



What if you don't have the relevant qualifications for a university course?

If you don't have A Levels or a BTEC National Diploma, or equivalent, there are other options open to you.

Access courses are accepted by most universities in place of A Levels. Delivered in Further Education and sixth form colleges, they can be followed full-time over one year, or part-time over two years. These courses are generally aimed at learners who have been out of the classroom for some time. Contact your local college for further details.

Some degrees have a foundation year attached to them to help students who do not have the right qualifications to start the degree in Year 1. Foundation years are also known as Level Zero. See individual university websites or prospectuses for further details or visit the UCAS website: www.ucas.ac.uk

Foundation Degrees are accessible all over the country. These can take two years or more to complete and are normally part-time while you carry on working, ideally in the industry you are studying. Generally the entry requirements are lower for Foundation Degrees than they are for normal honours degrees. You can search for courses on the Foundation Degree Forward website: www.fdf.ac.uk/courses

Some universities may agree to put an applicant without the right qualifications through a process called **APEL** (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning). This allows the applicant to prove what they can do and show they will cope on the course. Universities have their own policies on APEL, so you will need to approach them individually.

The **Open University (OU)** offers courses in the Creative Industries. The OU does not demand any previous qualifications. It can take five or six years to complete a degree, and most people carry on working full-time while they study. To find out more, visit: www.open.ac.uk

The Creative Industries are unlikely to insist on GCSE passes in English and Mathematics, but some universities might or they may accept an equivalent alternative.

If you don't already have GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, you may be able to improve your maths and English skills for free. Information about such courses is available on the Directgov website:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/FinancialHelpForAdultLearners/

If you want to gain a nationally recognised qualification, but don't feel ready for GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, an entry level certificate could be for you. Follow the above link for more information.

It's never too late to go back to college to study A Levels or a BTEC National Diploma. Returning a little older can give you a whole new perspective on your studies.



Money Matters

Never let financial concerns stop you from considering Higher Education. There is plenty of support available for all types of courses, such as loans, grants and bursaries, which can be obtained from a variety of sources (too many to list here).

For a list of useful websites with information about everything from finance to course guides go to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network website at: www.hi-lln.co.uk

Contacts

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Career Guide
Creative Industries



aimhigher...
Hampshire & Isle of Wight

What is in this booklet?

This booklet has been designed to give an overview of the Creative Industries, some of the career paths available in this field and contains advice about the type of training and qualifications that are important for anyone wishing to embark on a career in this sector. There is advice for anyone without the basic qualifications and useful contacts and websites with information aimed at people considering further study.

Southampton Solent University leads the development of Creative Industries courses on behalf of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network. Contact details for more information is available at the back of this booklet.

What is the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network and how can it help me?



The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network is a partnership of universities, colleges, training providers and guidance agencies who together want to transform the opportunities for vocational and work-based learners in the region.

By focusing on the expectations of employers the Network works with education and training providers to offer flexible and work-related educational opportunities that will help individuals get the qualifications needed for specific jobs and careers.

And Aimhigher...?

The overall vision of Aimhigher (Hampshire and Isle of Wight) is to make an effective contribution to widening participation in higher education in the South East region of England and thereby support the national campaign to increase participation for those aged 18-30 by 2010.

The activities of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network support the work of Aimhigher and together both organisations aim to improve the prospects of the region's learners, independent of their age or background.

The Creative Industries Sector

There are hundreds of different career opportunities across the Creative Industries, some of which you may never have thought of as a possible option.

Here are just a few examples of the areas where you could work:

- Animation
- Commercials/Advertising
- Computer Games
- Crafts
- Culture
- Design
- Fashion
- Film
- Media
- Multiplatform Media
- Music (recording, production, technology)
- Newspapers and Magazines
- Performing/Theatre
- Photography/Photo Imaging
- Post Production
- Radio
- Screenwriting/Journalism/Creative Writing
- Studio and Equipment Hire
- Television

Creative Industries is a highly competitive area to break into, but it can be both exciting and rewarding. Many people in this profession work freelance and live from one contract to the next.



Do you have what it takes?

Here are some of the typical attributes expected of someone in this sector:

- Being able to adapt your skills
- Open to new ideas and being prepared to learn something new
- Able to work under pressure within a team or as an individual
- Willingness to work unsociable hours
- Willingness to travel
- The relevant technical skills – probably learned at university
- Enthusiasm, flexibility and commitment are essential

Why are qualifications important?

Most employers within the Creative Industries expect applicants to have a degree in a relevant area. But this alone is not enough – applicants need to make themselves stand out. The right skills for the job are important, as is evidence that you have prepared yourself as best as you can. Before interviews it is recommended that you research the company where you are applying for work and be prepared with exciting ideas. Work experience is a distinct advantage and can be voluntary work or activities undertaken at school or college.

Some people break into the Creative Industries without a degree. These people are likely to have extensive experience in the sector, an outstanding portfolio and qualities such as maturity or management experience. An ability to network and make the right contacts helps enormously. To progress in this industry these individuals may have to study part-time while they are working, to upgrade their skills. Being in the right place at the right time is sometimes a huge help.

There are some opportunities for apprenticeships in the Creative Industries. The Sector Skills Councils may be able to help you to seek these out:

Skillset: www.skillset.org

Creative and Cultural Skills: www.ccskills.org.uk

