

At this stage we often advise starting applications for both foundation courses and degrees, to give yourself more options to think about and choose from.

You will need to write personal statements for all of the above.

Personal statements for degree courses (UCAS) tend to be around 800 words. Where as personal statements for foundation applications will be either 300 or 500 depending on where you are applying.

10 Tips for a great Personal Statement

1. Make yourself sound Different, Unique and Keen! Remember it will be super competitive, stand out from the crowd! Quotes can be a good way to start.
2. Use a lot of active verbs. I painted...I sketch...I sculpt... I edit... I film... I direct
3. Use strong emotions. I loathe Tarantino...I adore Deborah Roberts.
4. Sound ambitious yet open-minded. You are going to this course in order to learn and embrace new materials, techniques and thought processes, although they will like to hear if you have any ideas for your future beyond the foundation or degree.
5. Remember Tallis is an Arts Specialist college. We offer a completely unique experience over and above your usual Secondary Comprehensive. Tell them about the adventurous work you have undertaken, maybe mention a threshold concept?
6. Stick to the word count- usually about 300 or 500 words (800 for ucas). This isn't much, so be punchy.
7. Refer to your other A-Levels and BTECs, but only if they are relevant. Studying Photography alongside Art is brilliant to include for example, whereas Maths wouldn't necessarily...unless you have used it in your work or are planning on studying Architecture.
8. Remember that each college/university will have a different outlook and specialism, tailor your statement to suit each one, this will let them know that you've done your research.
9. Talk about the work you are creating in school. Mention materials and techniques which you are using and Directors, Artists etc that you are studying
10. Maybe most importantly talk about your work outside school. Remember every applicant will have an qualification whether it's A-level or otherwise, so what makes you different? Do you visit Exhibitions, conferences, film viewings? Which ones? Why? Who is your favourite Artist or Director? Why? What have you learnt from them and what effect has it had on your own practice? Do you attend workshops? Life drawing classes? Do you take photos? Do you have an website or portfolio? Do you have an online blog? Do you have a related part-time job or commitment?

Statement 1 (Art College 500 Words)

A lot of the work I have produced has involved mixing media, for example, engraving and printing onto an acoustic guitar or making a sculptural assemblage of batik and using a diffuser on abstract wearable sculptures. I enjoy responding to the physical nature of materials, for example, cutting through Lino gives me a sense of calm. I also enjoy the durability of the medium; that it is long lasting and doesn't get damaged from multiple uses. I think this is why the Hot Metal Typesetting room at LCC that I saw amazed me. Such an ancient method of printing, I had never seen it before. I am constantly gathering ideas and want to start using machinery and technology I haven't used or seen before.

I gather inspiration from many places, visiting museums and galleries independently. I have interests in, for example, the fashion timeline at the V&A, the huge ancient bones in the National History Museum, Storm Tharp's work in the Paper show at the Saatchi Gallery, and many works in the National Gallery and Tate Modern. Finding Iain MacArthur's work online was a discovery, his work helping me to realize my love for detailed drawing with fine tip pens, inspiring me to take some of his patterns and recreate them in my own work but in my own style by drawing onto clay with pigment pens.

I also find myself taking photographs of scenes I find attractive and meaningful. Using my phone as well as my Canon DSLR camera, I take photos throughout my day. I'm also trying to take photographs of moments that hold memories within them. I like to mix up my photography work and art and design work, for example, I made a group of doll garments and then did a photoshoot, with a live model, in the woods near Falconwood station to create a scene that I had envisioned for a film. I have played a key part in many productions at the school and know now that I enjoy designing, drawing, and making garments as much as seeing them being used in school productions. I learn a lot through this process about being independent, and sourcing and buying my own equipment. I did this by working and earning my own money. I take a lot of inspiration from other photographers, such as Arnulf Rainer with his mix of emotionally charged photographs and paint. I also find Jane Bown's photography very useful; I used her style of work as a basis for my photography shoots.

When I started off with my sixth form studies I knew that I wanted to be in the fashion industry and now my interest is stronger but also broader. Choosing Art and Design has helped me realize this. I believe my strongest focus is currently in illustration, drawing with fineliners and ball pens.

I would like to explore media, materials and ideas further in a place where I can figure out what my strongest interest in Art and Design will be.

Statement 2 (Art College 500 Words)

When visiting an exhibition - 'Dali's Universe' the imaginary and surreal world inside my mind was brought to life. Art and Design's ability to convey otherwise insular thoughts and ideas is what fascinates me so much about the subject. Dali's short film, 'Destino' - a combination of CGI and hand drawn animation - tells the story of Greek God Chronos falling in love with a mortal. This film epitomises Dali's ability to bring myth and emotion to life. I hope that this course will enable me to explore different disciplines within Art and Design, allowing me to similarly explore ideas in new and exciting ways.

I try to convey meaning through my own work, in a variety of mediums. For example, I recently created a sculpture of a rib cage using twigs and branches, which I hoped would depict the relationship between humans and the natural world. The unruly structure encapsulates the fragility of our environment and questions why, as humans, we have dissociated ourselves from nature. Partly inspired by Magritte's 'Le Therapeute', I borrowed elements of the birdcage structure from the painting as well as emphasising the emptiness of the human form.

I am interested in the interchangeable relationship of different mediums, particularly the idea of turning drawing and sculpture into digital works and animation. Miroi Mizue, an abstract artist and animator inspired my own stop motion animation, transforming one of my drawings into a short film. I am eager to explore further elements of digital art and animation, which I hope to combine with traditional methods and techniques to create original and exciting works. I am keen to explore the relationship between art, design and media.

Over the summer I had the opportunity to attend Goldsmiths University Summer School. I gained an insight into the university environment, getting a taste of the independence and commitment required to excel. The purpose of these two weeks was to produce a final piece, culminating in a public exhibition. I worked collaboratively to create an installation piece. Working as part of a team gave me experience in overcoming creative differences as well as the opportunity to learn new skills from others - such as film and audio production - whilst sharing my own.

Having visited many of the Art Colleges in London, I feel that Ravensbourne is best suited to my interests and aspirations. The facilities such as industry standard technology, the knowledgeable staff and connections to the creative industry, I hope will support my exploration of new skills and disciplines. The open layout of the college and the creative freedom of the course will provide me with the perfect environment to enhance my understanding of design and media. I hope to experience a wide range of design and media practices and gain an awareness of my strengths and interests. The course will enable me to further my creative skill set and help me to understand where it is in the creative industry, that I potentially see myself working

Statement 3 (Media degree - 800 words)

My favourite contemporary film has to be "Mommy", a Canadian-French family drama directed by Xavier Dolan. Ever since I watched it for the first time, it has stuck with me. The performances, the rawness, the intimacy, the aspect ratio, the soundtrack. It was aesthetically well manipulated to engage the spectator and has been an influence to me and my work ever since. I think watching foreign films is necessary as it places the audience in unfamiliar surroundings, allowing them to gain new experiences and expand their understanding of art and the world we live in today. As a person of Lithuanian descent, it is a dream of mine to someday direct a Lithuanian film.

Ever since I chose Media as a subject, my curiosity for cinema has grown further. I was never destined to become a media student. My parents noticed the artistic capabilities within me from a young age but always envisioned me becoming an illustrator, so discovering the film industry was a part of my own independent journey. I have completed multiple projects as a part of my media course which include a short film, music video and podcast that I directed and edited myself and am now currently working on making a live show and independent product. I have acquired industry standard skills throughout my course such as being able to collaborate with peers, use abstruse soft wares such as Adobe Premiere Pro and Photoshop to create my pieces of work, have adequate organisation when it comes to pre-production work such as researching and script writing and have also gained extensive knowledge on how to use equipment such as cameras and lights correctly. However, I want to expand my experience of creating films as I was always drawn to the filmmaking aspects of media such as directing and editing, which is why I want to apply for a filmmaking course.

Alongside Media I am also studying Photography. Photography has taught me how important composition, lighting and setting are. Small details will largely impact what a finished product will look like. In this context, photography interlinks with cinematography as both share similar elements and rules for creating beautiful shots. Photography taught me how to further analyse and appreciate films. A cinematographer I admire is Robert Yeoman. Yeoman has a different approach to cinematography; he favours central symmetric compositions as opposed to the more traditional angled shots, and he creates contrast with the use of complementary colours rather than the use of lighting. This is what makes him so talented and influential as he does not follow the norms.

Apart from my curricular studies, I have worked with a school organisation called Tallis Media Productions which gave me the opportunity to further explore the practical elements of media production, I have also attended workshops at The Royal Drawing School where my passion for creative based subjects grew even further, these opportunities allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and meet people who share similar interests and passions as me. In addition to this, I speak a second language fluently. I am a hardworking student who always gives my best and I believe I have all the qualities and characteristics along with the passion for filmmaking required to make me an asset to your institution.

Statement 4 (Camberwell application - 500 words)

Perhaps one of the leading factors that draws me to both studying and creating art is colour. I was instantly drawn to 'Tio' by Jennifer Packer quite simply because of the brilliant yellow that radiated from it, offset by the deeper red-browns and flashes of blue. However, the more I looked at it the more I was amazed by the painting's definition and visibility despite the challenging nature of the colour. Time and time again, my work has circled back to colour and without failure it is what draws me in to other artists work. Anthony Cudahy's luminous paintings are another example. What stood out to me in particular was the phosphorescent quality of each one; the darker muddier tones that are contrasted with much brighter ones make his paintings look like they are lit from within and glowing with yellow or orange light. I also stumbled across Anthony Daley's 'Son of Rubens' exhibition completely by accident and couldn't take my eyes away from his paintings, the rich greens and blues, the visible swirling brushstrokes and the silhouettes hidden in a haze of aquamarine.

Although I've done a fair amount of tonal pencil drawing and printmaking along the way, my primary focus in my work so far has been painting, experimenting with watercolour, acrylic and oil. Most recently I've been immersed in developing and understanding my own painting style, specifically looking at playing around with underpainting; with how much of a piece gets rendered with great detail and care, which elements are left in their simplest form, dripping paint still visible and which are left out altogether. I've been obsessed with whether I could create pieces that were technically unfinished but were simultaneously complete works. A big part of my inspiration for this has come from Jennifer Packer's work in which detail breaks away as she masterfully lets the underpainting take centre stage and burst to the forefront. Her paintings are unfinished in the conventional sense and yet they are also a complete piece.

Going forward, and what I'm really hoping to gain from this course is a deeper mastery and understanding of colour; its capacity, how to utilise it in my work to communicate my own ideas. I feel like I've only just started to scratch the surface. In terms of technical skills, I would also love to branch out from painting and dedicate more time to exploring mediums I've focused on less in the past, such as printing, perhaps even processes I've never really looked at like sculpture, seeing how they would lend themselves to my ideas. I'm hoping that this course will also help me in developing a more in depth understanding of what or who I want to paint and my specific motivations for that.

Statement 5 (Kingston application 300 words)

I have consistently visited galleries from a young age, when visiting the Louise Bourgeois exhibition, I was shocked, despite how varied and tactile her works were to view, I didn't want to linger around them, I simply wanted to get home and make work. I have grown up in quite a political household, so it was of no surprise to my father when I decided to take Government and Politics. And yet again rather than getting caught up on a debate, I would much rather occupy my hands and respond with collage or embroidery. I am a very creative person and I constantly want to be making things and exploring different art mediums which is why I would like to study on an Art Foundation course. I have been drawn to a lot of 'feminine' processes and explored the use of stitching and fabrics in my work. At foundation I would be keen to see how my work progresses, particularly in the area of textiles.

The ordinary stands out to me. I find myself focusing on things people wouldn't notice through the camera lens. In my photography I focus on 'the mundane', I find myself looking for subtle examples of Art around me, some people might argue "is this art" if it's so easy to be found. I would argue I am in the privileged position of being able to see Art everywhere. Over summer, I attended the Goldsmith's summer school, which gave me insight on the university environment. Taking this course would allow me to explore more mediums and learn what I enjoy most about art.