropriate in order to provide parity of opportunity with non-SEN students. The SEND Coordinator will act as personal tutor and first point of contact for all SEN students. The SEND Coordinator and Academic Programme Manager also ensure that all other tutors working with an individual student with Special Educational Needs are appraised of the needs of that student, and understand what, if anything, they need to do to support the student and their learning.

### **Support for disabled students**

The Art Academy is committed to supporting accessible learning and welcomes students with disabilities, subject to being able to support their individual needs. The Academic Team support students with a declared disability and are able to assist with the application for DSA\*. They will ensure that relevant tutors and members of staff are aware of the individual needs of these students.

We operate an emergency evacuation system that includes Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) for disabled individuals or those with temporary conditions which may affect their ability to follow standard evacuation procedures or require assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation. If you have identified potential issues with being able to evacuate the buildings independently in an emergency via the induction questionnaire, you will be invited to discuss your requirements and draw up a PEEP with a member of staff. More details about PEEPs are available on [Moodle](#).

\*when access to DSA (Disabled Student Allowance) is available.

### **Student welfare**

The Academic Team provides support in conjunction with PATs and Programme Leaders for students who may be feeling the pressures of studying. Support is provided by offering confidential advice and referral to external services where appropriate.

You are able to come to the team for issues including:

- Financial assistance & funding
- Learning skills development support
- Monitoring and reviewing progress
- Careers guidance and support
- Guidance on extra-curricular activities
- Advice on further study
- Assistance for students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties, SEN and other needs.
- Counselling & mental health issues (via external support agencies)
- Accommodation
- General welfare advice (travel, part time work, local GP services, external support agencies)
- COVID related issues

## **Wellbeing and Mental Health**

Your wellbeing and mental health is important and our staff and tutors will do their best to look after your well-being, so that if you have difficulties they will either be available to help you themselves, where possible, or to advise you to who to talk to.

If you have symptoms such as stress, low mood, anxiety, sleep and appetite disturbance, social withdrawal, poor concentration, ideas of self harm or a tendency to self medicate with alcohol or drugs, you may find that professional advice or aid could help you improve your wellbeing.

If you raise a problem with your Programme Leader, tutor or a member of the Academic Team, they will listen carefully and respectfully and offer support. We will keep information confidential, except where sharing it will aid the Academy in referring you to someone who can help or where we consider the sharing of that information necessary to ensure your safety and wellbeing. We will always aid you in finding an appropriate service. If a tutor or staff member has concerns about your mental health, they may pass these on to your Programme Leader, who will raise the concern with you sensitively, in confidence, and, if it is what you want, refer you to the appropriate source of help or support.

## **Accessing support**

The Art Academy works in partnership with Care First, an independent advice and professional counselling, offering support around any issue arising from home or student life, whether they be emotional or practical day-to-day issues.

Care First employ professionally qualified Counsellors and Information specialists, who are experienced in helping people to deal with all kinds of issues.

**Counselling Services** - Care First counsellors, professionally qualified and accredited by the [BACP](#), are able to help you deal with a wide range of issues, including but not limited to:

- homesickness
- workload & assessment stress
- relationship problems
- family issues
- traumatic incidents
- bereavement
- bullying and harassment
- many other emotional and psychological difficulties you may be experiencing.

You can access counselling in person (Covid restrictions may currently affect the availability of face to face counselling), via the phone or online (in real-time).

*Phone and online counselling services are accessible anytime, 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year.*

You do not even have to give your name. The Academy does not know who uses the Care First service unless the individual personally chooses to tell someone about their contact with Care First or an individual is deemed to be a danger to themselves or others (in such instances Care First are obliged to inform the Safeguarding Officer, as per our Safeguarding policy).

Care First provides statistics to the Academy to show how many individuals use the service and the broad types of issues raised, for example; 'relationship breakdown at home' or 'bullying and harassment', so no information is ever passed on which could potentially identify you.

**Online Services** – The Care First Lifestyle website offers extensive resources including articles on health, issues at home, issues at work, management support tools, stress questionnaires and online counselling in real-time

**Information Services** - The Care First information specialists are trained by Citizens Advice Bureau and can provide comprehensive answers and assistance on a wide range of practical issues which affect your daily life. These include but are not limited to:

- debt
- employment
- housing
- education,
- legal enquiries
- health
- taxes
- consumer
- immigration and nationality citizenship.

Information services are available by phone Monday to Friday 8 am to 8 pm. The website also has a range of information.

**Webinars** - Care First run a number of webinars on various subjects. Details will be posted to Moodle regularly.

Further information about these services and how to access them can be found on the [Student Support & Wellbeing Moodle page](#).

*Please note: Care First can't provide long - term psychological support. This should be accessed through your GP. You can access up to eight counselling sessions per issue through Care First (the number of 'issues' you can contact them about is unlimited). Care First cannot provide any information or advice relating to your programme of study. Please speak to your Programme Leader, Georgina or Darren for assistance with anything to do with your programme or life at the Academy.*

#### **Other, external services with experienced volunteers that can help**

MIND - 0300 123 3393

Advice and guidance and drop-in centres for anyone affected by mental health issues. [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

LONDON NIGHTLINE - 020 7734 2800

Online and telephone support provided by London students. 6pm-8am, term time only.

[www.nightline.org.uk](http://www.nightline.org.uk). Skype: chat.nightline

SAMARITANS

Confidential day or night listening and advice service.

Emergency number: 020 7734 2800, National Number: 084 5790 9090, Address: Central London Samaritans, 46 Marshall Street, W1F 9BF (nearest Tube station is Oxford Circus) - visiting hours from 09:00 to 21:00. Online: [www.samaritans.org/talk/face2face.html](http://www.samaritans.org/talk/face2face.html), Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

SANE - 0845 767 8000

Emotional support for anyone affected by mental health issues. [www.sane.org.uk](http://www.sane.org.uk)

STUDENT MINDS

Resources and peer support for HE students <https://www.studentminds.org.uk/>

## **Artistic Tutorials**

You will additionally be offered the opportunity to sign up for an artistic tutorial per term in terms 1 and 2 (except in Level 6 for BA students, who will see visiting tutors during Studio Practice). There are a limited number of these, offered on a first come, first served basis. They enable you to discuss any aspect of your work and practice or career and progression goals in detail with a specialist practitioner. In the third term all Level 4 and 5 students have an extended PAT, which is an opportunity to review your artistic progress for the year through work made in Studio Practice and Elective Skills Workshop Courses, (as well as fulfilling the standard academic and pastoral remit of PAT tutorials).

## **Academic Support**

You will participate in a number of workshops and sessions at relevant points in your programme to enable you to develop the requisite skills for an appropriate level of academic study; these include sessions on referencing and writing, research and presentation skills. Further resources are made available via [Moodle](#).

Initial dyslexia screening is carried out as part of induction, with those students returning results for possible dyslexia recommended to undergo full testing independently; the Art Academy refers students to the British Dyslexia Association who undertake diagnostic assessments for dyslexia for post 16 year olds and adults. The student will need to bear the cost of such an assessment.

However, the Academy will accept the results of internal screening (indicating possible dyslexia) as a student's right to reasonable adjustments under the alternative assessment policy. Extra support is put in place for such individuals and those with previously identified (statemented) needs such as dyslexia, as well as those for whom English is a second language.

There are a number of laptops available in the library with Read & Write (dyslexia assistance) software and two scanning pens to assist those students for whom English is a second language. These can be loaned to students for short periods (i.e over weekends or reading weeks); please speak to the Academic Team to arrange.

## **Enhancement and Employability**

You will be notified regularly of opportunities to take part in external exhibitions, live projects, competitions and commissions as part of your personal and professional development. Trips to exhibitions are scheduled as part of many of the Elective Skills Workshop Courses and you are encouraged to regularly attend Art Fairs and exhibitions independently as part of your ongoing development.

Fresher's and induction activities are scheduled in order to promote interaction and encourage a sense of community and belonging, including artistic and social activities. The Student Council and individual student groups also organise artistic and social activities.

The Art Academy organises a number of student prizes throughout the year, often in collaboration with external partners in order to celebrate student achievement and to provide networking and career opportunities.



There is no formal requirement for a professional placement year, although you are encouraged to undertake relevant work experience as and when it is compatible with the course of study e.g during the holiday period. Should you decide to take an independently organised placement year (or relevant study period abroad) this can be accommodated between any levels and will not affect progression, but it should be noted that these are not offered formally as part of the Academy's programmes. Level 6 BA students also have the opportunity to gain teaching experience through involvement in the delivery of evening classes (as teaching assistants), charitable outreach events and corporate training creative days.

Although the Academy does not have a dedicated careers service or advice and guidance department, career education and advice is embedded within the programmes in the form of Professional Development modules which provide opportunities to identify and action next steps in planning your career. This is supported through the Artistic and Personal & Academic (PAT) Tutorials and the close links between the Professional Development and Studio Practice modules. Some career guidance is additionally undertaken by the Academic Team and you have the opportunity to seek further advice from tutors, guest tutors and speakers where relevant.

As an academic student at the Academy you are also eligible to take up free places on the evening, weekend and short course classes that the Academy offers (subject to availability). This provides you with further opportunities for skills development.

*More details about student support can be found in the document 'A guide to Student Support' available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle*

## **Access to shortcourses and additional opportunities**

All academic students are able to take advantage of free places on the Art Academy's short courses (evening, weekend and short courses, **excluding** 'Master Classes'). These are available at the discretion of the Academy and subject to availability.

Free places are only available on those courses which have not achieved full enrolment. Places are allocated on a first come first serve basis and the Academy cannot guarantee any place. If you wish to guarantee a place on a public course, you will need to pay full cost (non - refundable) and book through the Academy's website.

For free places students are required to complete the short course reserve form available on [Moodle](#) and will be notified if they have a place on the day of the course.

If you are enrolled onto a public course (free place), you are expected to adhere to the same benchmark attendance of 80%. Please remember that if you accept a free place and fail to attend, you are potentially denying your fellow students the opportunity. Students who fail to attend as expected may have these privileges withdrawn.

Free places are only available to 'active' students without tuition fee debts. Interrupted students are **NOT** eligible for free places during the period of interruption. Whilst 'active' students can access free places on courses running during holiday periods, including summer between years (where the student is due to progress to the next academic year). Students cease to be eligible for free places once they have completed their programme (the last day of the relevant term).

## **Open Life classes**

All academic students are also able to attend the Academy's open life classes on Saturday and Sunday

mornings These are drop-in sessions which you need to pre register for. Please see the website or ask in the office for schedules.

### **Print (public) open access**

Those students who have completed a print elective skills workshop course are also eligible to attend the Academy's open access print sessions for free. These sessions are scheduled for Wed evenings and alternate Saturdays. If you wish to attend open access, you should speak to the public course team. Sessions will only run if external bookings have been taken.

### **Opportunities and support for study abroad**

The Art Academy does not currently have formal arrangements that allow students to study abroad, although we do have relationships with art schools in other countries and may explore options for overseas study in the future.

## **5. Facilities and Services**

### **Building Orientation and general rules**

Please familiarise yourself with the layout of the buildings, including the fire exits. If you need guidance, please ask a member of staff.

**Bankside:** The lift is available to all students and visitors to the building. Do not use the lift during a fire. There are emergency exits to the right of the lift and next to the Digital Suite, in addition to the main staircase. We recommend that everyone enable WiFi calling on their mobile as reception is intermittent.

Students **DO NOT** have access to the staff/events kitchen or the technicians' area or kiln room (next to the sculpture and ceramics studios).

Students are **NOT** permitted to use the meeting rooms at Bankside

**Mermaid Court:** The lift at Mermaid Court is principally used by the Operations Team to move equipment and materials. It may be used by students (tutors, staff and visitors) with mobility issues; we ask that those who need to use the lift because of mobility issues inform the office at the start of term. Students may use the lift to transport heavy equipment and materials when appropriate. The lift is **NOT** for general, daily passenger use.

The roofs, lift control room and patio gas storage area are strictly out of bounds except to the Operations Team. Students found to have been in these areas will be subject to student disciplinary and may be permanently excluded from the Academy.

**General:** Personal possessions must be tidily stored and must not create trip hazards or be kept in places where they may fall and injure yourself or others. Areas in which you work must be kept tidy and free of clutter – untidy areas create fire hazards.

### **Quiet Space/ Prayer Rooms**

A quiet space/ prayer room is provided in each building. Mobile phones **MUST** be switched to silent in these spaces and phone calls are **NOT** permitted. These spaces are **NOT** to be used for meetings.

The quiet space/ prayer room is available to all, but has limited capacity. Please be respectful of others using these spaces and give priority to those who need to observe prayer at set times.

Food is **NOT** permitted in the quiet space/ prayer rooms. All liquids **MUST** be in a resealable container to prevent spillage.

## **Social and catering facilities**

The Art Academy does not have on site catering services. There is an excellent range of places to buy food and refreshments locally; please ask the Academic Team in the office if you would like advice, or are looking for anything in particular.

Please clean up after yourself – throw away uneaten food, do not leave packaging etc., wash up after yourself, and keep the fridges and microwaves clean and tidy. We also ask that cutlery is only used for food and not taken into the studios to be used as tools. All tableware should be returned to the kitchens.

## **Bankside**

The common area (the Hub) at the Bankside campus is open to all and often used for social events. The facilities provide a fridge and microwaves for your use, hot water, milk, tea and coffee. Drinks may be taken to all studios (in sealable containers/ travel mugs **ONLY**), but food is **NOT** permitted in the studios. All liquids **MUST** be in a resealable container to prevent spillage.

Students **DO NOT** have access to the separate staff/ events kitchen at Bankside.

## **Mermaid Court**

The common area (the Barn) at the Mermaid Court campus is open to all. The facilities provide a fridge and microwaves for your use, hot water, milk, tea and coffee. Please bring a travel mug (with a lid) for your own use. You may also take food and drink to your (personal) studio space, but please ensure that you follow basic health & safety so as not to ingest anything you shouldn't. All liquids **MUST** be in a resealable container to prevent spillage. Food is **NOT** permitted in the library or the wood & metal workshop.

## **Shower**

There is a shower facility at Bankside (within the disabled toilet). This may be used by anyone. Toiletries and towels are **NOT** available. If you use the shower, please ensure you leave it tidy, as you would expect to find it.

## **Bike Storage**

Bikes are not permitted within the building. There are bike racks located around Bankside and some on Borough High St if cycling to Mermaid Court.

## Open Access

During days on which the Studio Practice modules are delivered you will have open access to the Digital Suite, Wood and Metal Workshop and Print Studio (print only for those students who have previously completed print workshops) with technical support available. Open access is for Foundation and Undergraduate students only and can be booked through Moodle (from the 'everything you need to know' block on the home-page).

Open access runs **TERM TIME ONLY** (including reading weeks).

Further information can be found on [Moodle](#).

## Studios

We have a range of studios for specialist purposes across our buildings and during your time at the Academy, you will no doubt work in many, if not all of them.

Level 4 (year/ stage one) Degree (BA & FD) students **DO NOT** have a cohort get assigned a personal studio space and will be in a variety of studios for all the time they are in tutored sessions, including for Studio Practice modules. Level 4 students need to tidy and store work away at the end of all sessions. Students will be provided with storage space where they can leave their work between teaching sessions.

Level 5/ Stage 2\* and Level 6/ Stage 3\* students have access to cohort studios for independent study (see 'cohort/ programme studios' below).

*\*Please note that in Level 5 and 6 part time students will only be allocated studio space when undertaking the studio practice modules (as this facility is intended to assist you in completing these modules).*

## Studio Etiquette

Teaching Studios must be vacated by students promptly after classes end in order to allow the operations team to prepare for evening classes. To facilitate this we ask that ALL studios are vacated by 4.45pm every day.

To provide the best possible facilities, courses and teaching at the Art Academy, it is necessary for everyone to respect our buildings and maintain a high standard of cleanliness. Our studios are in constant use, with evening classes often following shortly after your sessions. We ask students and tutors alike to take responsibility for clearing up and time is dedicated at the end of each day to do so. You must put away everything you have used and clear away any rubbish. Please be mindful that others will use the space after you and clear up after your activity, especially remembering to put away class equipment, artwork and sweep the floor. In particular, we ask that you be mindful of the following:

CLAY/PLASTER - please ensure all clay/plaster is carefully and properly disposed of at the end of your class and do not leave without clearing floors and surfaces of debris (when sweeping dust, damp-down first to avoid inhalation).

STONE CARVING - please remember that there are other sensitive classes using the Workshop after your class that will be affected by a dusty environment and take care to full clear down the surfaces,

damp-down and sweep up any excess stone dust as best as you can.

GLASS & METAL - please take care to fully clean down all surfaces and sweep at the end of your class to ensure no shards of glass or metal are left behind that could cause injury to the next Workshop users.

PRINT - please take responsibility for clearing up hazardous or dangerous materials/equipment. Use the oil rag bin for safe disposal of oil rags.

PAINTING - please use the oil rag bin for safe disposal of oil rags and wipe down tables, chairs and easels at the end of the day. Zest-it (the Academy is white spirit free) should be recycled (please see the video on Moodle) or disposed of in the bucket provided

EXTENSION CABLES - please put cable mats over extension cables and make sure they're not overloaded.

#### GENERAL:

- Never leave hazardous substances open or near heaters during classes; all hazardous substances should be stored in a COSHH cupboard when not in use. Keep lids on when not in use.
- Turn off all heaters before leaving a studio unattended.
- Don't paint the walls.
- Return all tools and materials to their place (missing materials affect your own activities as well as other classes). When borrowing books or equipment from spaces other than the studio you are working in, return them to the same place you took them from.
- Do not store artwork, equipment or materials in passages, communal areas or in other student's spaces (if you require more storage room, please speak to the Operations Coordinator who will try to provide a more appropriate space)
- Mobile phones must be on silent or turned off during all classes. Personal music must not be played without tutor permission and headphones must be used.

## Cohort/ Programme Studio Spaces

Level 5 and 6 (stage two and three) undergraduate students) have access to cohort specific studio spaces outside of taught sessions in order to work independently.

When using studio space outside of taught sessions, **ALL STUDENTS MUST SIGN IN AND OUT (AT RECEPTION)**.

**ALL STUDENTS** are expected to cooperate with Academy staff and **LEAVE PROMPTLY** to aid efficient set up of evening classes and/ or building closure. Students who persistently ignore staff requests and instruction in this regard will be subject to student disciplinary.

Students must observe all H&S guidelines and fire regulations at all times. Any student found to be wilfully disregarding these regulations or endangering themselves or others will have additional access rights rescinded and may be subject to the Academy's student disciplinary policy.

### Level 5 studio\*

When you reach Level 5/ Stage 2 you will have access to a cohort specific studio **during weekdays, term time (including reading weeks) from 9 - 4:30pm.**

For the start of 25/26 this will be located in the Mermaid Court building (as per the student vote) and students will be free to leave work in progress out.

Once the Mermaid Court building sale progresses, the Level 5 studio space will be relocated to Bankside. The studio at Bankside will be utilised for teaching short courses during evenings, weekends and holiday periods. A number of storage solutions are provided for students to temporarily put away work in progress. Students will NOT be issued a personal area of the studio, but are instead expected to work collaboratively with peers to ensure that all students are able to utilise the space.

Studio Practice modules will be delivered in the level 5 studio.

### **Level 6 studio\***

The Stage 3/ Level 6 studio is located in Bankside. This is a dedicated studio, where you can leave work in progress out. Studio Space is only issued to part-time students undertaking studio practice in the second year of the stage and full-time students. Part-time students in the first year of the stage may access studios on an ad-hoc basis, where available, during term time (day-time only) by consulting the published time-table on Moodle/ speaking to the Academic Team; see general studio access below.

### **Studio Opening times 25/26:**

Wk starting 15/09/25 weekdays only:	9am - 4.30pm
Wk starting 22/09/25 - wk starting 24/11/25:	9am - 8.30pm (Monday - Friday) 10.30am - 4pm (Saturday & Sunday)
<i>Closed Christmas break 01/12/16 to 12/01/26</i>	
Wk starting 12/01/26 weekdays only:	9am - 4.30pm
Wk starting 19/01/26 - wk starting 23/03/26:	9am - 8.30pm (Monday - Friday) 10.30am - 4pm (Saturday & Sunday)
Easter break 30/03/26 - 17/04/26 weekdays only:	9am - 4.30pm
Wk starting 20/04/26 - wk starting 08/06/26:	9am - 8.30pm (Monday - Thursday) 9am - 4.30pm (Friday) 10.30am - 4pm (Saturday & Sunday)

Please note that access beyond office hours is dependent on the building being open for evening, weekend and Easter classes. Where there is change to the programme of evening and weekend classes, the above opening times are subject to changes. Evening access may be altered on occasion to accommodate the Academy's events and corporate events-hire. Students will be notified of changes to access hours via Moodle.

### **General Studio Access**

A timetable is published via Moodle detailing which studios are free for all undergraduate students to work in (**weekdays, term-time 9am - 4.30pm only**).

Students taking up this offer **MUST** notify the Academic Team of their intentions. When using studio space outside of taught sessions, **ALL STUDENTS MUST SIGN IN AND OUT (AT RECEPTION)**.

**ALL STUDENTS** are expected to cooperate with Academy staff and **LEAVE PROMPTLY** to aid efficient set up of evening classes and/ or building closure. Students who persistently ignore staff requests and instruction in this regard will be subject to student disciplinary.

## Storage

All students will be issued a large locker for storage of work and belongings at Bankside. Further storage solutions for work in-progress are available at Bankside. .

Whilst the level 5 studio is temporarily located in Mermaid Court, students will additionally be able to store work etc in their cohort studio (as will the Level 6/ Stage 3 students in their Bankside cohort studio).

However, the Academy will not accept responsibility for loss, damage or theft of your property whilst it is on our premises; if you lose or find any article please notify the Office without delay. The Art Academy maintains a lost property cupboard and will dispose of unmarked lost property after one month if it has not been claimed.

## Security and working out of hours

All academic students and tutors have door codes for entry to the Academy downstairs entry point at Bankside and for Mermaid Court. The code is different for day and evening access (post 5pm) at Bankside for security reasons. The door codes are changed periodically, for security reasons, and you will receive a notice through Moodle of the change (Please do not write down the code on anything that can be lost).

Be aware of letting people in - especially at Mermaid Court where there is a more limited staff presence. Report suspicious individuals or behaviour and if in doubt take people to the office or contact a staff member. If you feel threatened, contact the office immediately.

Staff will be available to greet visitors at the main reception at Bankside on the ground floor, both during the day and in the evening.

Guests are welcome in both Bankside and Mermaid Court (except in taught sessions) as long as the office is informed beforehand, they sign in (and out) and wear a lanyard identifying them as a visitor, abide by the Art Academy rules and do not disturb anyone else who is working there. Guests are the responsibility of the individual signing them in and should be briefed of the fire evacuation points.

All visitors to the Academy are recommended to read our safeguarding policy in full, which is publicly accessible via our website. A physical copy of Safeguarding - Information for Visitors made available in reception and when all visitors sign in they are reminded of the requirement to adhere to safeguarding policy. In order to support this the badges/lanyards that are issued to visitors have a reduced safeguarding statement on the reverse and visitors are asked to confirm that as a minimum they have read this statement as part of signing in as a visitor.

Students without allocated cohort studio space may be able to access general studios when not in use; please see 'General Studio Access' above.

## Visitors

A member of staff will be available to greet visitors at the main reception at Bankside on the ground floor, both during the day and in the evening. Staff will also be present in the Mermaid Court office to greet visitors (all weekdays and some evenings and weekends, depending on the scheduled activities for the building).

Visitors are welcome in both Bankside and Mermaid Court (except in taught sessions) as long as the office is informed beforehand, they sign in (and out) and wear a lanyard identifying them as a visitor, abide by the Art Academy rules and do not disturb anyone working.

However, it is not permissible for visitors to remain in the common areas for extended periods or to be left unattended. Guests are the responsibility of the individual signing them in and should be briefed of the fire evacuation points.

All visitors to the Academy are recommended to read our safeguarding policy in full, which is publicly accessible via our website. A physical copy of Safeguarding - Information for Visitors is made available in reception and when all visitors sign in they are reminded of the requirement to adhere to safeguarding policy. In order to support this the badges/lanyards that are issued to visitors have a reduced safeguarding statement on the reverse and visitors are asked to confirm that as a minimum they have read this statement as part of signing in as a visitor.

## Babies & children

It may be acceptable to bring a baby/ child if coming to the Academy for a short visit (and prior permission is sought), but, they must be accompanied by a parent/ guardian/adult **AT ALL TIMES** and are only permitted in the common areas; Art schools are not a suitable environment for babies/ young children and parents/ guardians/accompanying adults agree to take **SOLE RESPONSIBILITY** for the baby/child's safety whilst on site. Visiting babies/ children are **NOT** permitted in teaching spaces under any circumstances.

## Pets/ animals

Other than assistance animals, pets/ animals are NOT PERMITTED within any Academy building. If you require an assistance animal to accompany you, please speak to the Academic Team.

## Model Care

In order to maintain a safe space and creative working environment for our models please observe the below etiquette do's and don'ts:

DO:

- Treat everyone respectfully. Models are professionals and valued members of our community.
- Treat working with a model as a collaborative experience.
- Use inclusive & considerate language when addressing or describing a model; specifically when commenting on the model's body or appearance.
- Be respectful of the model's personal space and belongings, do not touch the model.
- Maintain a professional relationship when interacting with models at the Art Academy; as you



would a tutor, or member of staff in a working environment.

**DON'T:**

- Take photos of the models, unless you have permission from the tutor and model. This includes capturing them in the background of a photo.

Photographs of models **MUST NOT** be posted online/social media.

Where the photography of a model is required for your class, you will be required to sign a declaration of use.

## **Materials and Costs**

All materials involved in the demonstration of techniques and processes will be provided by the Art Academy. Paper is also provided, as are some basic sculptural materials such as an amount of clay. However, you will need to buy additional materials as specified for individual Elective Skills Workshop Courses (details are listed on the course information sheets) and provide the materials you decide to use in the completion of assignments/projects. We strongly encourage you, as you increasingly specialise, to acquire basic tools/resources, along with appropriate consumable materials, depending on your creative discipline. It should be noted that in the case of some sculpture workshops, associated costs are often in the region of £170 - £260 per annum including tools and materials. Extra costs are also associated with the graduate exhibition (in making and installing your work), which graduating students will be informed about with as much notice as possible.

We run a hollowing and firing service for students who have been working in clay. The cost is put on relevant elective skills workshop documents (or available from the Head Technician). Times to complete this service vary due to demand. The work will be retained for one month after you are notified it is ready to collect (anything not collected within this period will be disposed of).

## **Shop**

A range of basic materials is available in the Art Academy's shop. The shop at Bankside is located on the ground floor and open during office hours. The shop at Mermaid Court is located in the reception/ office area. The Mermaid Court shop opening Times are displayed in reception and available on Moodle.

There are a number of other suppliers we recommend, all within reasonable travelling distance from the Academy (where they have physical shops). Many also offer student discount:

**Cass Art** - general art supplies, often at a discounted rate.

<https://www.cassart.co.uk>

Closest branches Charing Cross and Islington (flag store)

**Southbank Art** - small general art suppliers and framers

<https://southbankart.co.uk>

Closest station is Elephant & Castle

**Atlantis Art** - large art supply shop, stocks practically everything you will ever need.

<http://www.atlantisart.co.uk>

Closest stations are Old Street and Moorgate

**Tiranti** - specialist sculpture suppliers - Now online only

<http://tiranti.co.uk>

**Rymans** - high street stationers, for emergency supplies it is very close to the Academy

<http://www.ryman.co.uk>

Closest station London Bridge

**Intaglio** - specialist print supply shop

<http://intaglioprintmaker.com>

Closest stations Waterloo and London Bridge

## Equipment loans

You are able to borrow a range of digital equipment such as cameras, sound recorders and projectors. You will need to see the Digital Technician during open access sessions to organise this. Please note that some equipment is generally only available for use on campus (such as projectors).

## IT access & Printing

There is open access to the Digital Suite during the days that Studio Practice modules are delivered. The Digital Suite computers are all Macs with Adobe CC software.

We have most of the Adobe software already installed on all the computers, including *Photoshop*, *Illustrator*, *Bridge*, *InDesign*, *Premiere Pro*, *After Effects*, *Audition* and more. We also have a number of other applications such as SketchUp Make, Sculptris, Blender, Unreal, Unity, Handbrake, Audacity and much more. If you want to check what software the computers have installed or request new software for a project please see the Digital Technician .

The Digital Suite can be utilised as a photographic studio (when not used as a teaching space). There is also a small photographic studio in Mermaid Court (suitable for photographing artwork) This space can be booked; please speak to the Digital Technician.

The Digital Suite is also equipped with graphic tablets, A3 flatbed scanning and 3D printing. For giclee (inkjet) or photographic (C-type) printing, there is a list of suggested printers on the digital suite Moodle page.

Standard photocopying/ printing is accessible at both Bankside and Mermaid Court.

If you wish to work independently on research or written work there is a quiet study space available with computer access.

Wifi is available throughout our buildings. The passwords are displayed within the communal areas.

Before using the Academy's IT facilities, you should ensure that you have read and adhere to the Academy's *IT User policy* and are familiar with the following associated policies and guidelines (all available on Moodle):

- *Freedom of Speech*
- *PREVENT*
- *Guide to copyright.*

## Student Email

You will be issued with an Academy student email. This will be used by staff and tutors as your main email address. The Academy uses Google for Education and along with your email, you will gain access to the GSuite of apps. You can find instructional guides on Moodle relating to your email and GSuite (including how to forward these emails to your private account).

Your student email will enable you to access student discounts via Unidays.

You **MUST** comply with the *IT user policy* and the rules within it regarding student email accounts. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

The Art Academy encourages the correct use of an individual's pronouns and invites all users of its email system to specify their preferred pronoun in their email signature. Those that do not wish to share their pronouns should remove this line from the signature.

Below is a summary of email specific rules, but you **MUST** also refer to the unacceptable use clause (4) of the IT user policy (which, for example, prohibits the transmission and storage of obscene, indecent, defamatory, threatening, discriminatory, extremist and unlawful materials) :

- All emails sent through the Academy's system must be respectful and professional in tone and in accordance with the Academy's Inclusive Language Policy.
- All email accounts **MUST** contain the approved disclaimer at the foot of the signature.
- Login credentials must not be shared and any suspicious activity reported to the Academic Programme Manager as soon as possible.
- Users should not open any attachments or click on any links from unknown senders, as they may contain viruses or malware.
- Where possible, users should avoid sending large attachments to prevent system overload; files should instead be shared via GDrive.

Student email accounts are set up and issued by the Academy upon enrolment and will be closed and deleted at the start of the September following the completion of the programme, except where a student has withdrawn mid-year, accounts will be closed and deleted two weeks after their finish date.

If a student interrupts study, their email account will be suspended for that period of time too (and any communication will revert to private email addresses for that period). Accounts will be reactivated two weeks prior to the student's agreed return date.

It is the responsibility of students to transfer any data (they wish to retain) from their email account and associated GDrive **BEFORE** the dates given (for account closure or suspension).

## Student IT Support

Support for hardware and software utilised in the creation of art work and student submissions is available from the digital technician during open access sessions.

For support with general IT hardware and software including GDrive, GMail, Moodle, Turnitin, please contact the Academic Systems & Support Coordinator.

## Online learning

**ALL** modules are delivered physically, face-to-face and remote learning is **NOT** facilitated.

However, students may request for some tutorials to take place online (PATs and some for Professional Development and Critical & Contextual Studies modules). For these tutorials you should work from home and ensure that you have suitable hardware and wifi to run Zoom. If you are concerned that you do not have access to appropriate hardware/ wifi or a suitable space to work from home, please contact the Academic Team for assistance.

'How-to' reference guides and other resources are available on Moodle for Zoom and Padlet (which may also be utilised in some teaching).

## Library

The Art Academy Library utilises both physical and virtual resources.

The library contains approximately 2000 books and approximately 150 journals relating to all areas of fine art practice, history, theory and critical discourses. The library has an online catalogue system that you can access through the Academy VLE ([Moodle](#)). It also provides a quiet study area where you are able to access books and laptops in order to undertake independent study.

The Academy also subscribes to a number of art journals and journal/ text catalogues digitally which you can access through Moodle. Some editions such as Frieze and Art Monthly will only access through the Academy's IP address, but will allow you to save PDFs of articles to download and read off site. The EBSCO database contains 3,000 plus journals and periodicals and can be accessed on and off site. You will receive training in using these systems during induction week.

The library is located at Mermaid Court\*. You can, however, request books via email and collect and return them at Bankside:

Email [library@artacademy.ac.uk](mailto:library@artacademy.ac.uk) to request books to be delivered to Bankside.

**Requests received before 2pm Monday will be ready for collection Tuesday from 10.30am.**

**Requests received after 2pm Monday but before 2pm Thursday, will be ready for collection from 10.30am Friday.**

**Books can be returned to the Bankside office at any time during office hours**

You are also able to access the Southwark Library catalogue as a student of the borough. Southwark's John Harvard library is three minutes from the Mermaid Court campus. You can also take advantage of a number of specialist libraries in London, details of which can be found on Moodle.

*\*the Library will be re-located to the Hub in Bankside once the sale of Mermaid Court progresses. This will be at some point in the 25/26 academic year.*

When using the library, you need to be aware of what you can or can't scan or photocopy:

### **What can be photocopied and scanned?**

- One chapter or 5% of a book whichever is the greater, for scanning it needs to have been published within the UK
- One article from a journal or 5% whichever is the greater, for scanning it needs to have been published within the UK
- A short story or poem, not exceeding ten pages or 5% whichever is the greater from an anthology can be photocopied

### **What can't be photocopied and scanned?**

- Printed music, newspapers, maps, charts or books of tables, worksheets or assignment sheets, theses or dissertations, any religious books, logos or trademarks. Unless otherwise stated, for the full excluded list, there is a list at each photocopier and in the Digital Suite.

## **Health & Safety**

The Art Academy has a statutory duty to comply with health and safety regulations. We firmly believe that adequate provisions for health and safety are essential to safe working and student life. The maintenance of safe working conditions and the prevention of injuries and losses are not only of vital importance to the Art Academy's efficiency and success, but also in the best interests of all our employees, tutors, students, and their families. We therefore aim to provide up to date information about health and safety issues at work and study, ensuring that everyone is fully aware of their responsibility for safety and of the rules relevant to their own jobs or study. The Academy has a full Health and Safety Policy, which is available on Moodle.

You will receive a general Health & Safety induction during your programme induction/ at enrolment covering the content of the Student Handbook and general studio guidance. You will sign the Student Induction Form to indicate that you have been given and have understood the briefing.

Further inductions will be given for specific studios, tools and equipment throughout your time at the Academy. **YOU MAY NOT USE ANY TOOLS OR EQUIPMENT WITHOUT THE RELEVANT INDUCTION.**

**There are Health and Safety videos on the Facilities, Health & Safety section of Moodle covering safety procedures including: manual handling, safe use of a ladder and using our easels and sculpture stands. You are required to watch these to ensure you are familiar with these procedures.**

In addition to the Health & Safety Policy the Academy has studio/ area guidance and activity specific risk assessments, which you can find in the H&S points in every studio. The Academy also has a number of Codes of Practice relating to specific activities. These are all available on Moodle and you may be required to read these as relevant to any activities you are undertaking.

If you are unsure about any health and safety issues please ask the Director of Operations, the Office & Facilities Manager, or the Head Technician.

The list of safety rules set out below is intended for general guidance only.

### ***You should ensure that you:***

- Look where you are going and proceed cautiously and carefully around the Academy;
- avoid running or rushing about;
- have passed the induction procedure for operating any piece of equipment or machinery on your own, however simple;
- use proper methods for lifting and handling: keep your back straight, if the item in question is too heavy for you to lift on your own, ask someone to help you;
- clean up after yourself: your untidiness or carelessness may cause injury to someone else;
- wear special protective clothing, including goggles, ear protectors, gloves or boots when advised;
- take care at all times for the safety of yourself and others;
- report any injury, however slight, in the Accident Report book at your area's health and safety point (the Operations Manager will review these termly to review and improve our health and safety guidance and policies);
- report hazards to the Office and Facilities Manager

### ***Do not:***

- Attempt to operate any machine or equipment, or handle any hazardous substance, without taking proper instructions;
- attempt to clean any machine or any moving part whilst it is in motion (switch off where possible);
- interfere with any safety equipment or machine guards;
- tamper with any electrical wiring or equipment;
- leave things lying around on benches or in gangways;
- obstruct fire exits.

## **Hazardous Substances**

During your studies you may be obliged at some point to handle and store hazardous substances – ie. substances that present a danger of fire, toxicity to the user, or toxicity to the environment. All are clearly marked with hazard labels and have an accompanying COSHH risk assessment in the studios (in which they are used). Hazardous substances must be used in accordance with the instructions and stored in a COSHH cupboard, or under the conditions described in the specific COSHH risk assessment. You **MUST NOT** use hazardous substances unless you have been inducted into their use. You **MUST** wear the PPE (personal protective equipment, such as gloves and safety goggles) listed on the specific COSHH risk assessment when handling any hazardous substances. Hazardous substances must be disposed of in accordance with instructions on the label and COSHH risk assessment.

The Art Academy is a white spirit and turpentine free environment and only odourless spirits, such as Zest-it or Sansodor, are permitted on the premises. You will need to provide your own spirits, which can be recycled for longevity.

*For further details you should refer to the Code of Practice: COSHH and Code of Practice: Hazardous Waste, which are available from the [Facilities, Health & Safety Section of Moodle](#).*

## **Safe use of Equipment**

During your time at the Art Academy you will use a variety of different tools and equipment. Your tutors will induct you on the safe use of all of them. You should always follow the tutors instruction and never

use any unfamiliar equipment without an induction.

The most common pieces of equipment you're likely to encounter are:

### ***Easels***

There are two types of easel in use at the Academy; A-frame and radial. In both cases, make sure that the easel is correctly positioned on a flat surface and that all the wing nuts securing the legs are securely tightened. The most common cause of accidents with easels comes from drawing boards falling off and hurting the user or a bystander because the top clamp has not been brought down and tightened to prevent it from moving. The easel should be leaning back sufficiently that a board or canvas does not fall forward when placed on it, but in any case, never place a drawing board or canvas on an easel without clamping it in place. When using and moving easels, take care not to trip over the legs or to place them in such a way that others may trip over them. There is a demonstration video on Moodle for you to refer to.

### ***Ladders***

Ladders are a significant cause of deaths and injuries in the home and workplace. It is, however, always safer to use a ladder than to improvise by standing on a chair or table. If you have not received induction in the safe use of ladders, please refrain from using them and ask for help if you need to reach something at height. Think first whether you really need to use a ladder – if something could be equally well stored or displayed elsewhere without the use of a ladder, then consider that option. Only use a stepladder when there is someone else in the room with you. There is a demonstration video on Moodle for you to refer to.

#### *Set-up for stepladders:*

- Check that the ladder has no defects (feet included)
- Ensure there is space to fully open the stepladder - use any locking mechanisms
- The ground should be firm and level
- The floor should be clean, not slippery

#### *Stepladders in use:*

- Use them only for short duration work (maximum 30 minutes)
- Only carry light objects on ladders (up to 10 kg)
- Maintain three points of contact whenever possible
- Do not work off the top two steps (top three steps for swing-back/double-sided stepladders) unless you have a safe handhold on the steps
- Avoid side-on working. This is particularly important when storing objects on racks. Always face forwards and reach forwards.
- Do not overreach. Make sure your navel stays within the stiles and keep both feet on the same rung or step throughout the task

## **Use of Personal Electrical Equipment**

You are not allowed to plug in personal (non Academy) electrical equipment in any Art Academy building without it first undergoing PAT testing (Portable Appliance Testing). This includes chargers for mobiles and laptops. Any items not PAT tested may invalidate the Academy's insurance policy if an electrical fire should occur.

If you wish to use personal electrical equipment in Academy buildings, please speak to the Head

Technician about PAT testing (this must be conducted annually). Anyone using personal electrical equipment will be asked to cease immediately. Persistent offenders may be subject to student disciplinary procedures.

Should you need to charge your mobile, this can be done so via the usb port on a computer, or speak to the office, who may be able to assist.

## **Lifting and Handling**

You can easily cause injury to yourself or others by trying to handle a load that is too heavy for you. Do not try to lift or move anything that may be too heavy or bulky for you to handle. If in doubt, ask for help from a fellow student, tutor or technician. Where you think a job may require specialist lifting, ask the technician.

There is a demonstration video on Moodle for you to refer to.

*Think. Plan the lift:*

- Can handling aids be used? Even a sack truck can make a big improvement.
- Where is the load going to be placed?
- Will help be needed with the load?
- Remove obstructions such as discarded wrapping materials.
- For a long lift, consider resting the load midway on a table or bench.

*Take care of yourself:*

- Keep the load close to the waist. Keep the load close to the body for as long as possible while lifting. Keep the heaviest side of the load next to the body. If a close approach to the load is not possible, try to slide it towards the body before attempting to lift it.
- Adopt a stable position. The feet should be apart with one leg slightly forward to maintain balance (alongside the load, if it is on the ground).
- At the start of the lift, slight bending of the back, hips and knees is preferable to fully flexing the back (stooping) or fully flexing the hips and knees (squatting).
- Don't flex the back any further while lifting. This can happen if the legs begin to straighten before starting to raise the load. And avoid twisting the back or leaning sideways, especially while the back is bent. Shoulders should be kept level and facing in the same direction as the hips. Turn by moving the feet rather than twisting and lifting at the same time. Keep the head up when handling. Look ahead, not down at the load, once it has been held securely.
- Put down, then adjust. If precise positioning of the load is necessary, put it down first, then slide it into the desired position.

## **Fire Safety**

The Art Academy is committed to providing a safe environment for its staff, students and visitors; in the event of fire, they should be able to safely and comfortably leave the building. As part of this commitment, the Academy aims to ensure that the risks from fire are minimised and that the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) 2005 are implemented fully.

Although fire safety within the Art Academy is primarily the legal responsibility of the Academy itself, a legal obligation also rests on all staff, students, visitors, contractors and anyone else whose actions may influence the risk from fire on the Academy premises. The Art Academy will support the above persons to meet their duties and in turn requires their full commitment and cooperation.



The Art Academy has a full Fire Policy and Procedure available from the [Facilities, Health & Safety Section of Moodle](#).

### General Fire Guidelines:

- Fire doors must be kept closed and clear
- Corridors and staircases must be kept absolutely clear at all times
- Fire extinguishers and fire alarm equipment must not be tampered with or moved or used to prop doors open
- All flammable substances must be used and stored correctly
- Heaters of any kind must not be covered or obstructed
- If you notice anything that you believe presents a fire risk, bring it to the attention of your tutor, the technician or any other member of staff
- Electric plug sockets and extension leads must not exceed their power loading or be tampered with - if in doubt, please ask the Academy office for advice
- Smoking or use of E-Cigarettes is not permitted in any part of the building
- Please make sure you read the Fire Safety Notice in your studio. This document will include the location of the fire exits and the assembly point for the building.

Evacuation drills are carried out periodically for the purpose of testing the effectiveness of the Academy's emergency procedures. Frequency of drills will vary but there should be at least one per term and at least one unannounced drill per year. Accidental triggering of the fire alarm should be reported to the Head Technician, Office & Facilities Manager or Director of Operations.

### Emergencies - Fire

*If you discover a fire (no matter how small)*

- Immediately operate nearest fire alarm call point
- Attack the fire, if possible, with the appliance provided but without taking personal risk (if not, leave personal belongings and go directly to the nominated assembly point).

*On Hearing a Fire Alarm*

- Help others (with mobility issues) if necessary, (individuals with a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP)\* will be assisted by Academy staff as per their plan).
- Tell Fire Wardens (wearing high-vis yellow tabards) if you see people awaiting assistance in a protected stairway, to allow the fire services to help them out of the building.
- Leave by the nearest exit, go to the assembly point and report to your tutor (or a fire warden if not in a class). **DON'T** stop to collect personal belongings.
- **Do not use the lift.**
- Report any missing persons to Academy Staff.
- Academy Staff will call the Fire Service.
- **NEVER** re-enter the building until officially informed it is safe by Academy Staff.

\*If you have identified potential issues with being able to evacuate the buildings independently in an emergency via the induction questionnaire, you will be invited to discuss your requirements and draw up a PEEP with a member of staff. More details about PEEPs are available on [Moodle](#).

### Accidents - First aid

Any minor injury requiring treatment should be dealt with by one of the Art Academy's trained first-aiders. Names and contact numbers of qualified first aiders are available from the office and are posted at the Health and Safety point in each studio. There is a clearly marked first aid box located at each Health and Safety point. First aid boxes are also available in the offices.

An ambulance should be requested if the injury/illness is life-threatening or needs the skills and equipment of an ambulance or paramedic team. Examples include heart attack; sudden unexplained breathing difficulties; heavy bleeding; unconsciousness; traumatic back/spine/neck pain.

In such instances tutors, students and staff are advised to call an ambulance immediately by dialling 999. The location details of the Academy will be clearly marked at the Health and Safety point. Once an ambulance has been requested, the Office and Facilities Manager and/ or Director of Operations should be notified.

*Student and tutor Responsibilities under the First Aid at Work Code of Practice:*

- Seek assistance from a First Aider in all cases of injury or sudden illness on Academy premises.
- Call an ambulance if they think an injury or illness is life-threatening or needs the skills/equipment of an ambulance or paramedic team and inform the Operations Manager and/ or Director of Operations of their action.
- Provide support to First Aiders if necessary.
- Complete a report for all accidents, injuries, sudden illnesses, first aider attendances, and near misses.

*Please refer to the full Code of Practice: First Aid at work for more details, available from the [Facilities, Health & Safety](#) Section of Moodle.*

## **Smoking**

Smoking isn't allowed in any enclosed workplace, public-building or on public transport in the UK. The law doesn't apply to e-cigarettes, but we ask that everyone refrain from using e-cigarettes in our buildings. We ask that students refrain from smoking directly outside our buildings.

## **Substance Abuse**

The Art Academy holds a zero tolerance policy on the use, possession or sale of illegal substances. Anyone found in possession of illegal substances on Academy premises will be subject to student disciplinary action, and may be withdrawn from their programme. If you find someone to be under the influence or in possession of illegal substances you should inform the Academic Team or Office & Facilities Manager immediately.

## **Alcohol**

Other than at official events, alcohol is not allowed to be consumed on the Art Academy premises. Students found to be under the influence of alcohol during normal teaching hours will be asked to leave the premises and will be subject to student disciplinary action.

## **Loss, damage or theft of property**

The Art Academy will not accept responsibility for loss, damage or theft of your property whilst it is on the Academy premises. However, if you lose or find any article please notify the office without delay. The Art Academy maintains a lost property cupboard and will dispose of unmarked lost property after one month if it has not been claimed.

## 6. Institutional policies and regulations

As a student and member of the Academy community you will need to be familiar with a number of institutional policies, regulations and procedures in addition to those already signposted in this document. All relevant policies and documentation are available on [Moodle](#) or via the Academy website

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy

The Art Academy has a duty of care to all those who are involved in its work. Through its policies and in its day-to-day functions, the Art Academy is committed to promoting equality and fairness, and to combating discrimination. This commitment applies to everyone, staff and students alike, regardless of gender, racial or ethnic background, disability, religion, sexual orientation or age, and embraces our legal responsibilities.

*Under UK legislation and this policy, every member of staff and student has a responsibility to:*

- Listen to what others have to say and respect their point of view.
- Understand that it is unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability and that disciplinary action will be taken against those involved in discrimination, harassment or bullying on any grounds.
- Speak out if the situation demands it (e.g. if there is an immediate risk of escalation) or, more often, report it if they witness or are aware of bullying, vindictiveness, verbal or physical aggression and not assume that it is someone else's responsibility.
- Question their prejudices and assumptions.
- Avoid using language and behaviour that might offend others.
- Familiarise themselves with the responsibilities that equalities legislation places on them.
- Be sensitive to issues of cultural diversity in their work.

*Please see the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion policy for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle.*

### Inclusive Language Policy

Inclusive language is communication that proactively uses words, phrases and expressions that are welcoming and creates belonging. The aim of this policy is to set out the expected use of inclusive language across the Art Academy. Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, and conveys respect to all people. It is sensitive to differences and promotes equitable opportunities. The policy outlines how to use inclusive language to avoid biases, slang or expressions that exclude certain groups based on the protected characteristics\* as defined by the Equality Act 2010, in different contexts (verbal and written language).

The Art Academy encourages the correct use of an individual's pronouns. However, we should all let people share information about themselves if and when they feel comfortable doing so. Individuals are not responsible for educating the public by revealing their intimate lived experiences. Positive language facilitates a collective no blame culture; everyone makes mistakes and that it is ok! As human beings we are prone to make mistakes, it is important to recognise that what you have said could be extremely

hurtful and you need to apologise for this. Also, you should not act upset when apologising as you put the burden of emotional support on the victim.

*\*age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.*

*Please see the Inclusive Language policy for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle.*

## **Safeguarding Policy**

The Art Academy is open to everyone. This includes children and young people who are under 18 and vulnerable/protected adults and adults at risk. In line with current legislation and guidance in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the Academy recognises that it has a duty of care in creating a safe environment for the above groups for their studies or employment, and, by working with appropriate external agencies, is committed to ensure that they are safeguarded and protected from harm.

Safeguarding is accorded utmost priority and you should be aware of the institution's commitment to the safety of vulnerable/protected groups, the Policy and to relevant codes of conduct, and know what to do if a concern arises.

The Short Course Manager is the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

You should speak to the DSO, or nominated safeguarding contact in their absence, should you wish to raise any safeguarding concerns without delay.

*Please see the safeguarding policy and procedure for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle*

## **PREVENT Policy**

The Academy has a statutory duty to comply fully with and report on Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, termed "PREVENT". It acknowledges the responsibilities assigned by the legislation and has devised its PREVENT policy to address these responsibilities. The purpose of this duty is to aid the process of preventing people from coming to harm by being drawn into terrorism and it is embedded into a number of the Academy's policies as part of our wider duty of care to both students and staff. The Director of Programmes is the Academy's Prevent Coordinator. You should speak to the PC, or nominated Deputy Prevent Coordinator in their absence, should you wish to raise any safeguarding concerns without delay.

*Please see the PREVENT policy and procedure for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle.*

## **Freedom of Speech Code of Practice**

Freedom of speech is an important part of academic and wider life, especially to artists. The Academy will ensure it promotes freedom of speech for its students, staff and visiting speakers. On rare occasions, individuals might seek to express unlawful opinions or an event might lead to a breach of the peace. It is, therefore, necessary to have regulations, as described in the code of practice, to deal with such situations. However, in assessing any necessary restrictions the Academy will always be mindful of the sacrosanct principle of freedom of speech.

Please see the *Freedom of Speech Code of Practice* for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle.

## Complaints

The Academy makes every effort to ensure that you have the best experience. We recognise that there are times when you may have a specific concern about the provision of a programme of study or a related academic service. The complaints policy and procedure aims to help to resolve such concerns in a manner which is as fair and expeditious as possible.

Complaints should not be confused with Academic appeals which should be taken up in accordance with the Academy's **Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure**.

An academic appeal is defined as a request for a review of a decision concerning the following matters:

- (i) final award;
- (ii) progression from one stage or level of the programme to the next;
- (iii) assessment on the programme.

Please see the *student complaints policy and procedure* for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle.

## Fitness to study

Fitness to study relates to an individual's capacity to participate fully and satisfactorily as a student, in relation to academic studies and life generally at the Art Academy. The Academy is committed to supporting your wellbeing and recognises that a positive approach to the management of physical and mental health is crucial to student learning and academic achievement.

Please see the *Fitness to Study policy and procedure* for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle

## Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

The welfare and wellbeing of all users of the Academy depends on the reasonable and disciplined behaviour of individuals. The Student Disciplinary policy and procedure is designed to help you to achieve and maintain the high standards set by the Academy and to ensure consistent and fair treatment for all, by setting out the actions which will be taken if Academy regulations are broken. The main aim of the Student Disciplinary policy and procedure is to provide a framework to promote positive behaviour and within which student misconduct will be dealt with.

Please see the *Student Disciplinary policy and procedure* for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle.

## Bullying and Harassment Policy

Harassment occurs when an individual is subjected to unwanted conduct which has the purpose (intentional) or effect (unintentional) of:

- Violating a person's dignity, or
- Creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual.

Moreover, harassment is unlawful when it is on the grounds of sex, gender reassignment, race, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, age, religion/belief, or for a reason relating to a person's disability.

**The Academy will not tolerate harassment or bullying in any form.**

It is the individual's perception of whether the conduct in question was unacceptable that is important in determining whether harassment occurred. Where the conduct in question is found to have been unintentional, it will be viewed as having the effect of harassment if this could be regarded as a reasonable conclusion when taking into account all the circumstances, including the complainant's perception.

A student who believes that they have been subject to harassment should, in the first instance, state that the behaviour is unwelcome, unwanted, unacceptable and/or offensive and ask the individual(s) concerned to stop. However, if the victim of bullying or harassment is too upset, frightened, embarrassed or believes that the bully or harasser(s) may be unapproachable or unreceptive; he/she should immediately seek advice from the Academic Team, their PAT or Programme Leader.

*Please see the Bullying and Harassment policy for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle*

## **Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct & Sexual Violence**

Experiences of sexual misconduct and violence may also intersect with other forms of harassment and discrimination. The Art Academy will take all disclosures of sexual misconduct seriously and take swift necessary action in response to allegations made against students, tutors, staff or models in line with the procedures in this document. Where necessary, the Academy will conduct confidential investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct. The nominated investigative officers have been trained appropriately to undertake such investigations.

All individuals are personally liable for their actions, which in some instances could lead to a criminal or civil action under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Equality Act 2010 or other relevant legislation, such as the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Under the Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct & Sexual Violence policy tutors, staff and models ARE NOT PERMITTED TO HAVE an intimate personal relationship with any student on a pre-degree or degree programme.

*Please see the Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct & Sexual Violence policy for details, available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle*

## **7. Student participation and evaluation**

As a charitable institution with the aim of championing widening participation, accessible learning and inclusivity in arts education, community is the heart of the Art Academy. Our community is made up of a wide variety of staff, short course students, resident artists and alumni with our academic course students at its heart; it is central to the ethos of the Academy that the members of our community contribute to its growth and development, that our students take pride in being an active member of the Art Academy community.

To this end, student engagement in the development of the Academy, curriculum and the decision-making process is actively encouraged. Feedback forms a significant part of student engagement and is collated through both formal and informal channels. At key points in the academic year, you will have the opportunity to give feedback formally through end-of-module and year/programme surveys and become involved in the student council and forum.

The small size of the Academy is highly advantageous in promoting student engagement and community belonging, as this enables all staff to operate an open door policy and build good relationships with students, who are actively encouraged to engage with the management and executive teams (including the Principal); you are invited to feedback continuously throughout the year on a more informal basis.

The Student Council is central to the review, development and improvement process that the Academy is continually engaged in as part of its aim to provide the best student experience possible. You are encouraged to participate in all aspects of this process, help shape the future of the college and become active members of the Art Academy community.

*Please see the document 'A guide to student engagement', available from the [Policies](#) section of Moodle for more information.*

## **Graduate Show - end of year exhibition**

All graduating students participate in the Graduate Show. This exhibition forms a major part of assessment and for all programmes.

All current students are expected to assist in preparing the Academy's buildings for the graduate shows at the end of the third term. (Please do not book a holiday until after the private view opening). Students will be assigned rostered duties under the supervision of the operations team and/ or a graduating student.

All participating (graduating) students are expected to invigilate during the public opening of the exhibition.

## **8. Commissions and copyright of your work.**

Commissions or competitions may be offered to students through the Art Academy. If a student wins such a commission, a 20% commission fee is payable to the Art Academy. Commissions which a student receives on their own account do not incur any fee to the Art Academy. Sales of all work displayed during the Graduate Show and other exhibitions is subject to a 20% commission payable to the Art Academy.

Whilst you own the copyright on your work, you agree to allow the Art Academy the right to use images of you working within the Academy and work produced during your programme on its website and in its marketing materials. You may object to use of a specific image by contacting the Marketing Officer. Printed materials will not be withdrawn, but the image will not be used in new materials.

*There is a comprehensive guide to copyright law and its implications as a student and as an artist available on [Moodle](#).*

## 9. Data Protection

Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) regulates the processing of personal data. We are registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

The Academy has a full Data Protection Policy which you are advised to refer to. It sets out the Academy's commitment to comply with the DPA 2018 and GDPR.

The DPA and GDPR are both centred on key data protection principles:

- Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully
- It shall be obtained for specified purposes
- It shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive
- It shall be accurate and up-to-date
- It shall not be kept longer than necessary
- It shall be processed in accordance with the rights of the data subject
- Measures shall be taken to protect processing, and to prevent loss and damage
- It shall not be transferred outside the European Union unless there is an adequate level of protection in that country

The Academy maintains a Records Retention and Disposal Schedule setting the periods for which records containing personal data are to be retained.

### Own Personal Data

The Academy will comply with requests from an individual to exercise their rights under the DPA and GDPR.

All students are responsible for checking that information they provide to the Academy in connection with their employment or studies is accurate and up to date. Any changes to personal data provided (e.g. change of address) must be promptly notified, in writing, to the Academic Programme Manager.

## 10. Confidentiality

Your personal information is classified as confidential and will not be released to outside sources without your prior authorisation, except where a request has been made by the authorities (such as the police, central government) and the Academy considers there a lawful basis for doing so. Requests from local authorities for the purpose of assessing council tax exemption of students will be answered.

All staff members are expected to treat the personal information of staff members, students and Academy affiliates with respect for confidentiality.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), the Art Academy will require students to clear security when calling us to discuss any information covered by the DPA/GDPR\*. In such cases, all students will be required to give three forms of verbal ID over the phone to confirm they are the student they claim to be. These three forms of ID will be:

- a) Full name (including middle names)
- b) Date of birth
- c) First line of address

If any of these details should change, e.g. change of address, the office must be notified in person. All



email correspondence will be sent to the email initially listed in the student's application, unless they have informed the office of a change of email.

*\*this pertains to information such as contact details, financial information (including fees and bursary information), information about medical and other conditions, grades and other individual progression information (i.e attendance, extenuating circumstances, appeals & complaints etc). Students phoning for general inquiries or information on timetables, to inform of absence or lateness etc will not need to pass these security measures.*

It is important to be aware that the Academic team will not be able to speak with family members/guardians, etc. unless the student has given express permission to do so. Family members/guardians/etc will need to confirm the above three forms of ID and a password set up with the student and the Art Academy.

The Academic team will complete each call with a short note on the relevant students' file to document the reason for the call.

The Academy will seek to ensure that personal data is only shared across different teams or departments where those areas have a business need for accessing that data.

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Document name	Student Handbook (undergraduate)	Document owner	Sue Spaul Director of Programmes
Date originally created	June 2019		
Version	9	Review date	August 2025
Author of amendments	Darren Nairn Director of Quality & Student Experience	Next review date	June 2026
Changes (list sections)	Removal of Director of Quality & Student Experience and Academic Programme Manager references. Updated job titles and names throughout. 'Public Courses' were renamed to 'Short Courses' throughout. Removal of cafe @ Bankside reference. 'Studios' section moved to relate to other sections regarding studios. 'Personal Studio Spaces' renamed to 'Cohort/ Programme Studio Spaces' and section updated to reflect changes to studio offer from Sept 25. Inclusion of 'General Studio Access' detailing how all UG students can access vacant studios for independent work. Removal of building closure on Thursdays notice. Updated reference to library IT access. Inclusion of note regarding library relocation.		

	Change of DSO and Prevent Coordinator duties - from DQSE to SCM and DoP respectively. Addition of Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct & Sexual Violence policy - sign post. Addition of Inclusive Language Policy - sign post		
Approved by	AQSSEC	Date of approval	22 September 2025