

HND Visual Communication (Graphic Design) *(SCQF Level 8)*

Full-time

Where can I study?

Location	Duration	Course code
Aberdeen City Campus	2 Years	PADA

Introduction to the course

This qualification is ideal for those who wish to progress to a university degree course in Graphic Design, Illustration, New Media, Digital Design or Visual Information, or those who want to pursue employment in the visual communications industry.

The course will prepare candidates for roles that require creativity, creative thinking, critical analysis, planning and reflection skills. The qualification demands a high level of self management and responsibility.

Entry requirements

Typically applicants should have at least two course passes at Higher level preferably including English, Art, Graphic Communication or Product Design; or a qualification at SCQF Level 6 in a related subject area, e.g. Computer Arts & Animation or NPA in Digital Media.; or have relevant work experience.

A Foundation Apprenticeship in any subject area will be considered equivalent as one unrelated Higher for entry to this course. A Foundation Apprenticeship in Creative and Digital Media will be considered equivalent to a subject related Higher. The additional Higher required for entry does not require to be subject related.

What subjects will I be studying?

You will cover a wide range of topics and take part in various creative and client initiated projects, allowing for the development of important skills for educational or professional progression. Subjects include:

- Creative and Client Initiated Projects
- Digital Imaging
- 2D Computer Animation
- Typography
- Graphic Design
- Experimental Illustration
- Sustainable Design
- Social Media

Assessment methods

On this course you will be assessed continually throughout the year. Coursework takes the form of reports, presentations, case studies and practical projects. Please note that this course does not include an external end-of-course examination.

Dress code

Students should dress appropriately for practical, hands-on work, as you will be working in a creative environment and using a range of different materials and equipment.

Equipment

You must supply your own portfolio case for storing/carrying your work. You must also provide your own A3 workbooks and backup storage device.

Course progression

Students successfully completing this course may progress towards a number of related degree programmes at one of our associate universities.

University links

North East Scotland College has links with a wide range of universities from across Scotland. Every one of our HND level courses has articulation opportunities where you could progress from your chosen course to a related university degree, subject to conditions. This is an excellent option for those who may want to come to College at an introductory level, and then work their way towards degree level study.

[Find out more about our associate universities](#)

Employment

Career opportunities include work as a designer in a range of industries - from food and drink to events, sports, music, education and more. Many will also enter work as a freelance designer.

Useful contacts

Head of Faculty:

Elaine Makein

Head of Faculty, Creative Industries, Aberdeen City Campus

Email: e.makein@nescol.ac.uk

Curriculum Manager:

Janice Scott

Curriculum Manager, Aberdeen City Campus

Email: janice.scott@nescol.ac.uk

Academic Tutor

Once you come to College you will be allocated an academic tutor, who will be your initial point of contact. You will meet your tutor at least once a term during tutor hour — they are also the person to go to for the following:

- **Induction:** You will be invited to come in the week before your course starts for your induction. Your tutor will cover key aspects of life at the College to make sure you are well prepared for your NESCol experience.
- **Initial support:** Your tutor is the first point of contact for academic, personal and social support.
- **Attendance:** Your attendance and progress while you are at college, will be monitored by your tutor.
- **Additional support needs:** If you have indicated that you have additional learning or support needs, speak to your tutor who will refer you to the Student Advice and Support team for needs assessment as soon as practically possible.
- **Transitions:** your tutor will keep you informed of the many activities and events organised by the College to support you with career choices, employability, enterprise and articulation guidance and advice.

Student Advice Centre

The Student Advice Centre is your one stop shop for all information and support during your time at NESCol. Staff based within the centre provide impartial and confidential information and advice on a range of issues including:

- Applications and course advice
- Funding and money management
- Careers, employability and enterprise
- Transitions to college and university
- Key Skills and Study Skills support
- Additional Support for Learning
- Assistive technologies
- Mental health and wellbeing advice
- Care Experienced and Corporate Parenting
- Tier 4 and international admissions

Learning Resources

My NESCol

My NESCol is the College's student web portal that will provide you with on-demand access to all of the links, news and services that you will use once you have enrolled. It's accessible via any computer, and as an Android or Apple app. It's easy to use, and you can even receive important alerts on your device!

Blackboard

Blackboard is the Virtual Learning Environment system used in the College, where you can find a host of useful information and access your courses online. It will be the main platform that your lecturers will use to make resources available to you including interactive materials, videos, assessments and feedback.

IT HelpZone

The IT HelpZones are run by students, for students, and there are helpdesks located in main social areas at the Aberdeen and Fraserburgh Campuses, and a dedicated helpline at our Altens Campus. You can drop in, email or telephone for assistance.

Library+

Each Library offers thousands of resources for study, including books, journals, e-books, e-journals and magazines — all relevant to the courses on offer at the campus in which they are situated. They also offer quiet, silent, individual, and group study facilities.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

NESCol believes that your learning and teaching experience at College can be enhanced significantly by use of a mobile device, such as a tablet or a laptop. For this reason, many students are required to bring a device with them to College. This initiative is known as Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and its aim is to provide learners with a more bespoke and student-centred learning experience.

Digital Skills Space

Located within each Library Plus facility you will find a dedicated Digital Skills Space, featuring Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) workspaces and dedicated desktop PC work areas. These spaces are also used to deliver core IT teaching, drop-in IT support and scheduled digital skills workshops. You can also use these spaces for flexible access to PCs during Library+ opening hours.

College Calendar

Have a look at our [College Calendar](#) for further information on key dates throughout the year.

Disclaimer: Please note that the information put forward in this course specification document is subject to change at any time, and without prior notice. We have taken every care to ensure that the information provided is as accurate and up-to-date as possible, but we are not liable for the content of or any omissions on this document. This includes any inaccuracies, errors or misstatements in the information/data presented.