

Art, Design and Photography – Senior Phase Course Overview

Art and Design helps learners understand the visual world in which we live. It also helps learners to critically evaluate their personal appreciation of the society in which they live, locally, nationally and internationally.



The following courses are on offer within our Art, Design and Photography department –

National 4 Art and Design (SCQF Level 4)

Entry Requirements: No prior attainment required but studying Art in S3 is preferred.

Course Summary: This course builds confidence in creative expression and design. You'll complete Expressive Activity, Design Activity and an Added Value Practical Unit, producing one expressive piece and one design solution.

Assessment: Assessment is internal and focuses on planning, developing, and presenting work while understanding social and cultural influences on artists and designers. There is no external exam for National 4.

Progression: A great stepping stone to National 5 Art & Design.

National 5 Art and Design (SCQF Level 5)

Entry Requirements: No prior attainment required but studying Art in S3 or National 4 Art is preferred.

Course Summary: Develop your creativity and critical understanding through Expressive and Design portfolios and an external written exam. You'll research artists and designers, produce investigative studies and create final outcomes in response to themes and briefs.

Assessment: Expressive Portfolio (100 marks), Design Portfolio (100 marks) and Question Paper (50 marks).

Progression: This SCQF Level 5 course (24 credit points) is ideal preparation for Higher Art & Design and creative careers.

Higher Art and Design (SCQF Level 6)

Entry Requirements: A-C pass in National 5 Art and Design.

Course Summary: Push your creative boundaries with this SCQF Level 6 course (24 credit points). You'll produce Expressive and Design portfolios and sit a written exam, demonstrating advanced skills in research, development, and critical analysis.

Assessment: Question Paper (60 marks), Expressive Portfolio (100 marks), Design Portfolio (100 marks).

Progression: Perfect for learners aiming for Advanced Higher, art-related careers or looking for some balance in their timetable.

Advanced Higher Art and Design (SCQF Level 7)

Entry Requirements: A-C pass in Higher Art and Design.

Course Summary: Your Ultimate Creative Challenge! Take your creativity to the next level with **Advanced Higher Art & Design**, a SCQF Level 7 course worth 32 credit points. Designed for learners who have achieved Higher Art & Design or equivalent experience, this course gives you the freedom to develop an ambitious, personal portfolio either **Expressive** or **Design** focus. Over approximately 160 hours, you'll research, experiment, and refine ideas while exploring contemporary and historical influences.

Assessment: The single assessment component—a portfolio—carries 100 marks and is externally assessed by SQA. You'll demonstrate autonomy, critical thinking, and professional presentation skills—perfect preparation for art, design, architecture, and creative industries. There is no external exam for Advanced Higher Art.

Higher Photography (SCQF Level 6)

Entry requirements: No prior attainment required but Higher English A-C pass preferred.

Course Summary: Combine technical skill and creative vision in this SCQF Level 6 course (24 credit points). You'll plan and execute a photography project, research photographers, and develop a personal approach to image-making.

Assessment: Assessment is through a Project (100 marks) and Question Paper (30 marks), both externally assessed.

Progression: Ideal for progression to college, university, or careers in photography and media.

Personal Development Courses in Art, Design and Photography

NPA Art and Design (SCQF Level 5)

Entry Requirements: No prior attainment required.

Course Summary: Explore your creativity through hands-on projects in Mixed Media, Printmaking, and Illustration. This National Progression Award develops practical art and design skills while introducing you to professional techniques and creative thinking.

Assessment: You'll complete three mandatory units (18 SCQF credit points) assessed through practical tasks under open-book conditions. There is no external exam.

Progression: Perfect for building a varied portfolio and progressing to NC or Higher-level courses in Art & Design.

NPA Photography (SCQF Level 5)

Entry requirements: No prior attainment required.

Course Summary: Discover the art of photography with this practical course covering photographic concepts, genres, and technical skills. You'll complete units on Understanding Photography, Photographing People, Photographing Places, and Working with Photographs, learning to plan shoots, edit images, and present your work.

Assessment: Assessment is through practical and written tasks under open- and closed-book conditions. There is no external exam.

Progression: Ideal for learners with an interest in photography and a pathway to Higher Photography or creative media careers.