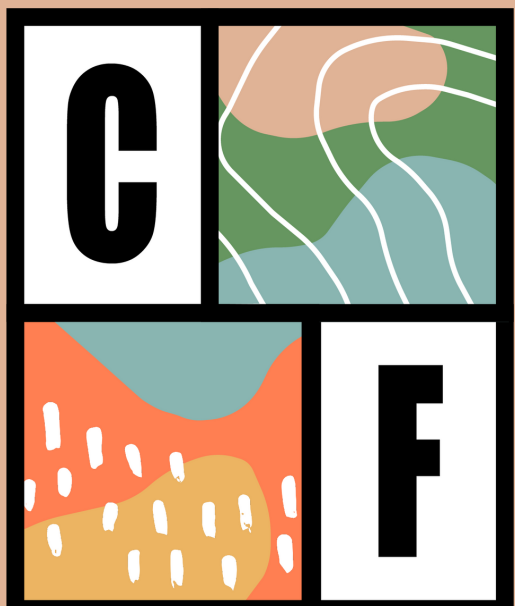




CREATIVE DEGREES

**GRAPHIC DESIGN
& ILLUSTRATION**



CREATIVE DEGREES

GRAPHIC DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION

I absolutely loved doing my 'art' degree!
There's a lot of stigma around creative degrees and how they're a 'waste of time' but that's simply not true! I learnt so much throughout my course and a year after graduating I am in full-time employment.

Whilst a creative degree isn't for everyone, don't rule it out just because you don't think there are careers in it - there absolutely are!

Me →



Graphic Design & Illustration

What my degree looked like...

I did a Joint Honours degree. This means I studied half of a degree in two subjects alongside each other to create 1 full degree. The first half of my degree was Graphic Design, and the second half was Illustration. I found that these two degrees complimented each other nicely as there was just the right amount of overlap within the courses. This allowed me to apply things that I learnt from one half of my degree to the other half.

Within the Graphic Design side of my course, I got to work with real clients to gain real life work experience within my course.

At the end of my three year degree I had the opportunity to display my work in a public exhibition. I was fortunate enough to have an exhibition space in both halves of my degree - this meant double the work but was definitely worth it!



Graphic Design & Illustration

What my degree looked like...

My course didn't involve the typical lectures and seminars you'd expect in other degrees. We were based in classrooms for Illustration, and Apple Mac suites for Graphics. In my third year, my university opened their brand new art studios, which is where my Illustration classes moved to.

A lot of my study involved an hour or two presentation from my lecturers, followed by a further two hours of in-class study. We usually referred to this as 'studio time'. It was a great opportunity to work on our projects whilst having our course mates and lecturers around for support.

In my final year we had more independence which I loved! We were able to pick our own briefs and projects, and were given much more studio time. We didn't have strict timetables and would be allowed to use the art studios whenever it suited us best, rather than come in for every class. Even though we didn't have to come in for every class in our final year, the lecturers and support staff would always be there. It was encouraged that we would have regular short tutorials with them, to receive any support if we needed it.

Graphic Design & Illustration

Where It Took Me...

During my second year of university I decided to start my own business. I started it during my course so that I could slowly build up my engagement through social media. This meant that once I graduated over a year later I felt that my online presence was already established. I have now used this following to open an online store to sell my artwork, as well as a range of greetings cards.

I have also used my business to gain commission work for both graphic design, and illustration.

Since graduating I also started working as an ambassador for the Uni Connect Project. This job uses a lot of skills that I have developed from my degree, such as:

- Designing and illustrating web and print material for virtual events (like this one!)
- Designing branding and marketing materials
- Filming videos and presenting to an audience
- Collaborating with other members of my team on ongoing projects

CREATIVE DEGREES

Why should you consider taking one?

If you like being creative, it's a wonderful way of studying something you're passionate about while building important skills for your career. Not everyone pursues a creative pathway but it gives you a unique perspective in the workplace, whether you follow the traditional pathways your studies open up, or go into an area that utilises your skills.

In my job, I enjoy the things a lot of people struggle with, like creating visual graphics for videos. Other people find it fiddly but I love the attention to detail!

Don't believe the stereotype that all us creatives don't get jobs! We're everywhere!