

Fine Art

Your Careers Advisers

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Skills developed in college

You will have already developed a range of skills throughout your education (academic & extra-curricular), work experience and personal interests and activities.

Your degree will have given you more skills than you probably realise. With the move to digital technology, interactive visual content creation is vital in every economic sector, so employers from a wide range of sectors are looking for design thinkers.

The study of Fine Art is focused primarily on acquiring the knowledge and skills that are needed to operate as a visual artist in a competitive environment. It is also about developing a critical and informed understanding of contemporary Fine Art, its evolution and context. By explaining your influences, the reasoning behind your choice of subjects and materials, you are improving your communication skills

Opposite are some more examples of skills developed as a result of studying Fine Art. They are not limited to your academic study and can be applied to other contexts. Employers' job vacancy details often refer to these skills. Evidence-based skills sections on your CV demonstrate the broad range of qualities you have to offer employers such as being able to:

- Originate, research, develop, articulate and execute creative concepts (self-initiated or in response to set brief) in a myriad of Fine Art practices, including digital media
- Navigate, retrieve and manage information from a variety of sources
- Show an understanding of issues which can arise with audiences, clients, markets, environments, users, participants etc.
- Use design thinking concepts to formulate reasoned arguments and solve problems
- Resilience - developed from dealing with critical judgements from others during course
- Well-developed self-management skills in managing workloads and meeting deadlines
- flexible and adaptable in dealing with change and uncertainty
- Networking - from identifying opportunities to promote your work
- Attention to detail
- Independent thinker/ self reliant / confidence – taking opportunities
- Strong work ethic
- A wide range of technical skills

Types of employers/industry sectors

Fine art graduates often specialise in a particular form of art such as painting, drawing, installations, sculpture or printmaking but finding regular work or a permanent job as an artist is not easy. For many, self-employment, teaching, applying for competitions, and commissions are the main career opportunities, and a way to become established. Taking courses in complementary art-related disciplines, and becoming a 'portfolio' worker, holding down several jobs is often the main way to support your creative work.

If there is an area you particularly want to work in, try to get relevant work experience in the form of a structured work placement, part-time job, voluntary work or work shadowing.

Many fine art graduates get placed on graduate training programmes, in a range of industries, such as banking, insurance, consulting, agrifood, drinks, media, public relations, advertising and marketing etc., where their creative and design abilities adds another dimension to delivering for clients.

Some companies offer experience in several departments but others encourage specialisation from the outset. These graduate training programmes are advertised in The Gradireland directory available free from your careers service as well as online. They are often also advertised on www.tudublin.ie/jobscene

For sector information see:

www.gradireland.com
www.careersportal.ie
www.prospects.ac.uk
www.targetjobs.co.uk

Career options with your course

Many graduates have pursued more training as they have gone through their career, and have gone on to roles such as:

- Gallery assistant
- Curator
- Art teacher
- Practicing artist
- Community arts facilitator
- Lecturer
- Illustrator – fashion, childrens books, medical comics, film storyboards
- Design – graphics, Web, video game, UX/UI , interiors, architecture , sets, theatre/tv/film
- Photographer /videographer – portrait, wedding, fashion, stylist, travel, photojournalist, landscape, wildlife music, food etc.
- Artist – ceramics, sculptor, makeup, digital collage, glass, textile, painter, craft
- Print artist– etching, silkscreen, woodcutting lino/vinyl, lithograph, digital, photo etching
- Art Therapist

For occupational information see

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Employers who have recruited in your area

Some of the companies who have recruited Fine Art graduates include:

- National gallery
- Science gallery
- Visual artists Ireland
- The Arts Council
- Accenture
- Google
- A wide range of 3rd level colleges in various roles

Job Hunting

It is important that you access both the advertised and hidden jobs market and use any and every means available to you to job hunt effectively.

Advertised Jobs

Most University and IT Careers Services have jobs listings on their websites:

www.tudublin.ie/jobscene

Graduate programmes and immediate vacancies

www.prospects.ac.uk & www.targetjobs.co.uk

Graduate jobs UK

www.gradireland.com

Immediate jobs/Summer/Graduate programmes

www.mondotimes.com

Local and national press

www.publicjobs.ie

www.localgovernmentjobs.ie

Public service

www.irishjobs.ie/agencies

Complete list of recruitment agencies/online recruitment sites

Company Websites - Immediate vacancies and Internships

www.indeed.ie – Ireland (various job boards)

[irishjobfairy](https://twitter.com/irishjobfairy) (twitter)

Creative arts opportunities

- www.idi-design.ie/resources/jobs
- www.creativeireland.com/jobdesk
- www.designjobs.ie
- www.creativepool.com
- www.designjobsboard.com
- www.ccskills.org.uk/careers
- <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/news/jobs>
- <https://jobs.designweek.co.uk/>
- <https://www.irishmuseums.org/careers-vacancies>
- <https://ie.indeed.com/jobs?q=Design&l=Dublin&radius=100>
- www.creativecareers.ie
- <https://visualartists.ie/>
- <https://artsmanagement.ie/>

Other

- Careers fairs – Gradireland Fair – Autumn and Summer Fair, plus many others.
- Notice boards/Student email account/Lecturers
- Company Presentations
- Specialist Magazines

Voluntary Sector/Charities

www.activelink.ie

Voluntary Sector/Charity/NGO vacancies in voluntary sector

www.volunteeringireland.com

www.dochas.ie

Association of non-governmental development organisations

www.comhlahm.org

Volunteering opportunities

www.wheel.ie/directory

Directory of voluntary and community organisations

Unadvertised Jobs

Networking: critiquing your work in college, helps develop your social skills and helps you to have more effective conversations at exhibition openings, events etc.

Make sure you have developed an 'elevator pitch' about your work <https://renee-phillips.com/how-to-craft-your-elevator-speech-as-an-artist/> and have some of your work on Instagram on your phone <https://www.artworkarchive.com/blog/how-to-snap-your-way-to-art-success-on-instagram>

Social networking sites (facebook, twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Blog, Discussion Groups) Linked-In (set up a profile, link to others, search for companies - employees who have Linked-in profiles
Follow target companies and think of small companies not just big brands

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Freelancing/Work experience/Self-employment/Start-Up
- <http://www.dit.ie/careers/studentsgraduates/interestedinselfemployment/>
- TU Dublin Hothouse - www.dit.ie/hothouse/
- Local Enterprise Office - www.localenterprise.ie
- The Digital Hub - www.thedigitalhub.com

Check VAI for competitions and scholarships

Set up collectives with colleagues and pool your skills

For more information on how to go about finding a job and job-hunting sites, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

Interviews

For more information on how to perform in interviews, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

CVs/Cover letters and applications

For information on how to put together a great CV/Cover Letter or Application, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

Useful links (e.g. Company Databases, Professional Bodies, LinkedIn Groups)

This list contains links to some of the most useful websites for your course including professional bodies and associations, employer directories, information sources and LinkedIn groups.

General websites — useful links

- <https://visualartists.ie/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/VisualArtistsIreland/>
- <https://www.screenskills.com/careers/job-profiles/>
- <https://www.designdirectory.co.uk/>

Useful LinkedIn groups:

- [Museums and art galleries](#)
- [Fine art professionals & collectors](#)
- [Visual arts professionals](#)
- [American alliance of museums](#)
- [Arts, culture and humanities](#)
- [Arts admin network](#)
- [Art Marketing](#)

Useful organisations to follow:

- [Visual Artists Ireland](#)
- [Business to arts](#)
- [National gallery of Ireland](#)
- [IMMA](#)
- [Arts Council of Ireland](#)
- [LinkedIn for small businesses](#)

Careers open to all disciplines (Including 'Paths Into...' Series)

Many graduate vacancies don't require specific degree subjects as possession of a degree is taken as evidence of intellectual ability. What is more important to the potential employer is the range of transferable skills and experience you can demonstrate.

Many graduate training programmes take final year students from a wide range of disciplines, register with the [Career Development Centre's Jobsence](#) for a full list of programmes. Here is a range of career areas that are potentially open to graduates of all disciplines. It's important to note that some of these options may require further study either on the job or beforehand.

If you are considering diversifying or changing career direction a postgraduate conversion course may be a viable option.

Some examples of career areas open to students of all disciplines:

- Teaching & Education
- Financial Services & Accounting
- Marketing, Advertising and PR
- Retail, Sales and Customer Service
- Banking, insurance and financial services
- Charities and voluntary sector
- Fund management / administration and investment banking
- Human resources, recruitment and training
- Management consulting
- Management, business and administration
- Media and publishing
- Public sector and civil service
- Social, community and youth

For further information see: www.gradireland.com/career-sectors

Further Study

Are you considering further study or training? See www.tudublin.ie/careers for comprehensive information

Conversion courses

Some graduates find that their primary degree did not meet their expectations, either vocationally, academically or personally, and seek change career direction. Conversion courses offer the opportunity to diversify into another chosen career area while meeting the necessary entry requirements for that discipline. However, it should be noted that this is not the case for all disciplines e.g. disciplines such as science and engineering will

require an undergraduate degree in that discipline. As with all choices good research and planning are very important.

Examples of postgraduate courses and conversion courses pursued by graduates of your discipline:

- MSc advertising, business, communication and media
- MA vis comm, product design, arts management

International Related

Internships/Job Opportunities Worldwide. E.g. iagora.com, eurobrussels.com, eurojobs.com, overseasjobs.com, jobrapido.com, intergrad international career opportunities – <http://tinyurl.com/d7pluyx>
EU Roles E.g EU Commission, European Movement Ireland internships - europeanmovement.ie, eurograduate.com, www.epso.eu, eujobs.ie, eurobrussels.com, eu-careers.eu

Self Employment

Ever thought of being your own boss? Think you have an innovative product or service idea that could have commercial value? Want to commercialise your research? See www.tudublin.ie/careers

Other Options (e.g. Time out, travel etc.)

Volunteering and working with communities with is a great way to gain valuable real world experience, to develop new skills, to meet new people, to do something worthwhile and to improve your employability. For more details, see www.tudublin.ie/careers.

Labour Market Information

For information on the latest labour market trends see www.tudublin.ie/careers.

Additional Information / Advice

For any query you might have, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Disclaimer: TU Dublin Career Development Centre offers advice in good faith on the basis of the best information available.
The Centre accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice.